



**Catholic Action
Montreal**

Sharing our gifts
to serve our neighbour



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Catholic Action Montreal

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TO OUR MEMBERS

Dearest Members,

I hope and pray that this message finds you well.

Last year, we held our very first Virtual AM via Zoom. We never would have imagined at that time that we would be doing the same again this year, but alas here we are once again!

What an extraordinary time this past year has been for all of us. We have found ourselves needing to pivot and find ways to work together to continue to serve our community and respond to the needs that arose during this global pandemic.

We have been incredibly grateful for the gift of on-line, virtual platforms which allowed us to remain connected with you, our members, and with the communities and people we collaborate with and serve. We were also thrilled to organize virtual gatherings with you, our members, on a couple of special occasions (Bishop Tom's farewell; meet and greet with Bishop Alain Faubert). These were wonderful times of connection and fellowship.

In other areas, Catholic Action was just as active as always working with others to help meet the needs of our Montreal Community in a variety of different areas - such as mental health, isolation, and food insecurity, to name a few. Members and friends made and distributed masks, and hand sanitizer to churches and organizations who needed them; collected and delivered food and snacks to health care providers during the most difficult times of the pandemic; made and delivered sandwiches for the homeless; and the list goes on.

Your Board of Directors has also been working steadily over the past year on our policies and procedures. We have completed our Policy for Affiliated Groups and are currently working on our Code of Conduct. We shared with you at our last AGM that we had begun a Thrivability Assessment which would lay down the foundation for a Strategic Planning process. The Thrivability Assessment turned out to be a lengthier process than we had anticipated, but it was certainly a worthwhile one as it brought us to a place of exploring deeply how we understand and articulate the meaning, purpose and desired impact of Catholic Action Montreal. We emerged from this exercise with a clear understanding that our next step should be to clarify our Vision. A clear Vision (the 'Dream') will help guide and focus our Strategic Planning process. We are now primed for a short Visioning process beginning in the Fall, followed by Strategic Planning.



This past year, various board members have taken up roles on the board – Enza Timpano took on the Membership portfolio, and Arnel Javier has been leading a Marketing sub-committee, while Jessica Jalea has taken on Special Projects. One of our goals for the coming year is to open up opportunities for Catholic Action members to work with members of our Board of Directors – according to their interests, expertise, and gifts - on sub-committees to help advance the work of Catholic Action. We are very excited about this prospect and will keep you posted when these opportunities arise. Together we are stronger - The more the merrier - More hands make lighter work - and collective wisdom and creativity will undoubtedly bring forth amazing outcomes!

At our last AGM, we shared with you the financial uncertainty that were facing due to the challenges presented by the pandemic. We are happy to say that we fared well over the past year thanks to the government subsidies that we were able to take advantage of (thanks to our Treasurer, Patrick Gillespie), as well as the generosity of our members and donors. God is good, and we feel encouraged by his providence through these opportunities and good will of others. This has allowed us to continue grow the Mission of Catholic Action and respond to the needs that arose throughout this most exceptional past year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each member on your Board of Directors – a very thoughtful, experienced, service-minded group of people who do so much to support and grow the mission of Catholic Action, and whose collective counsel and wisdom I am so grateful for. A huge debt of gratitude goes out to our Executive Director, Judy Wong, whose passion, faith, commitment, and drive has been such a blessing, and has had a tremendous impact on the growth of Catholic Action and on the lives of so many.

And lastly, but most importantly, on behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to thank each of you for your continued support, input, and involvement as we - united and guided by faith - strive to serve, care for, and bring hope to others with humility, compassion and respect.

We are always happy to hear from our members, who we represent and serve. Please do not hesitate to contact Judy, myself, or any of your board members to share your thoughts, suggestions, feedback, and/or what you are doing to serve others in your community. We want to know about and celebrate what you do, so please do share your stories with us!

We continue to look forward to collaborating with you in exciting ways in response to our baptismal call to put our faith into action.

Be assured of our prayers for you, and may God Bless you and keep you.

