



# Sharing the Good News



## *A NOTE to Members*

We hope you are enjoying the community stories about different people in our faith community.

Do you have a story to share? Tell us about your parish or maybe a project you are working on. Do you know a good Samaritan?

Drop us a line and we will gladly include it in our newsletter.

Stay safe and God Bless!



The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the gospel. - Pope Francis

OUR *stories*  
BRING US  
TOGETHER

wf1

# Catholic Action Update

**Parish calls:** We have completed all the call to the parishes, some remain closed, and we left messages. As most of us, the ping ponging of number of people and curfew (affects evening masses like the Late Sunday Mass) have many parishes frustrated.

There is a feeling that it will be difficult to bring everyone back, even with a vaccine.



I was lucky enough to speak with a couple of priests, they are grateful to preach to a few people rather than a just a camera. Nice to have some actual responses during the celebration.



**Makai Aref:** Do you remember Makai, the president of the Afghan Women's Center of Montreal? Makai had come to Catholic Action looking for assistance to find a space for her group as well as establishing a not-for-profit status, which we achieved. Well 4 years later, and a few grants of seed funding, they now have 2 full time employees, and office at the Catholic Centre and are thriving. Earlier this year, Makai was nominated

through the Montreal Volunteer Bureau for volunteer of the year. Catholic Action offered a letter of support. Earlier this month, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Makai was awarded the "benevole de l'exception" award out of about 150 nominations. Makai called us with sincere gratitude for our support of her group early on and for our letter of support! Congratulations Makai!

**Food Security:** Partnering with the ACDPN who called Catholic Action with a surplus of frozen chickens, who intern contacted our circle of Asylum Seeker organizations and Transfiguration of Our Lord found a home for them. We now have the system in place when the next offering comes to be able to offer it to more groups simultaneously.



**Food Surprise:** Catholic Action partnered with LaSalle D & D 50+ for their Italian themed Easter project. One of our volunteers, made 200 packs of 6, home made authentic Italian cookies. Our volunteers were charged with social distancing which was a challenge when the members gathered to share stories of new grandchildren, great grandchildren, hip replacements etc. It was a lovely day!



## Late Sunday Mass



We were pleased when the curfew was raised to 9:30 the Late Sunday Mass could resume its celebrations. However, the lowering to 8:00 pm forced us to “pivot” following a survey of our customary participants to see if a 6:00 pm start could be attended.

About half of the group agreed therefore we have changed the start time to 6:00 pm. We will however be reverting to 7:00 next week when the curfew is once again raised to 9:30.

As this mass is the only regular source of revenue for Catholic Action, your membership fees and consideration of donations would be greatly appreciated.



Stay tuned next month we will hear from the priests that have joined the Late Sunday Mass team 😊

# A Prayer to Share



Give him this message: "Stay calm!  
Be quiet and *guard your heart!*  
Don't panic or be discouraged over these  
two smoldering stubs of firewood."

ISAIAH 7:4



*Without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God. For we come to God in faith knowing that he is real and that he rewards the faith of those who passionately seek him.*

