



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!



CATHOLIC ACTION
MONTREAL



Catholic Action Update

Catholic Action was invited to share our community spirit at the Office of the English Pastoral Services, "Transforming Communities" event. We shared the space with Alessandra Santopadre of the Archdiocese and Brent Walker. We spoke of our community work that we share in these newsletters, Alessandra about her extensive work with asylum seekers and refugees, among many other duties and Brent, CoSA Operations Coordinator, about working with Circles of support and accountability and being in contact with those in prison and those who have left prison. Brent has worked as a prison chaplain. This "zoom" gathering offered testimony, shared experiences and most important, the service to those in need. It was an honor to be included in the conversation.



Thank you so much for sharing the good works of Catholic Action with those who attended the Transforming Communities Event on Oct 2nd. You are truly helping to transform communities through your passion + kindness. We are so grateful!
The O.E.P.S. (organizing) Team

CATHOLIC ACTION
MONTREAL PRESENTS:

**Celebrating
Christmas with
scripture and song**

Featuring "Ensemble Hochelaga"

**In honor of our Indigenous
communities we are raising funds for
Resilience Montreal,
the day shelter at Cabot Square
\$20.00**

DEC. 17 2021 - 7:30 PM
ST-JAMES UNITED CHURCH
463 SAINT-CATHERINE ST W,
MONTREAL, QUEBEC H3B 1B1



Last month we shared that we were partnering with Roger Twance of St. Kateri as they prepare for a Christmas concert in honour of indigenous communities. We visited their rehearsal at Notre Dame de Lourdes Chapel. You can hear some of their music and see the full promotion on our website:

[Christmas music and Scripture – Catholic Action Montreal](#)

Catholic Action Update



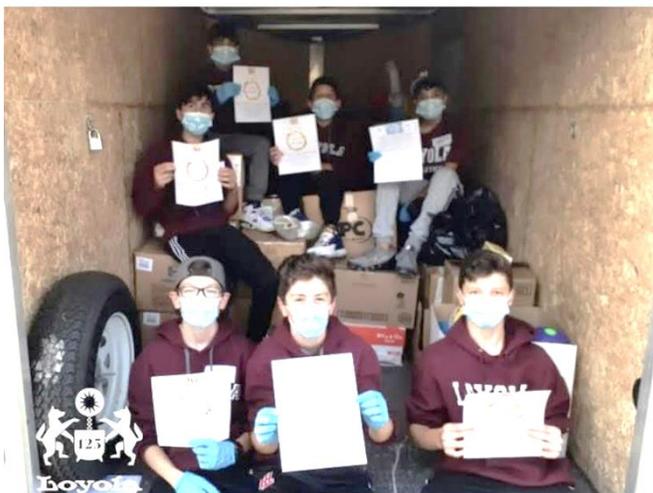
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Instagram



View all 9 comments

 **loyolamontreal**



 Liked by **piccirelli4** and **234 others**

loyolamontreal Our Secondary 2 students took part in a recycling event organized by Catholic Action Montreal over Thanksgiving weekend as part of Loyola's Christian Service Program.

Father Joy of Holy Name of Jesus
Father Francis of Jesus Light of the World
Father Bertrand of St. Luke's
Father Fred of St. Veronica's
Parish and Catholic Action Volunteers

Thank you again for allowing us to use your space and promoting our project as we collected items for families in need.

The event created a spirit of community as the young men from Loyola assisted us and interacted with your parishioners and visitors.

Without your support this would not have been the success that it was.

We are truly grateful, thank you again!

A short history of synodality; The synodal process, from the early Church to the pontificate of Pope Francis

The Catholic Church officially began preparations for the next ordinary assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will take place in October 2023 in Rome. The theme Pope Francis has chosen for the gathering is "For a synodal church: communion, participation and mission." In doing so, he is seeking to give new impetus to a synodal process that has involved the whole people of God since the very beginning of the Church.