*Anna Graham
Chair of the Board of Directors – Catholic Action Montreal*

Board of Directors:

Executive board: Anna Graham, Fr. Robert Assaly (Spiritual Director),
Patrick Gillespie (Treasurer), Cathie Macaulay (Secretary), Paul Donovan,

Board: Archbishop Christian Lépine, Jessica-Anne Jalea, Arnel Javier, Enza Timpano

Executive Director: Judy Wong

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions on the Financial Statement, please email jwong@catholicaction.ca

ACTION CATHOLIQUE MONTRÉAL / CATHOLIC ACTION MONTREAL
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020
 (UNAUDITED)

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Revenues		
Donations from charities and other	19,999	50,050
Fundraising activities	20,289	37,491
Government assistance (Note 5)	20,000	-
	60,288	87,541
Expenses		
Bank charges	296	348
Charitable activities	884	11,688
Office expenses	325	3,305
Professional fees	3,000	4,813
Rent	6,629	14,084
Salaries and fringe benefits (net of government assistance of \$24,808 (2019, \$Nil))	32,575	59,490
	43,709	93,728
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	16,579	(6,187)
Net assets, beginning of year	48,188	54,375
Net assets, end of year	64,767	48,188

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- QUESTIONS?

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ACTION CATHOLIQUE MONTRÉAL / CATHOLIC ACTION MONTREAL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020
(UNAUDITED)

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Cash	82,482	30,797
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	28,941	29,582
	111,423	60,379
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 4)	6,656	12,191
Loan payable (Note 5)	40,000	-
	46,656	12,191
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	64,767	48,188
	111,423	60,379

THE YEAR IN HIGHLIGHTS – 2020



Pivot, adapt and adjust!

As with many groups in 2020, our year started out at a normal pace, our bus for seniors was almost completely booked for weekly activities, we had parish visits scheduled, and other nonprofit collaborations planned. Then came COVID! We had to quickly pivot, adapt, and adjust. We are a “needs” driven organization, and

suddenly the needs were different. As the disease spread and people 70 years and older were asked to stay home, the volunteer pools in various communities diminished significantly. Thankfully, we were able to assist, filling some of the needs.

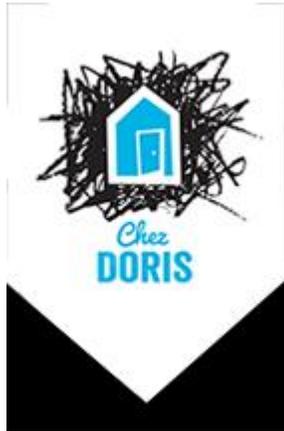
One of the biggest tragedies discovered through the pandemic was just how underserved the senior population was. This led to our One Voice coalition changing our meetings from once every 2 months to once every 2 weeks. The lack of English information of safety protocols, governmental updates etc., highlighted the need for printed information on those topics become available to our English-speaking seniors. The CHSSN, Community Health and Social Services Network, joined our group and brought tools to assist us in communicating, in English, at large. We will share more about our efforts with Seniors later in this report.

Some examples of our initiatives:

- † Assisted hospital front line workers dealing specifically with Covid 19 patients by collecting travel size hand creams, healthy snacks, juices, 3 in 1 coffee, instant coffee
- † Call seniors to check in and ensure they are well. As you can imagine seniors who normally gather with their friends are, as we all are, house bound. There is heightened concern for these community members. If a center had a membership of 300, a large number would need to “check in” call where previously they would not. This represents an important increase
- † Food bank shelves were bare – Le Pont had reached out with a needs list that we have shared. Catholic Action has been in contact with their director and the need is weekly. Assisting the food banks when asked
- † Volunteer grocery shoppers for our members in Westmount and a bit of NDG and Downtown.
- † Volunteers sewed over 400 re-usable masks for seniors.
- † Volunteers offered sandwiches and snacks to Father Claude Paradis’ Notre Dame de la Rue ministry.
- † Served all parishes and nonprofit organizations with gallons of hand-sanitizer when there was none to be had.

LET YOUR
FAITH
BE BIGGER
THAN YOUR
FEAR

Assisting with Food and Clothing Security



With many volunteers being asked or choosing to stay home, Catholic Action was called upon to assist the community with both food and clothing.