***The Passion Translation***

*Encounter God's Heart . . .*

*Stay Calm*

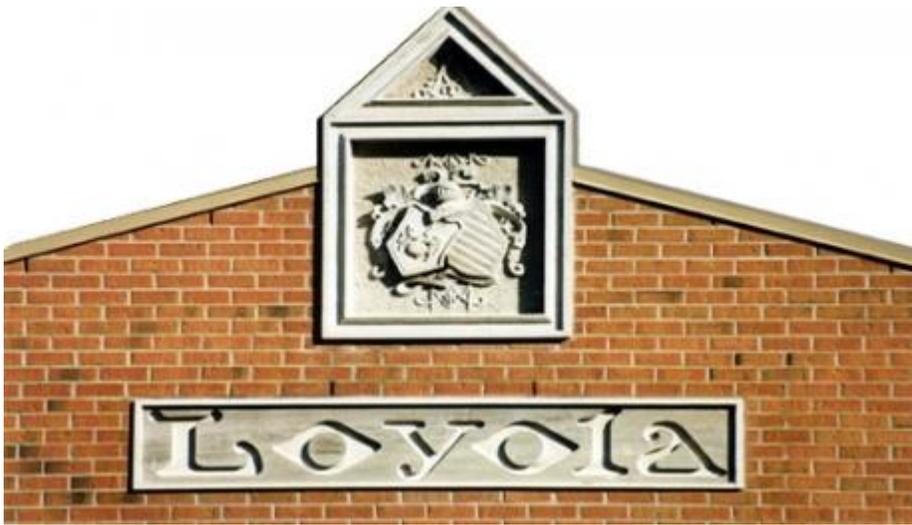
*When it feels like all hell has launched an attack against you, this advice still rings true today. Stay calm. Don't let your emotions overtake you, but bring each one to the Lord so he can refine you. Don't explode. Don't overreact. Don't exchange faith for fear. Guard your heart. Don't panic.*

*Some of our biggest and seemingly insurmountable trials are nothing more than smoldering stubs of wood in our Father's eyes. If we could see things from his point of view, we would all feel a lot less stressed. But this is the crux of it all, isn't it? To go immediately to him in times of crisis and find his presence so we can get his perspective. Too often, we depend on our intellect, frantically searching for answers that only he can give. In times of trouble, let's not react but intentionally step back to find him.*

*Father, in times of trouble, you alone are my refuge and peace. When it feels as if the world is crumbling around me, and I feel myself succumbing to fear, wrap me in your arms and pull me close. Help me to remember that you are in control, and I am not. You will work out the details.*

*From "The Vision" written by Brian Simmons and Gretchen Rodriguez*

# Loyola High School appoints new president



**Kristine Pilch Administrative Assistant / Admissions Officer of Loyola High School invited us to share this message with our community:**

*“As you know, Paul Donovan retired in June 2020, and our Board of Governors has just appointed a new President. Following an executive search process, the Loyola Board of Governors is pleased to announce that The Very Rev. Erik Oland, S.J., Provincial of the Jesuits of Canada, has approved the board's*

*recommendation and appointed Ms. Marcelle DeFreitas as the next President of Loyola High School.*

*In his formal missioning letter, Fr. Oland welcomes Ms. DeFreitas in saying, "It gives me great pleasure to welcome Marcelle to the Canadian Jesuit family in her new role as President of Loyola High School, Montreal. The name 'Loyola' signals a banner apostolate for any Jesuit Province, taking its name from our founder St. Ignatius Loyola."*

*Ms. DeFreitas' vision for Catholic, liberal arts education has been shaped by more than 25 years of teaching, advising, and executive school leadership. Ms. DeFreitas earned her B.A., Master in Religious Education, and Master of Education Administration from the University of Toronto. Upon completing her Master's in 1993, she became a Secondary School Principal in Toronto and Vancouver. Seconded to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, she taught in the Teacher Education program for four years before moving to Vancouver to be Principal of Little Flower Academy, British Columbia's only Catholic high school for girls. In Vancouver, she taught in the Master of Arts in Teaching program at the University of British Columbia and evaluated both B.C., and offshore schools in China, for the Ministry of Independent Schools. She joins us from the University of Toronto, where she served in several administrative capacities, mainly supporting students in the Concurrent Teacher Education Program.*

*"I am honoured to be invited to join the Loyola community, and I look forward to working together to contribute to the exciting future and the faith-filled legacy of the Society of Jesus in Canada," says Ms. DeFreitas.*

*You can read the complete announcement here: <https://loyola.ca/discover-us/793-loyola-welcome-new-president>*



**Loyola**  
HIGH SCHOOL

Montreal, Quebec

# One Voice Update – Supporting English Speaking Seniors



Our One Voice Group is busy on many fronts. If you recall, this group started with the English-Speaking Senior Centres, that were partners with the Father Dowd Foundation. It was apparent, early on, that there was no means for these important groups to share their best practices, collaborate on innovation and collectively represent the interests of the diverse and multicultural English-speaking seniors in the Greater Montreal region. At the behest of the Father Dowd Foundation, Catholic Action partnered with ESCC and Father Dowd to create the “One Voice” coalition to serve the needs of the English-Speaking Senior.

