



ANGLICAN MONTREAL



Photo of the Rev Dorothy Samuel is among Diocesan Photographer Janet Best's favourites from her diocesan work. For more from Janet, see pages 3 - 5. Photo, of course, by Janet Best.

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At Montreal's COP-15 patience is ultimately rewarded



Michele and Samuel Chiu - part of the faith-based delegation awaiting the start of the final Plenary. Photo supplied.

MICHELE RATTRAY-HUISH
Mrs Michele Rattray-Huish is the People's Warden of Christ Church Cathedral

Attending COP-15 was an overwhelming experience; with people from all over the world, extensive security and bureaucracy, electronic billboards and screens flashing information, mandatory daily covid tests. And yet, it was all so organized and smooth, with information kept up-to-date with monitors that showed vital information about meeting times and room numbers and last minute changes – not unlike a busy airport.

When I arrived on the first day, (Dec 7th) I learned that the Faith-based area was situated on the 2nd floor in a huge space called Place Quebec which housed hundreds of kiosks and stages and rooms for the use of non-government people like me. Having worked with the CBD for many years, I was grateful that I knew how to navigate the site, yet, even so, it took a while to find the Faith-based Kiosk. While searching I

spotted the sign for the Prayer Room, so I took a moment - feeling grateful for the quiet - and said a short prayer for the day's negotiations.

The Faith-based kiosk was located in the general space housing Business and Finance, Women, Youth, NGOs, United Nations, Academia and Research IPLCs (Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities).

I met Caroline from the Roman Catholic Church in Nairobi Kenya there, and Gopal – the Coordinator of Faith Events at the COP. I also met Amy of the St. Columban Society who added me to the Global Faith at COP-15 WhatsApp Group – which was a blessing as it provided information about side-events, as well as summaries of what was happening in the negotiations.

I was fortunate to attend a side-event on Youth, Gender and Biodiversity, where Estevan spoke about including men within the gender dynamic in Colombia, and Esther from Kenya talked about her efforts to include youth in policy issues –

making it less opaque for them.

I also attended the presentation by Kamran (Bafu Trust) on the Eco Village in Tanzania; an eco-village for orphans and vulnerable children where they learn from an early age how to live ecologically and sustainably. The teaching is linked to the Islamic faith and the hope is that when they grow up they will make a difference in how decisions are made – as it is recognized that for adults it is often too late to change.

The following day, with negative Covid test in hand, I returned to the 2nd floor where I finally met up with the three other members of the delegation from the Anglican Diocese of Montreal that I had not yet met in person - from the United Church of Canada - Rev. Wendy Evans and Mercy Awori, and from Westmount Park United Church - Rev. Neil Whitehouse.

Neil, Wendy and I saw a presentation from the High Level Event – on Financing the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). As there were no seats left, we had to form part of the standing

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At COP15, nations adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreeing, by 2030, to conserve and manage at least 30 percent of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans, with emphasis on areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and services.

Growing a Regional Ministry in the Eastern Townships

TYSON ROSBERG

Fr. Tyson Rosberg is Associate Priest of the Eastern Townships Regional Ministry

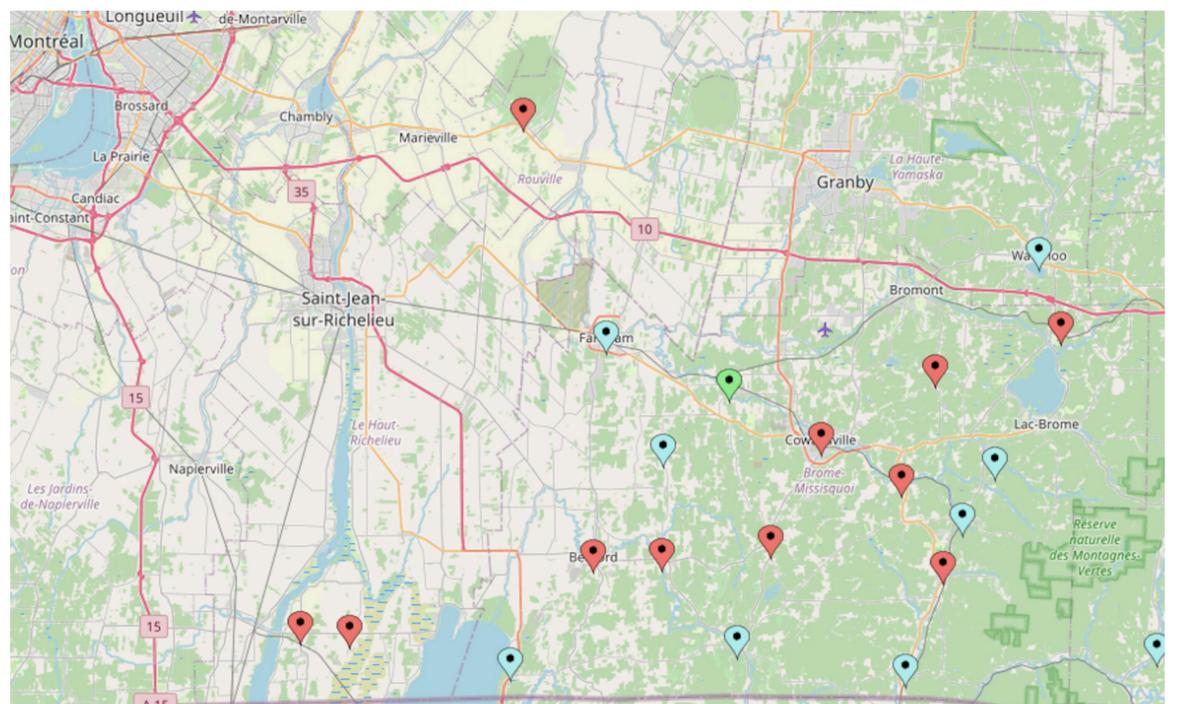
A radical new model of ministry is being explored in the rural Eastern Townships. In the southeast of corner of the Diocese, our Regional Ministry encompasses eleven active church buildings (marked in red on the map at right), across a territory more than double the entire Island of Montreal. Luckily, there are fewer stop lights, orange cones, and construction zones out in the country — especially on the gravel backroads!

