



# Sharing the Good News



## SAVE *the* DATE

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

✓ **CATHOLIC ACTION'S AGM**  
JOIN FATHER RAY LAFONTAINE  
FOR OUR OPENING PRAYER  
AND THE CATHOLIC ACTION  
TEAM FOR THEIR YEAR IN  
REVIEW

**MAY 30TH, 2023**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM**

**VIA ZOOM**

**WATCH FOR YOUR REGISTRATION LINK  
COMING SOON**

*On behalf of the  
communities  
we serve,  
a heartfelt*

**Thank You.**

IN SERVICE OF  
GOD'S PLAN  
FOR OUR  
COMMUNITY

# *Closing Roxham Road – What is the REAL impact?*

Since October 2nd, 2017, **the Archdiocese of Montreal has welcomed asylum seekers** in a specialized centre called “**Le Pont**” (the Bridge): this centre, situated in the rectory of Notre-Dame-des-Victoires parish, shelters Asylum Seekers who have come here searching for a better life. “For Jesus, for his Church, each person counts, and deserves to be cared for by us. It is a sacred duty. Opening the door of our home gives us the opportunity to also open the door of our heart.” **Archbishop Lepine**.

Some of you may recall, **Catholic Action and our community and volunteers** assisted with the start-up of this important centre. We coordinated volunteers, students from Loyola and Sacred Heart, movers to deliver and install beds, and various furniture to set up the common areas, kitchens and rooms.

Following the recent decisions about the [Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement - Canada.ca](https://www.assnat.qc.ca/fr/actualites/2023/06/16/le-pont-et-ses-partenaires-expriment-leurs-protestes-contre-la-fermeture-de-roxham-road) Le Pont issued a joint statement, with some of their partners, in French, in protest of this move. [Facebook](#) This is our translation of some key points.

*“With the closing of Roxham Road, many of our community groups are organizing to “be heard” as they see this decision as a “Cruel and inhumane business model, that will encourage these human beings to take even more dangerous routes” Closing a border or unofficial entry points has never “solved” immigration “problems”. Entry is not the source of the problem. Asylum seekers, in their uniqueness and human integrity, are not the problem. This decision is felt as an abandonment, an abandonment of the persecuted people, of the ideal of the “land of welcome”. The provincial and federal governments will have to take action to protect the rights of the victims of persecution for this CERTAIN humanitarian disaster.”*

We interviewed Arthur Durieux, our friend and partner, the executive director of Le Pont, these are some of his thoughts.

We were blindsided, shocked. Mr. Trudeau has always promoted humanitarianism, this is so radical. Mr. Trudeau has no right to call us a welcoming and safe country! Unfortunately, advocating for migrant and refugee rights isn't limited to the road to Roxham... Even asylum seekers, already in Canada, with official status don't have access to affordable daycare. People who decide to leave their country because the situation is life-threatening, parents have survived the torture and cruelty, and want to protect their children. As they move through transitioning countries, they get violated in places like the Congo or Brazil, they get robbed by lawyers who take advantage of them and arrived half-dead if they make it. **Currently, there is a little boy at Le Pont who saw his mother drown as they were working to get to safety.** When parents die along the way the children have a higher risk of being trafficked! It is a betrayal!

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Make your voice heard at the National Assembly by signing this petition for access to subsidized childcare services for all families in Quebec, regardless of the migratory status of the parents! The deadline to sign the petition is June 16, 2023. <https://www.assnat.qc.ca/.../Petition->
- Amnistie Internationale petition <https://www.amnistie.ca/participer/2023/canada/le-canada-viole-le-droit-lasile>
- Facebook events for the protests, every day from 12 to 1 pm in front Justin Trudeau's offices [Facebook](#)
- A march to Roxham will take place on the weekend of the 16-17-18 June. You can participate for various distances along the way. More to come in our May newsletter

# How you can help your neighbours.

## Help the Homeless & Newcomers

**Are you looking to make a difference, positively impact someone who needs assistance?**

After meeting with some of our partners there are some important shortages in their organizations that serve the homeless and asylum seekers.

The needs are very specific. Do not offer items they do not ask for so their volunteers do not have to sift through unwanted or damaged goods.

Perhaps get together with friends or maybe make it a parish project.

If you want to deliver your donations yourselves please do.

