



## Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting

June 25, 2020

*(Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the AGM took place virtually via Zoom)*

1. **Welcome:** Judy Wong welcomed the group and overviewed the agenda for the meeting. 31 people in attendance (Quorum).

2. **Opening Prayer:** Bishop Thomas Dowd

3. **Chair Report: Anna Graham**

Anna Graham, chairperson of the Board of Directors of Catholic Action Montreal welcomed the members in attendance. She spoke about the decision to move ahead with the Annual General Meeting despite the pandemic and to hold the meeting virtually. She introduced the member of the Catholic Action Board of Directors.

Paul Donovan, president of Loyola High School (Co-chair)

Bishop Tom Dowd, auxiliary bishop of Montreal

Patrick Gillespie, chartered accountant (Treasurer)

Archbishop Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal

Jessica Anne Jalea, business developer

Cathie Macaulay, Coordinator of Pastoral Home Care/SASMAD (Secretary)

Vincenza Timpano, Chartered accountant

Arnel Javier, founder and director of CLC Language School

*(Fr. Andrew Thuraisingam, was omitted from the list inadvertently)*

An interesting year was made more interesting by the pandemic. Our mission and our goal to provide opportunities and support to organizations and individuals to work together and serve the express needs within our community has remained constant throughout this year. One of our goals for 2019-2020 was to embark on a strategic planning process and we have begun working on this through a Thriveability assessment which we are excited to continue next Fall. We are united with parishes and many organizations who have faced financial challenges due to the recent health crisis. We are very grateful to our generous donors for their support and donations and as well as offerings at the Late Sunday Mass. The Late Sunday Mass was the activity upon which Catholic Action was founded.

Over the past year, we have had the pleasure of assisting well established organizations, new initiatives getting off the ground, families and parishes, allowing us to work together in making a positive lifegiving impact for those in need.

Anna thanked the Board of Directors. Anna expressed a huge huge debt of gratitude on behalf of all of to Judy Wong, Catholic Action's Executive Director. She has a heart of service and we would not be where we are without her tireless effort. We want to thank our members, now 283 strong (we started with 70!). Thank you for your continued support. We love having you on this wild ride that is Catholic Action. We want to encourage you to reach out at any time to the Board members to express your thoughts, ideas, questions or feedback or even what you are doing yourself to serve your community.

**4. Adoption of the Agenda:**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Bishop Tom Dowd and seconded by Laura Whelton. The motion was vote on by a poll and reached 100% approval.

**5. Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2019 AGM was made by Vincenza Timpano and seconded by Arlene Provotiaux. The motion was duly approved by all.

**6. Financial Report**

Patrick Gillespie, Treasurer, provided a financial review which has not yet been audited by Fuller Landau. We have a government extension until December. Our income is up by \$27,700 from last year, which is an increase of 46 %. Expenses for the most part were down. Last year we had a directed donation of \$13,00 which we did not have this year. Moving expenses were down this year because the previous year we were working on the project with asylum seekers. Professional fees were up because of a change in the tax law that required us to have a more extensive audit. Our rent expenses were up as that included \$8,200 to Our Lady of Fatima for rent for the Late Sunday Mass not only for this year but for previous years. Our transportation expenses were up due to the program we are involved with bringing isolated seniors out using the New Hope Bus. Our current financial position is good.

Bishop Tom highlighted the fact that donations have been down due to the Covid-19 situation and lack of income from the Late Sunday Mass. Patrick responded that this was true, like all parishes, our income has taken a hit. This has been helped greatly by initiative taken by Judy to seek out donations and applying for government programs.

It was reported that we will stay with the same auditor and have asked for a reduced fee.

Andy Malolepsky asked whether the transportation expenses were coming out of the 21CCC campaign donation to Catholic Action. Patrick responded that it was. Andy asked how much was left for transportation from the 21 CCC donation. Patrick did not have the amount at hand but reported that \$9300 had been spent for the seniors' program and that 21CCC had given Fr. Dowd foundation \$75,000 for this program.

Judy reported that early in the Covid 19 crisis we went looking for funds as we knew our income was going down while expenses would remain the same. Judy found the Help and Heal fund from Canada Helps. By telling our story of redirecting our energy to be more Covid-specific:

helping feed the homeless, helping isolated seniors, supporting frontline workers etc., we applied and were accepted. Catholic Action received generous donations from this fund.

Bishop Tom pointed out to members the fact that Catholic community groups stepped up to the plate. Often religiously identified groups have more trouble acquiring donations from foundations etc. It is a little easier when you are focused on providing something for the community. The Canada Helps donation is built on the fact that as Catholics, we are not just here for Catholics, we are here for everybody. It is worth mentioning that by being Catholics, by living our Catholic mission, we received funding. Last Christmas the QCGN (Quebec Community Groups Network, a secular organization) gave us a donation from their holiday breakfast.

Patrick Gillespie put forward a motion to name Fuller Landau as our auditor this year. Fr. Gilles accepted the motion. All accepted this motion. Approved

## **7. Board Member updates**

Anna reported that over the years we have operated with an average Board of Directors of 10 people. We would like to fix the number of Directors of the Board at ten. Bishop Tom moved and it was seconded by Wendy De Souza.