The Covid environment highlighted the importance of the work of this group. In the four years of our existence, the coalition, has evolved and now includes groups like, Seniors Action Quebec, SASMAD, ARC, QCGN, CHSSN, Concordia EngAGE and TIP-O-A from the Jewish General Hospital. This cross section of expertise, coupled with the leadership of the centres themselves, has evolved to a powerhouse team working to improve the inadequate service currently available to our English-speaking seniors. For example:

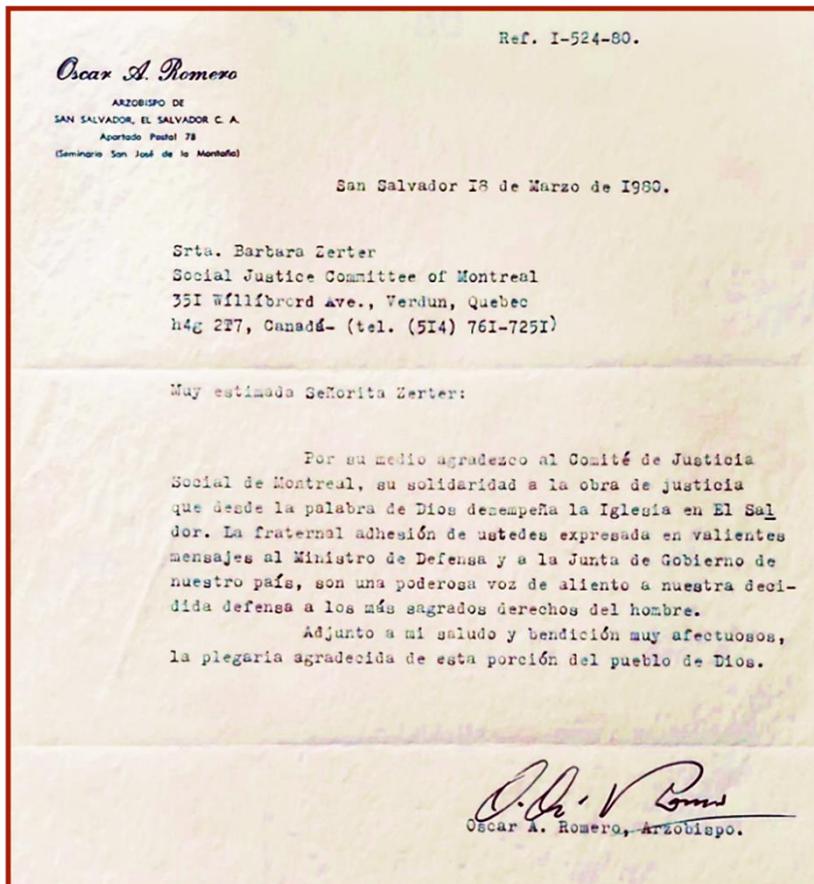
- Seniors Action Quebec has taken a leadership role and has hired someone to take the group to the next level by creating a website of relevant information.
- ESCC is collaborating with CHSSN to create a document regarding, “Access to Health and Social Services” for English speaking seniors.
- TIP-O-A offers professional training to volunteers to assist seniors with their mental health issues. “Telehealth intervention to reduce isolation of older adults” [TIP-OA | JGH News](#) ([ciusswestcentral.ca](http://ciusswestcentral.ca))