What is the origin of synods? From the earliest days of the Church, people gathered to discern when they were faced with a crisis or at a turning point. The Acts of the Apostles tell that when the early Christian communities needed to resolve certain practical problems or pastoral questions, they held an assembly of believers, called on the Holy Spirit and discussed with those in authority. "The convocation of assemblies is a very old and traditional practice in the Church. It has taken place with more or less intensity according to the periods of history," says Gilles Routhier, member of the Synod of Bishops' theological commission on synodality. Whether diocesan, local or ecumenical, synods or councils can be traced continuously from the early Church to the Second Vatican Council, which marked a real renewal of this practice. "The Greek word 'synod' is originally the equivalent of the Latin concilium or council in

English," Routhier says. "In a context of crisis, contention or in a period when the Church needs to reform, synods are used so that a common decision can be reached following a process of discernment," he points out. St. Cyprian, the third century bishop of Carthage and a Church Father, made it a rule not to decide anything "without your counsel and without the suffrage of the people, according to my personal opinion".

How can we define "synodality"? The word synod comes from the Greek sun-odos, a road traveled together. Through this notion of a common journey, synodality is presented as a process during which it is a matter of listening and discerning God's will for the Church of this time, involving all the baptized. For ecclesologist Routhier, the term synodality "says something about the original form of governance in the Church, since it implies working together, coming together as an assembly, through the differentiated participation of all". Rather than a theoretical definition, Isabelle Morel, theologian and co-author of *Petit Manuel de Synodalité* (The Little Handbook on Synodality), prefers to speak of synodality's criteria. "Synodality is like a mode of governance of the Church that brings about a dynamic. To do this, it is first necessary to be able to listen to the people, and the Holy Spirit through them," she says. "The entire synodal process carries more weight when it begins by listening to the voice of the baptized," Morel says. "In order to respect a process of maturation, it is necessary to allow for time, moments of silence. The gathering must take place in the name of Jesus Christ, with people who are in a variety of states of life and situations," she says. This representative aspect is necessary to allow the "sensus fidei" of the faithful to be heard. The Second Vatican Council (1962-65) affirmed that "the entire body of the faithful... cannot err in matters of belief" (Lumen gentium n. 12) and that this sense of faith "is aroused and sustained by the Spirit of truth".

What has happened since Vatican II? The last council was a moment to rediscover synodality as experienced at the international level. Refusing to ratify documents the Roman Curia had prepared before Vatican II even got underway, the Council Fathers collaborated with experts and became involved in the drafting of new texts in a different way. After having experienced for four years the richness of this mode of government of the Church, Paul VI created the "Synod of Bishops" in 1965. The list of Synod assemblies convened since then shows the importance of this institution. The more recent assemblies have focused on the Word of God (2008), the family (2014-2015) and the Amazon (2019), for example. The pontificate of Pope Francis is particularly characterized by the conviction that the Church is essentially synodal. **READ MORE HERE:** https://international.la-croix.com/news/religion/a-short-history-of-synodality/15016?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=20211011_mailjet



“The Church of God is being convened as a Synod: a time of listening, dialogue and discernment, during which the whole Church is called to participate over the next two years so that we are better equipped to fulfill the mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the whole world.”

Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal

Read the Pastoral Letter : https://www.diocesemontreal.org/en/news-and-info/latest-news/synod-synodality-diocesan-launch?_ga=2.221469008.975139545.1635363256-1397036546.1600277715

Listen to **Father Raymond Lafontaine** talk about the Synod and its meaning:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPk9LDbwi-Q>

Visit the microsite here:

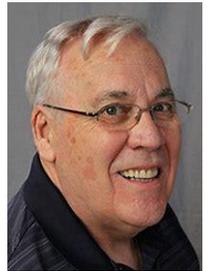
https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/synode/?page_id=443



Check out the Virtual Catechetical Conference on the new Directory for Catechesis, in conversation with **Dr. Anne Walsh**

here: <https://mailchi.mp/cbd26b33de8c/free-catechetical-conference-transforming-catechesis?e=4ff71b013b>

Father John Lyng, a good friend to Catholic Action, has recently retired. We worked together, building a support system for his asylum seekers and refugee parishioners which is going strong today. Catholic Action is grateful for Father's support in our organization from his early years. One year shy of 50 years as a priest, Father John has shared his gifts with many parishes. Some include, St. John Fisher, St. Monica's, St. Kevin's and of course his parish of the last eight years, Transfiguration of Our Lord. In speaking with one of his parishioners, I was told that Father liked to pray, **"We pray to the Holy Spirit to cleanse us, heal us and have mercy on us"**. Many of his parishioners, while disappointed that Father has retired, were thrilled to learn he is kick starting his Bible Study sessions in November. We wish Father John Lyng a peaceful and joyful retirement.



