



Catholic Action Montreal

"Using our Gifts to Serve our Neighbour"



Newsletter – Midsummer July 22-2020

Dear readers, we hope and pray that this message finds you, your family and friends, well, amid these extraordinary times.

These challenging times draws on our volunteers in a more “urgent” way. The work of Catholic Action continues. We have been quite active in serving the community with needs that have arisen as a result of the Pandemic.



CATHOLIC ACTION’S AGM:

Catholic Action’s Fifth Annual general meeting was held June 25th via zoom. It was truly inspiring to take that moment to gather our community to, not only make some decisions together, but also to celebrate the good work

done in collaboration with our members, friends, and organisations throughout the past year. Despite the virtual format, it was a surprisingly more intimate gathering, as participants shared their comments and reactions in the chat room in real time. Our board has seen a few changes, Father Andrew Thuraisingam after contributing to our success for a few years received exciting news, the appointment letter from the Archbishop to take over the Tamill mission of Our Lady of Deliverance until August 2022. With these

new responsibilities Father Andrew has stepped away from his position on our board. We did nominate and welcomed two new board members, Father Robert Assaly and Arnel Javier.

Fr. Assaly became an Anglican priest in 1991. He is married and has six adult children. Robert applied to ministry within the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal and after work as a stagiaire at both St. Monica and St Thomas a Becket parishes, was ordained to the priesthood in 2019. He is currently the pastor of St. Thomas More parish in Verdun. Fr. Robert has been involved as a volunteer over many years in issues involving Palestine and Middle East relations. The initiative he took at St. Thomas More to organize a food drive in Verdun at the beginning of the pandemic is a great example of gathering talents to serve a real need in the community. See here for more details:

<https://www.stthomasmoremtl.ca/>

Arnel Javier brings a fresh perspective to our board. He is currently leading our first steps towards the visioning of a strategic plan. Curating spaces and experiences that invite peace and joy is what brings Arnel to the board. Traveller, Educator, Entrepreneur, Mentor, and Photographer are some of the talents he shares with the world. One can follow his 2019 Camino de Santiago journey on Instagram @ajaviercam

You can read the minutes of this, our fifth annual general meeting and or watch the recorded version of the meeting by clicking here: <https://catholicaction.ca/2020-annual-general-meeting-recording/>

Notre Dame de la Rue:

Without gathering there is no food for the homeless. Our volunteers continue this important work every week. The Archdiocese reached out to Catholic Action to assist Father Claude Paradis with a revised version of his project “Notre-Dame-de-la-rue” (Our