On the clothing front, what was different this year, was the fact that the clothing was needed to be available for the homeless after they were able to shower. The clothing they had been wearing, if appropriate would be washed and recycled. We ran a long campaign as requested, for Chez Doris, through the summer.



We had a similar program running with La Maison du Père, a facility that assists homeless men.

Food security was in high demand as the number of families that were drawing on food banks increased significantly.

We had received some significant donations that we shared with a variety of non-profit groups, at different parts of our city.



For almost a year, Father Claude of Notre Dame de la rue relied on our team to supply sandwiches and healthy snacks. Father has said on more than one occasion how appreciated his community is.



Isolated Minority Language Seniors



Our One Voice Group is a great example of why Catholic Action exists. 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.

How we support the Fulford residence? Judy Wong is Executive Director of Catholic Action Montreal. Ms. Wong would be pleased to offer advice and insights into issues of seniors' housing and access to health care. Ms. Wong also suggests a new telephone service for seniors facing anxiety or social isolation - [Telehealth intervention to reduce isolation of older adults | JGH News \(ciusswestcentral.ca\)](#).

Contact: jwong@catholicaction.ca

Cathie Macaulay is Coordinator, Pastoral Home Care, English sector, with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal. Ms. Macaulay has a team of trained volunteers who provide spiritual accompaniment to older adults and general companionship to anyone who is seeking a listening ear. She would be pleased to be a resource to Fulford residents or recently moved seniors, as well as their families.

Contact: cmacaulay@diocesemontreal.ca

All of these resources are free and represented by experienced community leaders supporting the health and well-being of anglophone seniors. ***We are very grateful for their offers of assistance.***



Isolated Minority Language Seniors

Early on in 2020 we were still able to run our volunteer driven bus and support the seniors on grocery runs, dollar store and lunch outings. We visited Chinese buffets, Pizza Hut, Walmart, the Atwater Market and assisted a SASMAD project carrying members to a retreat. Sadly, like many services, this came to an abrupt pandemic halt. It was a double edge sword as it had become a great “vehicle”, pardon the pun, to break the isolation of many. While one of our volunteers would continue to run the bus on a weekly basis, we ran into some major repair expenses and the theft of our catalytic converter. If you recall that has been a problem for many this year. <https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/catalytic-converter-theft-on-montreal-s-west-island-just-one-of-hundreds-in-quebec-police-on-alert-1.5364922>

However Catholic Action was able to provide technological and facilitation assistance while some of our volunteers assisted with leading interesting phone in and or zoom conversations.



When we could gather in small groups socially distanced in parks, we assisted with an event in LaSalle. We hosted weekly conversations for different senior groups. We hosted themed events, Christmas live sing – along and sharing of personal Christmas traditions. We