Father Peter Laviolette retired recently as well. His 33 years were well travelled, serving St. Veronica's, Ascension of Our Lord, working as a hospital chaplain and of course his two commissions at St. Richards. In speaking with Father Peter, his retirement is fully loaded, celebrating weddings, funerals and serving as the minister at the Salt and Light masses on Saturday mornings. As Father Peter said to me, "does a priest ever really retire?"

When I asked him for a favorite saying or message he said, **"Faith without good deeds is not faith"**



New Installations

You may see some new faces in your local parishes. There are/will be the following new installations, Father Raymond Lafontaine, Episcopal Vicar, has scheduled.

- † Fr Jaison Joseph MCBs, Parochial Administrator, St Monica
- † Fr Lawrence Chinnappan SMA, Parochial Administrator, Transfiguration of our Lord
- † Fr Jessie Dimafilis, Parochial Administrator, St Edmund of Canterbury
- † Fr George (Jojo) Joseph, Pastor of Syro-Malabar community of St Joseph, Parochial Administrator at St Richard's
- † Fr Anthony Atansi, chaplain at McGill Newman Centre, and assistant at St. Kevin's.
- † Fr. Francis Begin, associate pastor, St Luke
- † Fr Tiburtius Fernandez SMA, associate pastor, Jesus Light of the World and St. Thomas a Becket



For Our Priests

Almighty God, You who called the universe into being, You who formed our inmost being and called us to be your people:

We give you thanks for your constant presence
Through seasons of constancy and even change, you are with us – calling us into deeper waters, calling us together in your spirit of unity, calling us out of ourselves into the world to serve others.

Grant that those pastors brought into new waters might hold fast to unending love and mercy as a buoy – a love that promised to hold onto us even as we go where your Spirit leads us. May the churches that receive them be communities of mercy and grace.

Breaking Isolation – One trip at a time

ABOUT THE CAUSE

On average we run about 225 trips per year, serving a variety of non profit centres focusing on isolated seniors, and challenged adults.



Some Groups We Serve
Afghan Women of Montreal,
Almage Senior Community Centre,
Contactivity Senior Center,
Extra Miles Senior Visiting Program,
LaSalle D & D 50+ Senior Centre,
Nazareth House,
NDG Senior Center,
New Hope Senior Centre,
St. Antoine Senior Centre,
St. Columba House,
SASMAD,
Teapot,
Volunteer West Island,
WICA,
Yellow Door

How great it is to go out and enjoy our city, a trip to a lake or simply having lunch on a terrace with family and friends. Despite the loosening of restrictions **not everyone can enjoy these simple delights.**

Catholic Action's volunteers often use their gifts of time and talent to bring simple pleasures to those in need.

Our **volunteer bus drivers** bring joy to seniors and other challenged groups by

using our 22-seater bus throughout the year, breaking isolation with day trips. We offer different experiences these underserved communities would not be able to enjoy, without our bus and volunteers. Since June we've taken residents of Nazareth house to Camp Kinkora, Senior centre groups up north, to lunch and shopping outings. We have trips to Botanical gardens, Ste. Anne's by the water, and other special events scheduled to year's end.

The problem we have is our bus is aging, it is a 2009 and is costing us a lot in maintenance over the last few years, and we realize this is not sustainable. **We do not have the funds to keep up.**

That's where you come in, we are working with an expert to source a used bus that will be the optimum value for "your" dollar. Please help us raise the funds to continue to serve this fantastic community who is extremely grateful for these opportunities. If 75 people/or small groups, raise \$1000 for this cause, we hit our goal! **Please share with your social media groups and friends,**

Check out this short video to understand the impact this has on those we serve: <https://youtu.be/VpxY4j6A4yk>

PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE TO SERVE! Use the link below to get to our GoFundMe page to donate a tax deductible gift to this very important project.

Please share this story on your social media to help us spread the word.

<https://gofund.me/e9a866b4> Thank you, stay safe and God bless!