Bishop Tom explained that CA is incorporated under federal law. That law and our bylaws/charter allows us to have a range of number of directors. At our AGM we are asked to fix a number. If we have a Board vacancy throughout the year, we can bring our number back up to the fixed number. All voted in favor of the motion presented.

Anna reported that we are exploring the specific needs for expertise on our Board. Last year Philip Grant resigned his position when he and his family moved to Ontario. Likewise, John Murphy also left the Board, as his promotion left him less time for involvement in Catholic Action. He continues to provide us with support and legal advice. Fr. Andrew Thuraisingam has completed his second two year term and will be leaving the Board to attend to his new duties as pastor of our Lady of Deliverance and his involvement in Our Lady of the Seas ministry. Anna thanked Fr. Andrew for his service on the Board as well as Philip Grant and John Murphy.

Since we had room on our Board and were looking at expertise in the way of marketing, we asked Arnel Javier to join our Board. He is a father of two children and founder and director of CLC Language School. Traveller, entrepreneur, mentor, photographer are some of the talents he shares with the world. He brings expertise in marketing to the Board.

Fr. Robert Assaly was also recommended to the Board. After a decade as a stockbroker Robert became an Anglican priest in 1991. He and his wife Nancy have 6 adult children. Robert applied to ministry in the Roman Catholic diocese of Montreal and after time as a stagiaire at both St. Monica and St Thomas a Becket parish, he was ordained a priest in 2019. He is currently pastor at St. Thomas More parish in Verdun. Fr. Robert has been involved for many years as a volunteer in Palestine and Middle East relations and recently organized a food drive in Verdun during the Covid 19 pandemic. We will be putting forward Fr. Robert's name tonight to serve on the Board. The remaining Board members will be nominated to serve another two year term. That gives us a

full slate of ten Board members. Fr. Robert Assaly nominated Wendy DeSouza to the Board. Wendy respectfully declined the nomination.

Fr. Robert Assaly  
Paul Donovan  
Bishop Tom Dowd  
Patrick Gillespie  
Anna Graham  
Arnel Javier  
Archbishop Christian Lépine  
Jessica Anne Jalea  
Cathie Macaulay  
Vincenza Timpano

By acclamation, this slate of ten Board members was approved for 2020-2021.

## **8. Catholic Action - Vision**

In the interest of time, Judy prepared a short video outlining some of the projects CA has been involved with this year. Highlighted were: Webster Healthy Living Program for Seniors, “Renew the Face of the Earth” initiative, Kingdom Mindset Program, Asylum Seekers, Isolated Seniors (One Voice), Isolated Seniors Outings (115 trips), Centre for Reproductive Loss, Afghan Women, and a list of new partners.

Jessica Anne Jalea, our Board member, brought us the opportunity to serve the frontline workers. Jessica reported that she has many family members who work at the Jewish General Hospital which was designated a Covid hospital. After two weeks of much stress learning to deal with the pandemic, health care workers articulated that they needed lotion for their hands and healthy snacks. They went into networks for donations and had three pick-up points around the island. They were overwhelmed with donations and shared with the rest of the hospital. They were consistently feeding 250 staff members. Businesses got involved and recently Good Food Box donated 200 meals and 1000 fresh pressed juice boxes. All Covid floors are currently back to normal and there are just 20 beds with Covid patients in the ICU. The workers were so appreciative of the help and support they received from the community. Jessica’s initiative was reported in the media. The initiative was a great testament to creating a network and using it for good.

Judy showed a video of Abbé Claude Paradis of Notre Dame de la Rue and the help Catholic Action gave to helping with volunteers when their volunteers were diminished from 30 volunteers to 3-4 during the health crisis.

Judy also showed a video from Lasalle D&D that expressed their thanks for Judy’s efforts to help them stay connected to their membership during the pandemic.

Visioning our way to strategic planning, Arnel has been guiding us through a process and is consolidating the information that Board members have given. Judy, Anna and Arnel have met with Dave Mackenzie of the John Molson School of Business who will assist CA by assigning an MBA student to help us with our planning in 2020-2021.

We are working on a Policy on Affiliated Groups which addresses organizations who would like to have an affiliation with CA.

#### **9. Question Period**

Fr. Francis McKee asked about the possibility of having Catholic Action coordinators in each of the parishes. The response to needs in our community is often scattered and this might be a way to coordinate efforts. Jesus Light of the World has a CA representative. Anna reported that this is part of our dream with Catholic Action and it is great that JLOW has the first representative in the network!

Laura Whelton asked if there is coordination between CA and the social justice representatives in the diocese. Judy reported that they are aware of each other and the social action reps did a joint project with CA at the last Parish Vitality conference. CA is becoming better known in most parishes. It is part of the dream to have improved coordination as Fr. Francis and Laura commented. We are working to expand involvement and interest in certain areas. If anyone is interested in helping, please let us know.

Bishop Tom pointed out the power of networking. It is part of our spiritual DNA, as Jessica's project shows. 10,000-12,000 people are present each Sunday in parishes. That is a lot of potential networking. Given the size of CA's budget, the community is getting a lot of value for money.

Diane Doonan congratulated Judy and others who are working with Catholic Action for their incredible value and good leadership.

Everyone was thanked for their participation in the meeting and were reminded that no act of kindness is too small.

Fr. Francis led us in Psalm 131 for our closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.