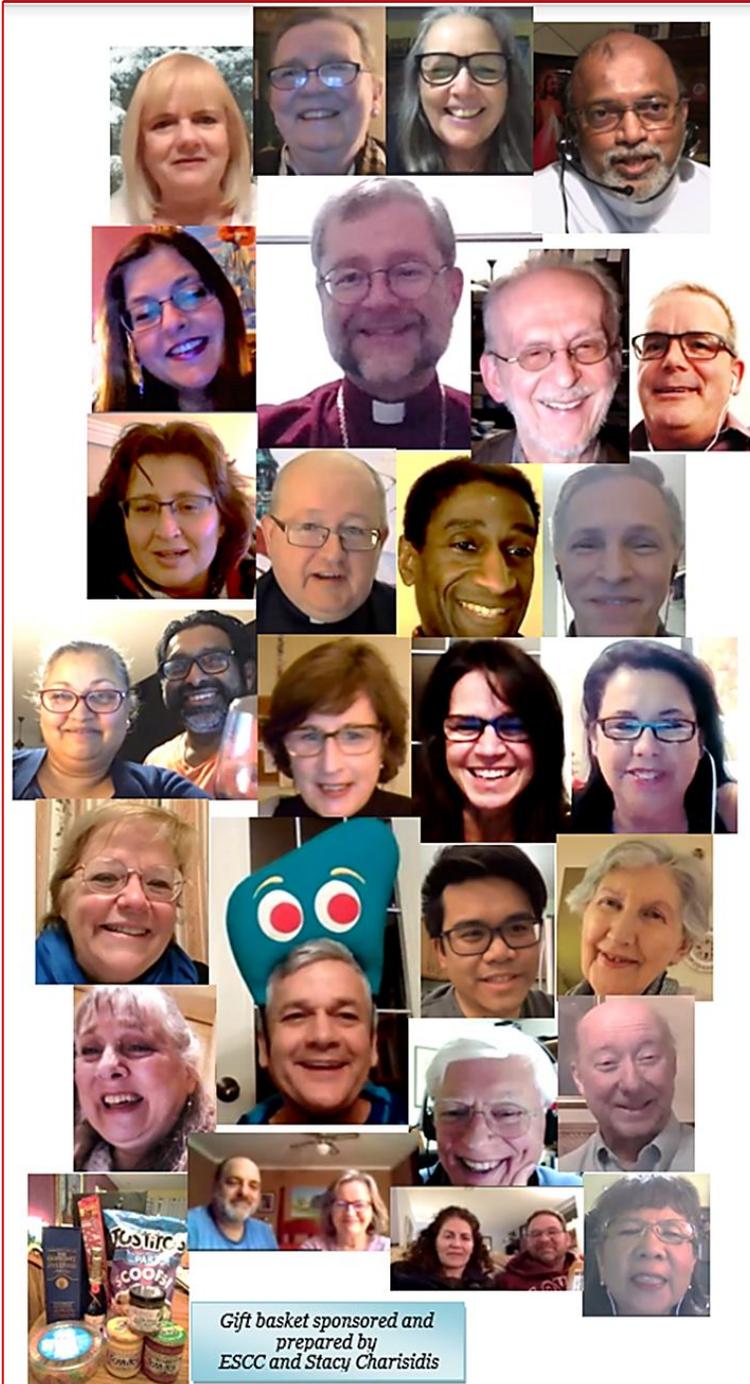
did this also on Christmas day for seniors that had no-one else to share with. Our volunteers assisted with dropping off Christmas goodie bags to seniors. We hosted a Black History Month conversation featuring Dave McKenzie of Concordia University, a St. Patrick’s Day sing along with traditional Irish music and singers. We assisted with the help of one of our volunteers, with an Easter Cookie Surprise for many.



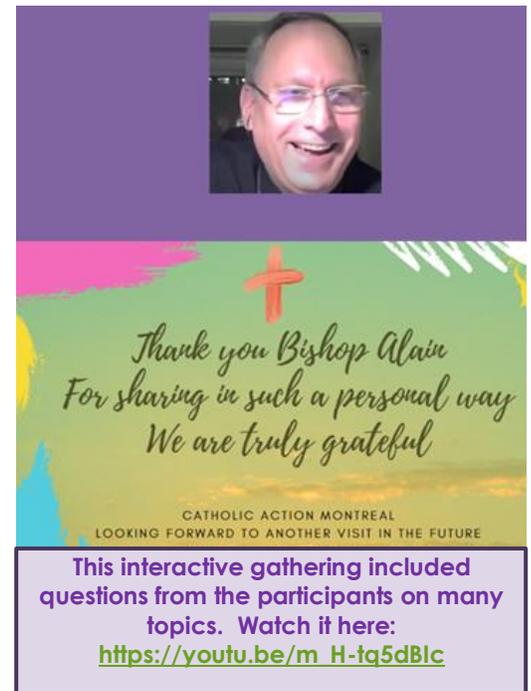
These events positively affected hundreds of seniors and we received many notes of appreciation.



Catholic Action Community



In order to celebrate our community, we hosted various Zoom gatherings which included a celebration and send off for Bishop Tom as well as an intimate conversation with Bishop Alain Faubert.



Bishop's Tom's career in pictures:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jx45s4h0xtr8aoo/BT%20IN%20PICS%20FINAL.mp4?dl=0>

Some acknowledgements from friends:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lu7f7eb8qd32kih/Messages%20for%20Bishop%20Tom.mp4?dl=0>

Catholic Action Community (continued)

America
THE JESUIT REVIEW

"It's fairly rare that the Church in Montreal is covered by America Media! Check out this article on Catholic Action Montreal, and the good work they have been doing these past five years.