*A beautiful day – breaking Isolation
Brought to you by LaSalle D & D and “The Bus”*



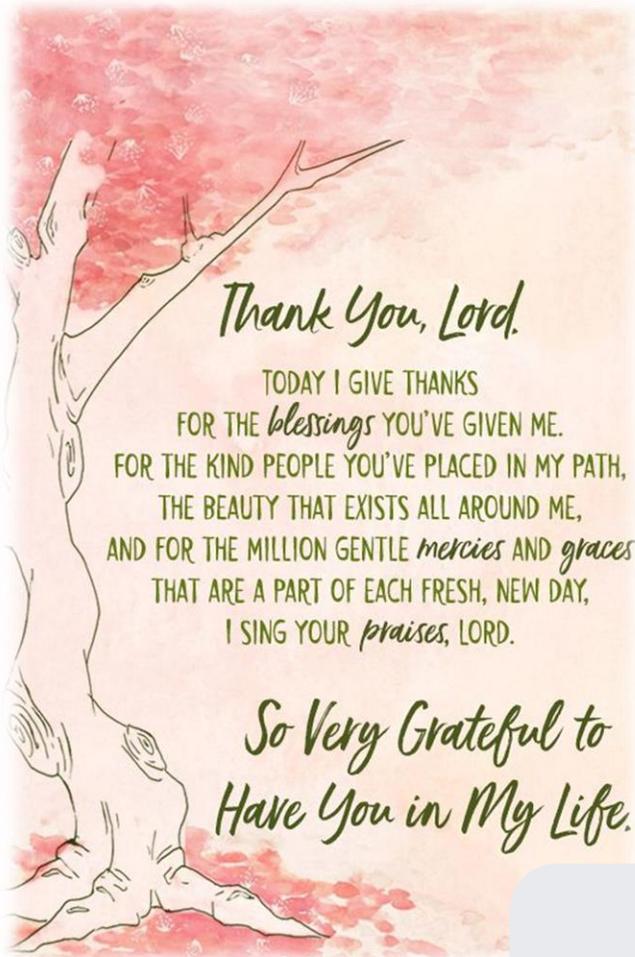
*First Stop – **Bramble House** - Bramble House is a favourite little British shop on the West Island of Montreal. Featuring favourites from the UK, crisps, sweets, and chocolate to pantry staples like Branston and Pickled Onions, toffees, Jelly Babies, Potato Scones, Empire Biscuits, Battenberg Cakes and a lovely selection of Gryphon Tea Scones.*

*👁️👁️ Seeing a Sale rack next door, they stopped in at **Gilbert and Daughter** dedicated to giving you the best brands at the lowest prices.*

*On to **Nova Pointe Claire** – for more frugal shopping*

Keeping with the British themed day, the day was capped off with tea and cakes in a lovely garden setting.

The New Pastoral Year - Prayers



Thank You, Lord.

TODAY I GIVE THANKS
FOR THE *blessings* YOU'VE GIVEN ME.
FOR THE KIND PEOPLE YOU'VE PLACED IN MY PATH,
THE BEAUTY THAT EXISTS ALL AROUND ME,
AND FOR THE MILLION GENTLE *mercies* AND *graces*
THAT ARE A PART OF EACH FRESH, NEW DAY,
I SING YOUR *praises*, LORD.

So Very Grateful to
Have You in My Life.



*"Loving God, I confess my sins and
declare that Jesus is the son of God. I
want to act in your ways and have your
Holy Spirit abide in me,
In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.
Based on 1 John 4:15*

Father we depend on You

*Father, Your only Son gave up His life for us, His friends.
Help us grow in that friendship.*

We are a weak and distracted people.

*Often, we neglect You, but You never abandon us. You love us. Make
us a less selfish and a more caring people. Help us to share the crosses of
others, as Simon did.*

*Show us how to live Your covenant of friendship day by day with the
victims and the poor of this world. Father we depend on You.*

*We pray this through Jesus, the Christ, Your son who has risen from the
dead.*

Amen

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.

Seniors Action Quebec is now hosting the “One Voice” Facebook Page:

[\(1\) One Voice Coalition | Facebook](#)



We have formed a council that is managing projects to present to the larger group, this is hosted by the CHSSN. The foundation of these projects will be based on the 407 surveys that were completed by English Speaking Seniors based on their needs. Stay tuned for updates on that front.

Some suggestions include a training module for Health Care Workers and managing the concerns of seniors. This will be a 2022 project.

We are currently studying a “complaint” process for seniors in the Health Care environment to battle the different obstacles they face, language, fear etc.