- **How do we support the Fulford residence? The expertise within the “One Voice” group appreciates the importance of relocating these seniors with respect and dignity while being aware that will likely have to join a “new community and or neighbourhood. This can be very traumatic. We met with Christopher Holcroft, who is leading the advocacy for this group of 17 English speaking seniors. He shared that residents who are not relocated by the Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> target date will be placed in “Transitional Beds”. Catholic Action is planning to meet with the residents to get a clear understanding of the individual needs. We will then be back to you, our members, and volunteers, to see where you may be able to have a positive impact of this precious community.**



# A Sainly Gift

One of our non-profit partners, Social Justice Connection discovered this treasure and entrusted it to Catholic Action to find it the safe home it deserves. Father Ernest Schibli, (January 5, 1940-November 12, 2020) was a founding member of The Social Justice Committee of Montreal in 1975 (renamed Social Justice Connection), he remained in a leadership role up until a few years ago. His dynamic role was a driving force connecting Montrealer's of goodwill with their marginalized brothers and sisters in the Global South, particularly those in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. He did so faithfully, creatively, and humbly for almost 50 years.



During that time, Father Schibli took countless trips to Central America to support and be in solidarity with those struggling with hostilities and poverty. His efforts supported the work of, at that time, Archbishop of San Salvador, Oscar A. Romero.

The Archbishop sent a personal “thank you” for Father Schibli’s work with the local El Salvadorian government. This letter is dated March 18, 1980 and was received just after the Archbishop was murdered while celebrating mass, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 1980. As a result of his exceptional work Pope Francis canonized Romero as a saint on 14 October 2018.

The “saintly” letter has been kept at the office of Social Justice Connection organization who are currently, renovating their space. One of their long-time employees, Derek MacCuish, reached out to Catholic Action to ensure this important letter finds the home it deserves.

We are waiting for our Archdiocese for instruction on who to deliver it too.

TRANSLATION: "With my gratitude to the Comité de justice social de Montréal, your devotion to the work of justice carrying out the word of God from the Church of El Salvador. The brotherly (read: communal) support expressed for you in fervent messages from the Minister of Defense and Board of Governors of our country, are a powerful voice of strength to our dedicated defense of the most sacred rights of man. Accept my regards and ever dearest blessings, the grateful prayer of this small part of God's village.

# How Can you Help Catholic Action?



**PRAY** for Catholic Action

**REGISTER** your gifts on our website: [www.catholicaction.ca](http://www.catholicaction.ca)

**SHARE** your gifts by emailing us on how you can help [jwong@catholicaction.ca](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca)

**LET US KNOW** how & where you serve in the community.

**VOLUNTEER** in a new area of interest!

**BECOME A CA MEMBER** [Membership Join or Renew below – Catholic](#)

[Action Montreal](#)

**Attend out AGM** and TELL OTHERS about Catholic Action

**LET US HELP!**

If you know of a group that needs assistance, contact us [jwong@catholicaction.ca](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca)

*Grateful for the support of the “works” of the church. Catholic Action received a very personal donation this month. In the spirit of sharing, these are some of the words of our very appreciative thank you letter.*

*“The wish that your parents wanted some of their legacy to be shared with the “works” of the church and you included Catholic Action in your consideration is so appreciated.*

*It is with sincere gratitude that we thank you for thinking of Catholic Action and in your words allowing us to, “continue the good work your team is doing.”*

# *Save the Date for the AGM*

*Save the date!*

**June 22nd, 2021  
7:00 PM**

**Catholic Action  
invites you to hear  
their Good News**

**Please Join us via ZOOM  
for our AGM  
and our very special guest  
Bishop Thomas Dowd**



*Dear friend of Catholic Action*

*You are invited to Catholic Action's Annual General Meeting  
When: **Jun 22, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)***

*You must register in advance for this meeting, please use this link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwodOGspj8jHt2LDTToXkioZGLgkKXimQeCR>*

*After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the link to the meeting.*