A shoutout to Anna Graham, Judy Wong and

Bishop Thomas Dowd, all quoted in the article! Does it matter if a charity calls itself 'Catholic'? The church in Montreal faces a question at the heart of its mission | America Magazine" - Fr. Raymond Lafontaine, E.V.

Read the article here:

[Does it matter if a charity calls itself 'Catholic'? The church in Montreal faces a question at the heart of its mission | America Magazine](#)

C.A.M.'s organic model allows it to be involved in an array of activities based on an evolving mixture of community needs and member capacities. "If people need something, they call," said Judy Wong, the organization's executive director, adding that the organization indeed gets a lot of calls.



M†
Catholic Church of Montreal

As Montreal entered the province-wide confinement period in mid-March following the onset of the pandemic, Archbishop Lépine launched a series of English and French video capsules, called "Thought for the Day/Care for the Soul," to accompany those struggling as a result of the measures. Catholic Action and its volunteers were invited and participate in; the translation from French to English of the Archbishops' series of "Thought of the Day".

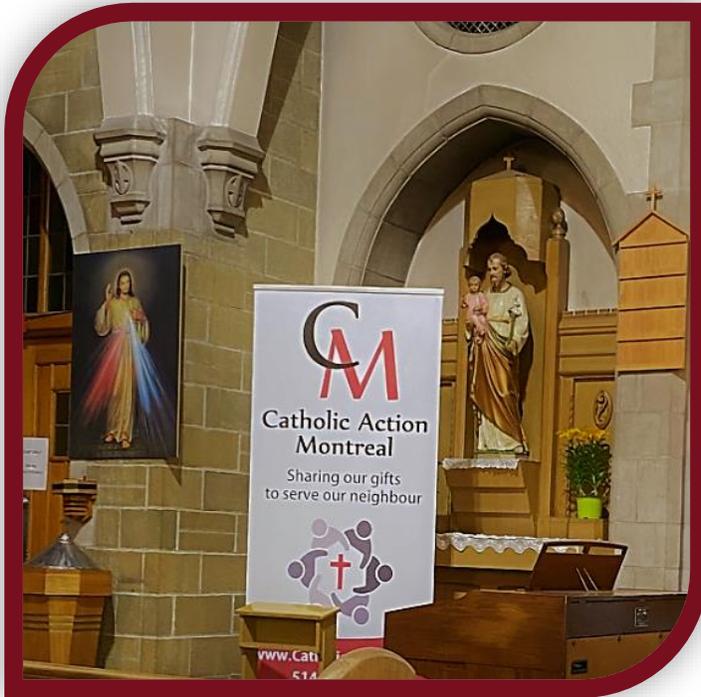
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Catholic Action received exiting news. Salt and Light will be televising the daily **mass in ENGLISH from Mary Queen of the World. We were asked to assist in developing an English Lector ministry for this new English Catholic Offering. We succeeded in developing a fantastic group.** We have met via zoom and October's masses are fully scheduled. Abbé Alain Vaillancourt the "Parish Priest" of the Cathedral was grateful for the assistance, one of our volunteers now does the lector scheduling for these celebrations. A sample of gratitude received:

"Hi Judy, Thank YOU so much for your organization and coordination of this fantastic opportunity and initiative. As you so rightly mentioned on Monday's meeting: it is awesome that we are the voice of English-speaking Catholics in Canada! Looking forward to doing my small part in communicating the word of God! Peace and blessings, Marco."

Late Sunday Mass



As with many activities in 2020 the Late Sunday mass started off strong until March when, as all places of worship we were lived with limited capacity when we could celebrate. We had the double impact of the curfew, since our "Late Sunday Mass" was traditionally a 7:00 start our masses were stopped altogether.