Seniors Action Quebec has a great tool for assisting seniors as they navigate services in our province. You can access it here: [Seniors Action Quebec | Services Map Welcome - Carte de services Accueil](#)



Is English losing protection in Quebec?



MONTREAL -- Bill 96 undermines the rights of English speakers and threatens social and linguistic peace, according to the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), which is calling for the bill to be withdrawn.

QCGN Eager to Collaborate with New Official Languages Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor

October 26, 2021 /in [Press Releases](#), [QCGN News](#)

The Quebec Community Groups Network today congratulated Ginette Petitpas Taylor on her appointment as Canada's new Minister of Official Languages and offered our keen assistance in her new portfolio. We also congratulated her predecessor, Mélanie Joly, on her promotion to Minister of Foreign Affairs.

For more than a decade, the QCGN has been working with the Government of Canada and Minister Joly on the modernization of the Official Languages Act. In January, Joly introduced Bill C-32 An Act to amend the Official Languages Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts. This legislation, which died on the order paper when the recent election was called, constitutes a significant shift in federal thinking on official languages. **The QCGN remains very concerned that the legislative pursuit of the notion that French is in need of special protection in Quebec would imperil the rights of English-speaking Quebecers and could spell trouble for equitable access to federal programs for Englishspeaking Quebec.**

Read the full article here:

[Statement-on-new-OL-Minister-Petipas-Taylor-2021.10.263.pdf \(qcg.ca\)](#)

Kingdom Mindset



Mark Your Calendars and Please Join

Adam Paterno Lay Minister & Mental Health Advocate & Catholic Action for

Prayer, **S**cripture and **S**haring working towards a **K**ingdom **M**indset.

As we work toward “Mental Wealth” we must learn to “forgive” ourselves.

This month’s topic: “Leave it with Jesus”

Join us for the conversation.

“Using scripture to navigate your fears and anxiety.”

Please join our community as we share and pray & discuss together.

When: November 11th, 2021, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kf-ygqzoiE9f-dmV8Yjm7Zu5AeFGP3nJB>

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



Exciting new Project for Youth Ministers – In collaboration with Mission Jeunesse, Dr. Tabitha Pineda (PHD and Family psychologist) and youth minister Chantal Messier – we will be developing resources to assist youth ministers in the event they are faced with a situation and need to work within the boundaries of pastoral care.





Bible Trivia September 2021 Edition

1. Where do we first "experience" the Holy Trinity?
2. Where did Jesus perform his first Miracle?
3. What were Jesus' last words to his mother and disciples on Mount Olivet before His Ascension?
4. Where is the reference to the coronation of Mary?
5. Who Is the Author Of The Book Of Revelation and where is it positioned in the Bible?

Click below for the answers:

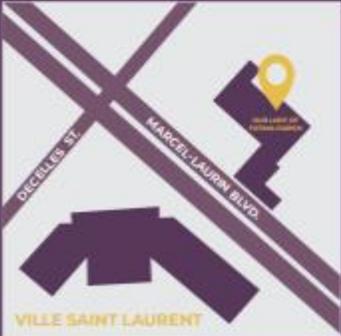
[Bible Trivia – Catholic Action Montreal](#)

Late Sunday Mass



Reflect with Jesus on your past week...
Start your new week with peace and joy!

7:00 pm
LATE SUNDAY MASS



OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH
Brought to you by:
CATHOLIC ACTION MONTREAL
catholicaction.ca

Designed by denisacunha.myportfolio.com

**Have an event that conflicts with your regular mass time,
please consider joining us
Sunday evenings at 7:00 Pm at**

Our Lady of Fatima Parish 875 Marcel Laurin Blvd, Saint Laurent Quebec H4M 2M8

Stay Connected

As people continue to renew their memberships, we sometimes receive heartfelt notes from you, our members. It is important for us that you feel free to reach out with any need.

Please remember to renew your membership

Membership Renewal: [Membership Join or Renew below – Catholic Action](#)

YOU INVITED TO CONSIDER JOINING
THE CATHOLIC ACTION TEAM!

BECOME PART OF OUR

CLASS OF 2021



JOIN ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES FOR
ANOTHER WAY TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBOUR!

Board Members: Would you like to be part of our team? Board and or committee members are welcome. Watch for our announcement later this summer!

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/>

