Catholic Action July 2023- Newsletter

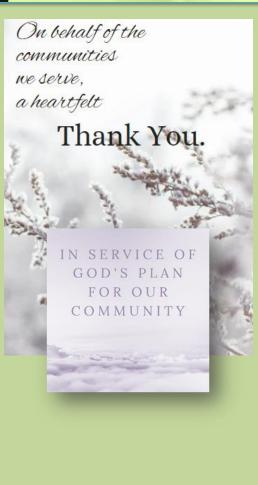


M Sharing the Good News





"I give thanks for the light of the sun which provides life..."



Community News - Temporary Housing Project



Catholic Action volunteers have been manning our welcome centre since July 10th at the tempororary housing project at 9451 Gouin O., (near highway 13).

We do need shampoo, (not conditioner), body wash, toothbrushes, deodorant for men and women.

If you can collect these items within your parish, friends and or family it would be very helpful. You can drop it off at the centre or we can have a volunteer pick it up.

PS. We DO NOT need clothing at this time.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers, lead by our **head volunteer Kerrie Rochford.** They make sure the newcomers feel welcome and are well served and our supplies are well stocked.

Individuals from parishes helped build our 52 desks, including some of the residents from Ricochet, who were led by Cathlerine Lee of St. Thomas A Beckett Parish. Steve Barillo, of the same parish delivered an enormous amount of donations to get us started.



Robert and Gavin More, donated refurbished bikes to the community project, allowing our guests to ride around the beautiful property. They are well used



Community News (cont'd)

Anna Farrow, (retired executive director of the English Speaking Catholic Council) is a journalist for the Catholic Register.

One of her recent publications is on the temporary housing project.

Anna interviewed Father Kevin Kelly, the Executive Director of the Ignatian Spirituality Centre of Montreal, Judy Wong, the outgoing Executive Director of Catholic Action and Anzhela Kuzina, the administrative assistant and newcomer to Canada from Ukraine.

You can read her article here:

https://www.catholicregister.org/item/35718-jesuits-reopen-montreal-s-old-villa-for-ukrainians-fleeing-wartorn-homeland



Passing the torch



Good things come to those who wait...

The hiring committee at Catholic Action have hired a new Executive Director, Margaret Caine. Margaret joined our team July 1st and my last day of work will be July 31st.

Anna Graham, the Chair person of Catholic Action, will be issuing a formal announcement shortly.

On a personal note, I would like to thank our hundreds of volunteers, & partners, many who have become friends, who have worked with me for the last 6 years, contributing to the success of our mission.

Father Ray, the OEPS team and Anna Farrow, who welcomed me into their space from day one, were key as I started my personal Catholic Action journey.

The team at St. Willabrord's, Father Kevin Kelly, Todd Sinnett, (my partner in crime at the Ukrainian centre), Father Gilles Surprenant, the Late Sunday Mass team, led by Boris Polanski, and the current and past board members, have all contributed to the success of Catholic Action. Kerri Rochford, volunteer extraordinaire who worked on many of our projects with me. The warm cooperation of the parish priests, secretaries and communities, played an important role as well. Lastly, my family, for supporting me as we served our Lord and our community bringing Bishop Tom Dowd's vision to fruition. While I am stepping away from the duties as executice director, I will surely assist Margaret as needed. Bishop Tom has already reached out with a new project to occupy some of my time. Our mission doing the Lord's work is never done. It has been a great pleasure to serve Him in my capacity as Executive Director.

Your friend in Christ Jesus, Judy Wong thankzyou

The wheels on the bus go round and round!

Catholic

Single

Mothers'

Retreat



Hi Judy,

Thank you so much again for the support of the bus. The women were very appreciative. Thank you so much to you, Kevin and Catholic Action. It was a huge support to us!

Thank you again! Talitha



Hi Judy,

I wanted to let you know the boat cruise went very well today! Thank you so much for organizing with us to provide the bus - it really makes a difference to our members to have easy and accessible transportation on these outings. A BIG thank you to Kevin for being a great driver and getting us all where we needed to go!

Chloe Strauss (she/they) Yellow Door Wellness Group Program Coordinator / Coordinatrice des Groupes de Bien-Être

Late Sunday Mass ALSO the Last Chance Mass-please join us



The Late Sunday Mass or
Last Chance Mass is here for you.
Had to work, had a commitment?
Missed your regular celebration?
Please join us for the
Late Sunday Mass at
St. Willibrord's Parish at
8:00 PM

351 Rue Willibrord, Verdun, QC H4G 2T7 OR 200 feet from Verdun Metro



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 thrilled to announce that Father Anthony Atansi will be returning to our team on July 2nd.

GOD IS GOOD!

How you can help your neighbours.



Are you looking to make a difference, positively import 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



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.welcomecollective.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.**

Bible Trivia -People & Places



Bible Trivia: During the summer we visit people and places, how well do you know these people and places of the bible?

- 1. Who suggested making 3 tents at the Transfiguration of Our Lord?
 - 2. Where was Saul travelling when he encountered a great and blinding light?
 - 3. Jesus healed the mother-in-law of which of his disciples?
 - 4. Where did the slave traders take Joseph?
 - 5. Who is the author of the book of Galatians?
 - 6. In what city were Paul ad Silas imprisoned during their second missionary journey?



Click here for the answers: https://catholicaction.ca/bible-trivia/

Please help us – Join one of our committees

We are grateful for your spirit of community!

Your gifts would be welcomed as we begin out 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.

<u>Membership</u> – Calling and updating the membership list, sharing our message with other parishes and organizations.

Fund raising – Building and implanting a fund-raising plan

<u>Communication</u> – Using your creative gifts – help us to make sure our messaging is clear.

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



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 for more info

Help us to continue helping others in Jesus' name.

God Bless!

https://catholicaction.ca/give/