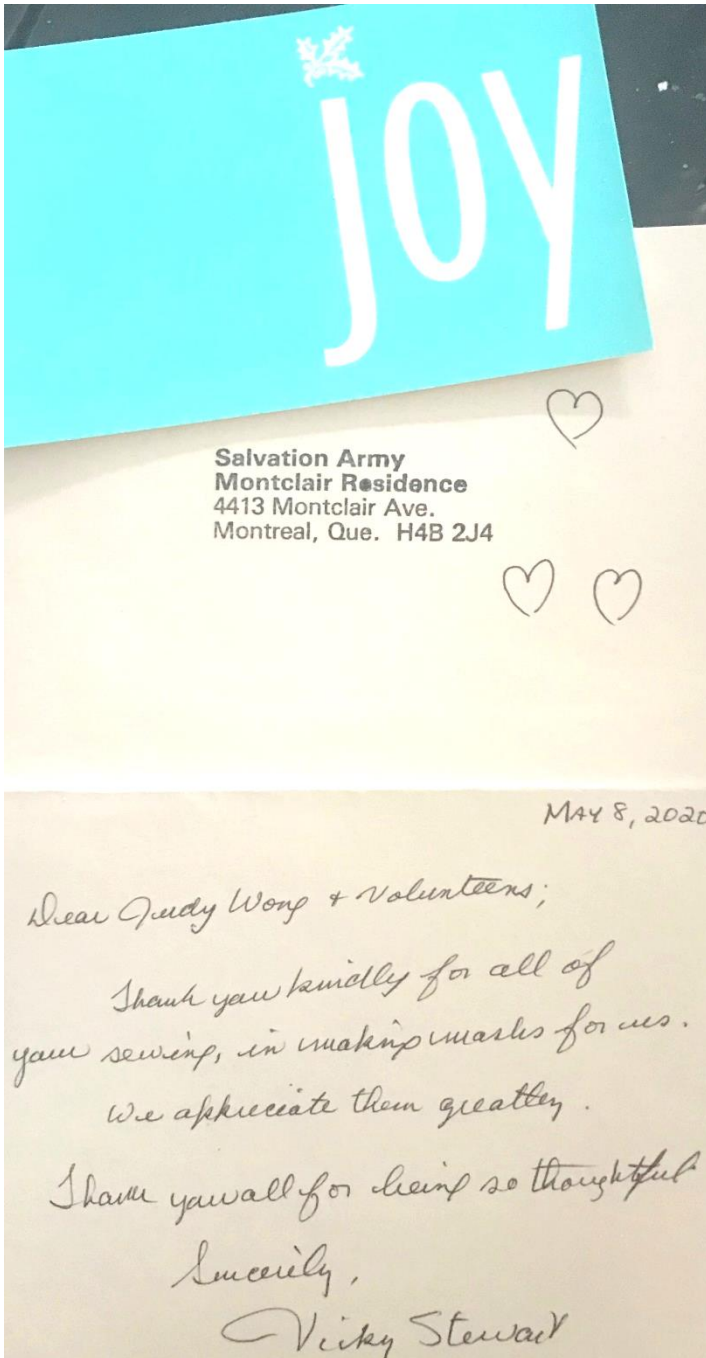


Lady of the Street). He routinely reaches out to homeless people, bringing them comfort and a Church presence. Since there is no gathering permitted, Father Claude asked us to find *volunteers to make individually wrapped sandwiches for his people*. He distributes them one on one to the homeless. He does this twice a week. Catholic Action volunteers, many from Jesus Light of the World parish, are supplying Father with these needs 2 days a week.



Reusable Masks in need for seniors and their care givers

With the crises in the senior residences, re-usable masks have become a hot ticket item for caregivers and the residents themselves. Now that MASKS ARE MANDATED by the government these offerings to the senior centers are crucial. With each person needing 2 masks (so one can be washed daily) the demand is high. After considerable outreach we had some donated to us. We have also secured a donor to support an import purchase of masks.



WE HAVE RECEIVED QUITE A FEW OF THESE HEARTFELT THANK YOU'S FROM THE SENIOR GROUPS.

June 2020

Dear Judy,
Thank you to you, Catholic Action Montreal and your Mask making volunteers. The role each person played in the production and delivery of the masks honours the beneficiaries and volunteers of the Extra Miles senior visiting program and the residents of the Montclair Residence. Each recipient of the masks felt valued and more connected to the community. Thank you for your gifts benefiting the frail and elderly. Wishing you a wonderful summer. Be well + safe. Marie





The Yellow Door/La Porte Jaune



Yesterday at 10:53 · 🌐

Thank you SO MUCH to **Catholic Action Montreal** for another generous donation of cloth masks that we can distribute to our senior members and volunteers running errands. 🧡

Seniors in need of assistance can contact us at outreach@yellowdoor.org or by calling 514-845-2600 x2 (please leave a message).

To volunteer with the Yellow Door, find more information here: ✅
<https://fr.yellowdoor.org/sengager.html>





Isolated Seniors

Our “One Voice” coalition group is continually active; we meet twice a month as the need to support seniors has skyrocketed. The longer they are isolated the more difficult the stress level and loneliness is to manage.

We continue to host the LaSalle 50+ D & D, “Google Meets” 2 days a week, allowing these friends to speak to each other as well as their initiative, “Frugal Fridays”.

We have offered virtual visits around the world to all the centers. You can try it too, check out this link!

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/>

Catholic Action volunteers have been contributing as well with calls to seniors, driving to doctors and sharing life with these, the extremely underserved, English speaking seniors.

We have worked with our partners at CHSSN to ensure all COVID-19 related information is available in English.