As this is our major source of income in a year it is important to have the consistency people count on and we

look forward to growing the community once again, when the "new normal" is established. We were blessed to have two new celebrants join our team, Father Robert Gautier, and Father Joachim Ostermann. As always Father Gilles Surprenant takes the lead on managing the celebrants for us and hosts the sacrament of reconciliation. We remain grateful to Father Jason Piper for the rental of the church for our faith community and the volunteers that have been with us from the beginning, seating, sterilizing, accepting the registrations etc. It is a beautiful team that share this celebration. Please consider joining us on a Sunday evening at 7:00 at our Lady of Fatima Parish: 875 Marcel Laurin Blvd, Saint Laurent QC H4M 2M8



Kingdom Mindset



Adam Paterno, lay minister, husband and father, uses scripture to manage symptoms of General Anxiety Disorder (GAD) to return to a healthier, more high functioning emotional and spiritual life. Dealing with mental health issues has gained new respect and focus, particularly during the pandemic. Adam uses his gift, bringing scripture onto the "battlefield of the mind" and is greatly appreciated by the sufferers of anxiety. His message is that the scripture helps you get ahead before

you fall behind. It highlights that faith and fear cannot co-exist and that we must "Let go and let God"!

Isaiah 26: 3: "Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace; in peace because they trust in you."

John 16:33: "I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace; in the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

1 Peter 5:7: "Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you."

Matthew 11:28-30 (RSV): "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



"The Kingdom Mindset came at a time that I needed it most". It reminded me that I was not alone, and that God was my hope, my way, truth, and life. Thank you for this beautiful support".



Events facilitated by Catholic Action and the Kingdom Mindset:

Monthly meetings – (Dates can be found on our Facebook page)

St. Luke's Adult Faith Café

ST. Edmunds Adult Faith Café

Smart Catholics – Mental Health conference (USA)

Smart Catholics – Live Q & A sessions – Scripture and Mental Health

CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF THOSE IN NEED

Asylum Seekers These new neighbours continue to be a priority for Catholic Action. We are happy to report our coalition is working very well. Welcome Collective collects item donations and then allows the recipients to choose their items. This includes furniture, kitchen items and clothing. Of course, this success would not be viable without the support of you, our members, our parishioners, and good-hearted people. Promis is the agency we advise the asylum seekers to contact for assistance with their paperwork, job search and other administrative needs. We did run a large winter clothing campaign, that started at Halloween and finished just after the New Year. Many parishes, parishioners and organizations pooled their kindness to serve. We donated to Le Pont, Transfiguration of Our Lord, Chez Doris to name a few.



DO you remember Stella and her family? Stella was refused refugee status in Quebec. To secure her safe return to Spain we collaborated with Mary Jane Dewart, & Esperanza Martinez to secure legal expertise to ensure we had a fail-safe plan. Stella stays in touch, she and her family are well and thriving, thanks be to God!

The Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal

Some stats...



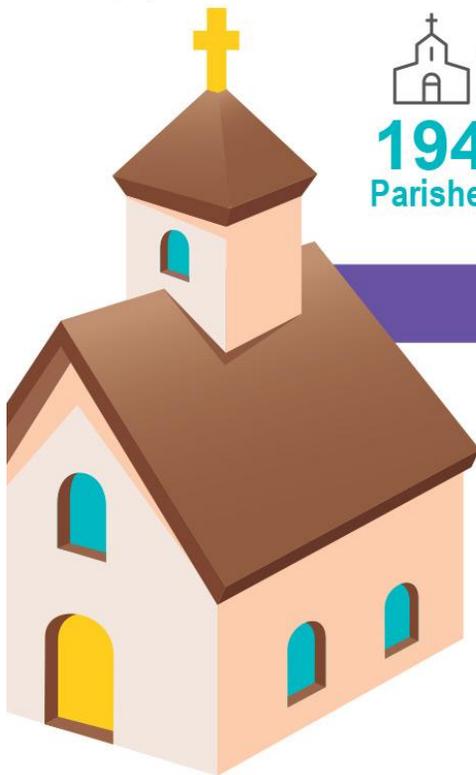
Territory and population

Size of territory: **947**Km²

(Including the islands of Montreal and Laval, and parts of Repentigny and l'Assomption).



Catholic population: **940,650**



194
Parishes

214
Churches
(Including chapels, sanctuaries and basilicas)

Sacraments

5351
Baptisms
(2016)



3469
Confirmations
(2016)



909
Marriages
(2016)



Pastoral personnel

800
Priests



73
Permanent Deacons



2526
Religious men and women



89
Pastoral Associates and Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs)



CATHOLIC ACTION MEMBERSHIP

Catholic Action's membership is 226 strong.