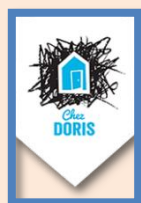
If you would like Catholic Action to deliver them, please email: [jwong@catholicaction.ca](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca)



Welcome Collective help asylum seekers start their lives by offering free furniture and household items and clothing etc. Their current needs are:

**Bedding and blankets, towels, pots and pans, school supplies and backpacks, winter coats and boots, especially large sizes.**

<https://www.welcomcollective.org/en/donate>



Chez Doris is the only women's shelter in Montréal offering 24/7 service. They strive to meet their needs in an inclusive and non-judgmental environment. Their current URGENT needs can be found here:

<https://www.chezdoris.org/en/get-involved/donate-items/>



Nazareth Community, a non-for-profit organization (Ville Marie district) provides housing with support for individuals who struggle with mental health issues, homelessness, trauma and addictions. We all know how expensive things are at the grocer these days. **They have a shortage of ground coffee.**



## Chosen season 3

Father Raymond Lafontaine and his team received plenty of positive feedback from our gatherings and discussions around season 2 of the "Chosen". The sharing that emerged from our spiritual conversations and the building of connections among participants was vibrant and often enlightening.

As many of you recall, our journey together with "The Chosen" characters was inspired by Pope Francis' invitation to dream and build a truly synodal church. Season One was launched in tandem with the Synodal process at the diocesan level, where the fruits of our discussions represented an important contribution to the diocesan Synodal Report. As for the continued interest we received regarding Season Three, we are pleased to announce that we will be resuming our online gatherings this Fall. Details to come.

- Many people asked for the closing prayer of our last gathering. You can read it here:

[Closing Prayer](#)

- 

## CHSSN RESEARCH ON ENGLISH-SPEAKING GRANDPARENTS

CHSSN is in the process of researching the needs of English-speaking grandparents in the province and has teamed up with Dr. Jacques Roy (from the Pôle d'expertise et de recherche en santé et bien-être des hommes, and the University of Quebec) to better understand the realities and needs of grandparents living in English-speaking communities in order to define actions and services to support them in their role as grandparents.

To do so, CHSSN has asked its partners, like Catholic Action, to share a survey that will shed light on these issues. The survey is strictly confidential and can be completed by clicking on the link below.

Take the survey now: <https://airtable.com/shrthHp3wSkvdzqW9>

## Employment opportunities in the community:



<https://almage.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ACTIVITY-COORDINATOR-ALMAGE-JOB-POST-EN.pdf>



[ITMAV Community Worker Doc^NJD-107.docx](#)



# Final Document to Conclude Continental Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod

## Bishops Release North American Final Document to Conclude Continental Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod

Wednesday, April 12 2023



OTTAWA – The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCC) have issued the *North American Final Document for the Continental Stage of the 2021-2024 Synod: For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*.

Begun in late 2022, the Continental Stage of the Synod was the second stage of the three-year process initiated by Pope Francis in October 2021. For the North American Continental Stage, the United States and Canada held twelve virtual assemblies: seven in English, three in Spanish, and two in French between December 2022 and January 2023. In total, 931 delegates and 146 bishops from Canada and the United States were appointed to participate in one of these twelve assemblies to share their reflections and responses to the [Document for the Continental Stage \(DCS\)](#) issued by the Holy See’s General Secretariat of the Synod in October 2022. Those reflections were brought together by the North American Writing Team to create the *Final Document*.

Bishop Raymond Poisson of Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier, president of the CCCB welcomed the release of the *Final Document* and expressed gratitude at the conclusion of the Continental Stage, “We wish to extend our most profound gratitude to all those who participated in the North American Continental Stage. In a special way, we would like to thank all those throughout the continent who kept the process and those involved in prayer over these last five months. The Holy Spirit is truly at work in the Church in North America and we hope this *Final Document* will serve to strengthen our communion as sisters and brothers in Christ.”

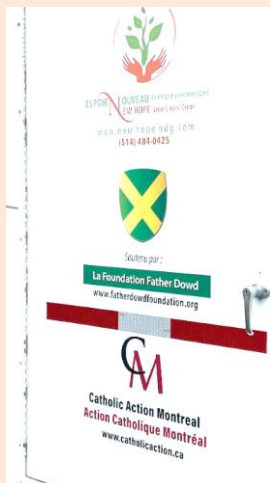
The *Final Document* from North America, along with the contributions of the six other Continental Assemblies, will form the basis of the *Instrumentum Laboris* to be released by the General Secretariat of the Synod in June 2023.



Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, chairman of the USCCB’s Committee on Doctrine, who has been shepherding the synodal process in the United States, commented on the significance of the *Final Document*, “This document is an important step in our commitment to become a more synodal Church. While we await

the next steps of the formal process to be carried out in Rome, we have an opportunity to make synodality truly present among us here in North America. We invite you to prayerfully discern the joys, laments, and tensions raised in this *Final Document* and discern together how you can make present the first fruits of synodality in your local community.” Begun in October 2021, the “Synod on Synodality” was recently extended by Pope Francis through October 2024, to allow for more time for reflection and discernment from both the local and universal Church. The Universal Phase of the Synod will be held in two parts, the first in October 2023 and the second a year later in October 2024. The *North American Final Document for the Continental Stage* is available in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).

# The wheels on the bus go round and round!



Our new bus had the logo's added this month!



Centre, area enjoyed an outing at a Cabane a Sucre in St. Constant, and left a gang from the Yellow Door two of five of our trips to Sugar Shacks this month!!

This is one "thank you" we received this month, "Having transportation for these outings allows our senior members the opportunity to get out of the house and socialize, regardless of their income, access to a vehicle, or level of mobility. We really appreciate your support in making this event happen - we couldn't have done it without you"

**Seniors also went shopping, bringing smiles of appreciation all around.**



**Wheelchairs around the Museum of Fine Arts**



*Late Sunday Mass ALSO the Last Chance Mass— please join us*



*We are serving an important community with this Eucharistic celebration. People who missed their regular mass are grateful for this opportunity to come and hear “The Good News”. We are very pleased to announce that Father Tiburtius Fernandez, SMA Parochial Administrator– St. Augustine of Canterbury, has graciously agreed to join our team. His first celebration will be May 7th.*

# *Bible Trivia The Triduum Edition*



## **Bible Trivia**



1. **How many statements did Jesus make from the cross?**
2. **What were Jesus' 7 last words on the cross?**
3. **What is Eastertide?**
4. **What is the Easter Octave?**
5. **What is celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter?**
6. **What can be sung in place of "Alleluia" during the Lenten Season?**
7. **What does Paraclete refer to?**
8. **What is Pentecost?**

**Click below for the answers:**

**[Bible Trivia – Catholic Action Montreal](#)**



# *Please help us – Join one of our committees*

*We are grateful for your spirit of community!*

*Your gifts would be welcomed as we begin our strategic journey. Please consider joining one of these committees we are creating that will align with our strategic goals. Working with a board member, we have these options that will allow you to “Use Your Gifts to Serve Your Neighbour”*

*Not sure you have what it takes? Give it a try and let the Holy Spirit do the rest as we collaborate and inspire each other in service of Our Lord.*

**Membership** – *Calling and updating the membership list, sharing our message with other parishes and organizations.*

**Fund raising** – *Building and implanting a fund-raising plan*

**Communication** – *Using your creative gifts – help us to make sure our messaging is clear.*



*Lent includes – ALMS giving.  
Please consider a monthly donation – Help us continue  
our service to those in need! Click on the link below ☺*



How we have helped this year:

- † Ukrainian families find homes
- † Ukrainian Children have fun at Daycamp and learn at Daycare
- † Afghan women get free from the Taliban
- † English speaking senior groups break isolation with local trips to grocery stores, shopping, museums, camp, etc.
- † Challenged adults go to Camp Kinkora
- † Momentum Single Mothers – various projects
- † Found OBGYN services for a student with no insurance or money
- † Found and set up and took a newborn with hip dysplasia get services at the Shriners hospital from full brace to no brace (above)
- † Many service for the homeless, the hungry.
- † Partnered and collaborated with many community groups.

**[Please DONATE - Catholic Action Montreal](#)**

or

**[Membership Join or Renew below - Catholic Action Montreal](#)**

**HELP US**  
help others.



*The term 'Charity' is an old-fashioned notion often generating pity.  
"We are a Catholic organization, and we don't want pity, we want partners to do the  
Lord's work."*

***Please consider Catholic Action in your annual charitable giving budget***

***NEW\*\* we are now able to receive gifts of shares***

Contact [jwong@catholicaction.ca](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca) for more info

*Help us to continue helping others in Jesus' name.*

*God Bless!*

<https://catholicaction.ca/give/>