Seniors Action Quebec (SAQ) has created a resilience training program which you can learn about here:

<https://www.seniorsactionquebec.ca/en/our-projects.html>

We are also working closely to ensure the “deconfinement” process is safe for seniors by sharing documented procedures and centre experiences.

It is truly a collaboration of gifts.



DONATED HAND SANITIZER FOR PARISHES



Catholic Action has been blessed to receive a significant amount of free hand sanitizer from a friend of Bishop Thomas Dowd. A distillery owned by this gentleman converted his production to hand sanitizer when the shortage arose, and the need was great. He has contacted Bishop Tom to donate this to Catholic Action to share with our community. Talking to many of our parishes this is a welcomed surprise as the price of hand sanitizer has skyrocketed during the pandemic and our communities are

happy to save some money.

The product (see photo below) is in refill format, so you would be emptying these into the current dispensary bottles you currently have. We are offering 1 case of each to each parish which is about 15 litres of hand sanitizer.

One of our fellow Christians is warehousing it for us for about a month.

We are starting to distribute it to those parishes that would like to receive some.



Kingdom Mindset:

Anxiety levels for the average person are heightened at this time of extraordinary protocols, so those diagnosed with this illness are more vulnerable.



“Faith Moves Mountains” was the theme of our virtual webinar which was held June 20th. There were 40 participants registered and the exit survey showed 86% of the respondents felt the webinar’s content relevant, a similar number appreciated the interaction and 100% felt the level of expertise was just right!

We have been continuing our monthly meetings and have some excellent videos that we have shared and discussed over the last few meetings. They are worth taking a look at.

“Let go and let God” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3O22mqcnPI>

Incredibly special interpretation of Psalm 23: https://youtu.be/_EJ_OvgdEUM

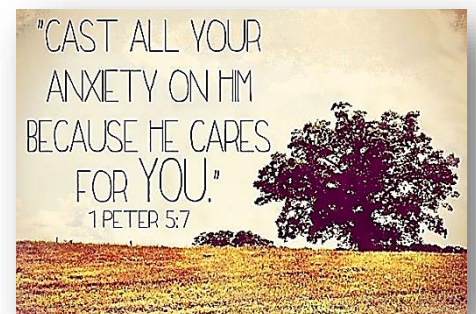
An incredible story of “FAITH”: <https://www.iamsecond.com/film/darrin-ray/>

To be part of our monthly virtual discussion group and/or for more info, questions and support:

mindsetkingdommtl@gmail.com

For daily inspiration and resources, join our Facebook page-The Kingdom Mindset Community:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/213448613201270>



Erika Jacinto, Press officer of the archbishop, Christian Lépine and Director, Communications and Media relations for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal is planning a publication (book online) of a compilation of the archbishop's texts containing: Care for the Soul messages (80), pastoral letters (30) and homilies (9) delivered throughout the confinement period (between mid-march and the beginning of July). This is meant to be a spiritual reading gift to all faithful and people of goodwill.



She is putting together a small team to share the task. Catholic Action volunteers are part of the team helping to have them translated and adapted into English.





Catholic Action's Community fund-raising project

As we shared last month, as with many new organizations the start up money, or seed funding carries the cause for a while, however as the work expands, so does the need for more resources.

Of course, volunteers are our number one need, however we need funding this year. Many foundations will have less to offer given the performance of their investment funds. Maybe you cannot physically volunteer, this is an important way to support the work we do in the name of our Lord. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/39224>

Catholic Action's fundraising project is calling on our community to work together. The challenge is simple, we need individuals or groups to raise \$1000 each by Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020. Imagine if just 100 people could raise \$1000 each over the next 8 months, that's \$125 a month!

We understand that in our Catholic Community there are many gifts. These gifts lead to great ideas for small groups to raise this money over a few months. People have offered a "change" challenge; different families challenge their family members, other families within their larger family or a friend group to donate their coins daily to a community jar in each of their homes.

If you have other simple fund raising ideas, please send them to jwong@catholicaction.ca and we can share them on our website and Facebook page. It is important that Catholic Action continues to be God's love working for our neighbours in need.

Please give so we can keep doing the Lord's work. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/39224>

Please renew your 2020 membership <https://catholicaction.ca/membership-join-or-renew/>