Please invite your family and friends to become part of our English-Speaking Catholic team that use our gifts to serve the Lord.

“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Thessalonians 1-3)



OUR GROWING LIST OF PARTNERS

We could share many more pages of highlights as we are blessed to serve and collaborate with many kind and generous people and organizations in the name of our Lord. This is a list of our partners and collaborators.

- † Archdiocese of Montreal
- † Office of English Pastoral Services
- † Responsible Pastoral Ministry
- † Social Action
- † SASMAD
- † Le Pont
- † Montreal Catholic Challenge
- † English speaking Parishes (via parish bulletin postings)
- † English speaking Parishes we had projects with
 - St. Edmunds
 - Corpus Christi
 - Jesus Light of the World
 - Transfiguration of Our Lord
 - St. Gabriel's
 - St. Luke's
 - Holy Name of Jesus
- † Santa Rita Scalabrini
- † Aide to the Church in Need
- † Sisters of Ste. Anne
- † Sisters of Sion

- † ACDPN
- † Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal
- † Agape Association Inc
- † Almage
- † Arc Community Outreach
- † Arthritis South Shore
- † Borden Ladner Gervais
- † Catholic Women's League
- † Centre for Reproductive Loss
- † CHSSN
- † CIUSSS
- † Collective Community Services
- † Concordia Perform Centre
- † Concordia University MBA Program
- † Contactivity Centre
- † English Speaking Catholic Council
- † Extra Miles Senior Group
- † Father Dowd Foundation
- † Foundation of Catholic Community Services
- † John Molson School of Business
- † Camp Kinkora
- † Knights of Columbus
- † LaSalle D & D 50+ Senior Centre
- † LaSalle Multicultural Centre
- † Loyola High School
- † Ndg 50 + café
- † Ndg Senior Center
- † New Hope Senior Citizens Centre
- † Peter McGill Community council
- † Pillars Trust
- † Promis
- † Quebec Community Groups Network
- † Red Feather Forum
- † Respecting Elders Communities Against Abuse
- † Sacred Heart
- † Seniors Action Quebec
- † St. Antoine Senior Centre
- † St. Columba House
- † St. Mary's Research Center
- † St. Patrick's Foundation
- † (TIP-OA) Telehealth Intervention Program
- † Volunteer West Island
- † Welcome Collective
- † Wisdom & Life Apostolic Church
- † Equijustice YMCA du Québec
- † Yellow Door



Special note of Thanks to two partners



How can we share our gifts with each other?

The groups we serve all have needs. Can you translate English to French, (all groups), do you have counselling experience (Centre for Reproductive Loss), and can you drive someone in need, meals on wheels, or maybe dabble in website design/update? Can you teach a Yoga class, English, computer? These are a few of the common requests. How about becoming a board member and lending your professional expertise to a team? There is many one time or full-time opportunities throughout the year. You would be surprised how easy it is to help. Is your organization missing a service, check in with us, we can help? Join our expertise pool and help us help our neighbour – go to the website and click on the “expertise” tab.

Your opinion matters! Tell us what you think? As a member what else would you like to see us doing? We’d love to hear your ideas. Drop us a line at jwong@catholicaction.ca

Thank You!

Sometimes we need
to be the hands
and feet of Jesus.

*Kind, Versatile, Optimistic,
Understanding, Talented,
Energetic, Enthusiastic,
Resilient – that is the kind of
amazing “Catholic Action
Experts” that you are.
Thank You!*

*Thank you to the Parishes, their
secretaries that have reached
out and supported our mission
with specific initiatives.*

*Thanks to all you have donated
to Catholic Action as we carry out our mission to serve our neighbour in the name of Our Lord.
Your gifts of time, talent and treasure are deeply appreciated.*

*You are proof that volunteers are people who do not want to be thanked for helping others but
want to thank others for giving them the opportunity to help. God bless you!*

*Invite your family and friends to share their expertise and become members. Join our group
and serve our neighbours in the name of Our Lord!*