In addition to these eleven, there are a number of mission

communities (marked in blue), where we no longer own a physical church building, but where we are still regularly called to provide pastoral care in baptisms, marriages, and funerals. Moreover, a committed cohort of volunteers from across the region, and as far away as Montreal, also meet routinely at the Cowansville Federal Penitentiary (marked in green) to lead chapel services, Bible study, and a monthly book club. All of this makes up the landscape of the Eastern Townships Regional Ministry.

Each of the eleven churches in the Regional Ministry contribute to having two full-time

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In the southeast of corner of the Diocese, our Regional Ministry encompasses eleven active church buildings (in red above), across a territory more than double the entire Island of Montreal.

Bishop's Message, March 2023

I have just come back from three months of sabbath leave. It was a wonderful time for rest, reading and reflection. I confess that I felt a bit lost without a regular schedule to follow and a role to fill. Friends of mine have used sabbaticals to further their education or write a book. This was not that kind of sabbatical. Rather than working on a list of things I wanted to accomplish and had been too busy to do while working, I spent time thinking about what God had in mind when God rested on the seventh day – and what God intends for us when we observe the Sabbath. I found myself focusing on the beauty of Creation and joining with God in admiring it while I rested. Naturally I took a lot of photos! And I spent some time relaxing with and enjoying loved ones.

Eventually I began to reflect on who I am in Christ, as a child of God, a beloved person who is part of God's Creation. I even thought about the way God took delight in all that God had made—and that I am part of that. It was a time to reconnect with the One who had called me and loved me and saved me and it was very good!

Lent is the annual occasion for us all to focus on what we need to pay attention to in our faith journey just as I did on my sabbatical. We make space so that we can be present to God and God's purposes: God's purposes for us, for our life in Christ, for our relationship with our neighbour, and for the environment. To slow down and worship God, and not just tick the boxes of expectations. Part of entering into Lent or Sabbath time is getting into a headspace of praise and thanks and trust in our place in God's purposes. Two books that helped me in my reflections are "Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight" by Norman Wirzba, and "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

+ Mary

Photo by Janet Best.

Message de l'évêque, mars 2023

Je reviens tout juste de trois mois de congé sabbatique. Ce fut un temps merveilleux de repos, de lecture et de réflexion. J'avoue que je me suis sentie un peu perdue sans un horaire régulier à suivre et un rôle à remplir. Certains de mes amis ont profité de leur congé sabbatique pour parfaire leur formation ou écrire un livre. Ce n'était pas ce genre de congé sabbatique. Plutôt que de travailler sur une liste de choses que je voulais accomplir et que j'avais été trop occupée pour faire en travaillant, j'ai passé du temps à réfléchir à ce que Dieu avait en tête lorsqu'il s'est reposé le septième jour - et à ce que Dieu veut pour nous lorsque nous observons le sabbat. Je me suis retrouvée à me concentrer sur la beauté de la création et à me joindre à Dieu pour l'admirer pendant que je me reposais. Naturellement, j'ai pris beaucoup de photos! Et j'ai passé du temps à me détendre avec des êtres chers et à en profiter.

Finalement, j'ai commencé à réfléchir à ce que je suis dans le Christ, en tant qu'enfant de Dieu, une personne aimée qui fait partie de la Création de Dieu. J'ai même pensé à la façon dont Dieu s'est réjoui de tout ce qu'il a créé, et au fait que j'en fais partie. C'était le moment de renouer avec Celui qui m'avait appelée, aimée et sauvée, et c'était très bon!