# Is English losing protection in Quebec?



## QCGN Meets with Language Minister Simon Jolin-Barrette – April 16, 2021



QCGN President **Marlene Jennings** along with members of the Executive Committee **Kevin Shaar, Eva Ludvig, Matt Aronson**, and I had a meeting with **Simon Jolin-Barrette**, the Minister Responsible for the French Language last week. The Minister told our delegation that the government's objective is not to take away rights from English-speaking Quebecers or divide the two language groups. The objective, Jolin-Barrette said, is to fight the decline of the French language. The online meeting was cordial, and we were pleased to establish a dialogue with the provincial government ahead of coming proposals to reinforce the Charter of the French Language (Bill 101). While Jolin-Barrette would not provide details of his plan, nor the timing of its release, he said his aim is to promote French while respecting the rights of our community. And he stressed that his proposals will not be detrimental to the institutions of the English-speaking community. We stressed that – despite the good intentions of past governments enforcing and reinforcing Bill 101 – English-speaking Quebecers have often been collateral damage. Even if the objective is not to hurt the English-speaking community – that will most likely be one of the side effects of certain measures, we told him. We indicated that we will be vigilant! The Minister spent a considerable amount of time discussing jobs in the civil service, and jobs for youths. QCGN rejected excuses such as English-speaking Quebecers do not want to move to Quebec City etc. said that as the province's largest employer, the Government had to show leadership. When asked for our opinion on federally regulated businesses, we said it was necessary to extend same rights to English- and French-speaking workers. We also told Jolin-Barrette that unchallenged myths propagated by some media did not make Quebec a welcoming place for many anglophones.

**ALSO**, The Official Languages Act and Quebec's English-speaking Community featured journalist, author and lecturer Graham Fraser, the former Commission of Official Languages, WEBINAR, you can watch that video here:

<https://youtu.be/JNcjtsu2vw>

Marlene asked and addressed our One Voice group, whose membership represents thousands of English-speaking seniors. Her goal was to ensure the English community understands the current posturing of both the Federal and Provincial governments and the potential impact on English Speaking Quebec.

**FUN FACT:** Anna Farrow executive director of the English-Speaking Catholic Council is a board member of the QCGN.

# The Kingdom Mindset Community



Mark Your Calendars

Please Join

Adam Paterno Lay Minister & Mental Health Advocate &  
Catholic Action

Prayer, Scripture and Sharing working towards a

Kingdom Mindset.

**Mental health is in the forefront more than ever with the limitations brought on by the Coronavirus. Calming your anxiety with scripture can be helpful. COVID's toll on our lives can be difficult to navigate, which can add and increase your level of other anxiety.**

**"Using scripture to navigate your fears and anxiety."**

**When: May 20, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpfuippj8tG9GFNjANATxNfL4\\_LcV7RjLp](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpfuippj8tG9GFNjANATxNfL4_LcV7RjLp)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the link for the meeting.

In the meantime, please join our Facebook group: [The Kingdom Mindset Community | Facebook](#)

Or contact us via email: [mindsetkingdommtl@gmail.com](mailto:mindsetkingdommtl@gmail.com)



# Bible Trivia



## Bible Trivia April-2021

1. Question: What was God's sign to Noah that he would never destroy the earth again?
2. When Daniel prayed to God after it was not allowed, where was he thrown into?
3. Question: What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
4. Which book did David write most of?
5. Who was Jesus' most famous cousin?
6. Who is Stephen in Acts of the Apostles?
7. Which Gospel is most concerned with the mystery and identity of the person of Jesus?
8. Which Gospel is most concerned with the mystery and identity of the person of Jesus?
9. What language was most of the New Testament originally written in?
10. What was Jesus' first miracle?

Click below for the answers:

[Bible Trivia – Catholic Action Montreal](#)



The Season of Easter

Celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord

Did you know that the

Easter Season begins on Easter Sunday and lasts for 50 days, ending on Pentecost.

This year it began on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and ends on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2021.

The decorations are usually white, gold, or white and gold.

White represents the angels who announced the resurrection, while gold symbolizes triumph.

**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.*

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

*God Bless!*

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

*Blessings to you and yours !!*