Le Carême est l'occasion annuelle pour nous tous de nous concentrer sur ce à quoi nous devons faire attention dans notre cheminement de foi, tout comme je l'ai fait pendant mon congé sabbatique. Nous faisons de la place pour être présents à Dieu et à ses desseins : Les desseins de Dieu pour nous, pour notre vie en Christ, pour notre relation avec notre prochain et pour l'environnement. Ralentir et adorer Dieu, et ne pas se contenter de cocher les cases des attentes. Une partie de l'entrée dans le Carême ou le temps du Sabbat consiste à se mettre dans un état d'esprit de louange et de reconnaissance et de confiance en notre place dans les desseins de Dieu. Deux livres m'ont aidée dans mes réflexions: "Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight" de Norman Wirzba, et "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" de Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Je vous remercie de vos prières pour moi pendant mon congé sabbatique. Je prie pour que vous ayez un Carême saint et renouvelé.

+ Mary



Bishop Mary and the Rev Josée Lemoine with newest member of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal, Mr William Moise. February, 5, 2023 at St Hilda's Church. Photo by Janet Best.



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Janet Best, working tirelessly to get the shot

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I am excited to put a spotlight on the work of our diocesan photographer, Janet Best.

As the editor of this paper, as well as a member of the diocesan communications team, I am so grateful to have access to the high quality pictures Janet consistently delivers. Janet's work elevates our visual impact and makes it easier to tell a story. As Saskia Rowley, the Art Director of the Anglican Journal said recently "Janet takes some of the very best photographs I've ever seen."

Janet is generous with her time and talent, rarely turning down a request to show up at a parochial or diocesan event.

In the pages following this brief interview I have featured some of her favourite diocesan photos. I hope you enjoy them.

When did you start taking pictures?

As a little girl of four or five, I was intrigued by my mother's photography. She took lots of photos and even developed them in the bathroom. So I would often see photos hanging from a clothes line there.

In the late 1980 early 1990's I had a wedding video business. With a partner I recorded and edited weddings. I really loved this work. People are in a good mood at weddings, I was introduced to customs from so many different ethnic groups and I learned a lot about composition and working quickly.

I continued to work with video and eventually did some documentaries, several of which played in film festivals. One, *The Dust of His Feet*, is about Bangladeshi musicians. I directed, filmed and edited all by myself and it played in the Documenting Bangladesh

Festival in Dhaka. I edited and did most of the camera work for another, *A New Life on the Land: Jewish Farmer in Canada*. It played at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival and at the Bucharest Jewish Film Festival. The most recent film, *The Wonder and Amazement - Rita Briansky on Her Life in Art*, which I co-directed, filmed and edited is about a lively 91 year old painter and teacher. It also played at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

How did you become the official diocesan photographer?

I became the official photographer for the Diocese in the summer of 2016. By then I'd been taking photos at the Church of St. John' the Evangelist for over five years, and some of these photos made their way into the church's calendar. Bishop Mary saw the calendar, liked the photos

and asked me to be the diocesan photographer. I had also photographed her consecration in 2015.

What are the biggest challenges in photographing church events?

Large events are not necessarily more difficult than smaller ones, but church services are much more difficult than receptions or conferences. They are definitely challenging. People want you to be discrete. In fact, a lot of the time, they probably don't want to see you at all. But if you are way off on the side, you won't get decent photos.

Really, a lot of the time the difference between a good photo and a terrible one is location. So I have to compromise where I go. I won't go way off in the corner but I can't roam around the altar area either.

However a good location

can end up being a bad one once an event starts. Suddenly a big group of people will come up and block everything. If I were 6'5" tall I could have a bird's eye and it wouldn't be a problem but I'm not.

Also churches are often very dark, flash is usually not appreciated and nothing can be repeated for the photographer, so that is also a problem. Luckily, I have a camera that is very good in low light but even it has a problem dealing with some situations

A problem that does not exist is getting tired. Sometimes people ask me if I'm tired at a shoot, but I never am because taking photos is so involving.

To see some of Janet's favourite shots, turn the page.

Forming Ministers for Today's World: The French for Ministry Intensive and Diversifying Ministry

EMILY STUCHBERY

Ms Emily Stuchbery is the Communications Coordinator at Montreal Dio

As fewer and fewer people turn toward the church, the church must turn toward the people. As is so often the case in Montreal, this process begins with language. "Being functional in French is an essential condition to sharing life and the Christian journey with the community in and outside of the church in the context of Quebec," says Clara Maranzano, Coordinator of French and Bilingual Ministry at Montreal Diocesan Theological College (Dio).

Situated in the heart of Montreal, Dio is confronted daily with the complex linguistic reality of the city. The future of the Church may in many ways be uncertain, but one thing is clear: it is not unilingual. Dio's Certificate in Bilingual Ministry program is helping to address the need for more linguistic diversity amongst church leadership.

The program is designed to improve students' linguistic and cultural competence in French or bilingual ministry and spiritual care settings. Students enrolled in the college's degree programs may take it as part of their program, but it is also available as a continuing education opportunity for those already working in ministry in any capacity, be it church administration, ordained ministry, or chaplaincy.

In the spring, Clara will be leading a one-week French for Ministry Intensive for those enrolled in the certificate program, or any other interested individuals participating in the intensive as a stand-alone course.

While language is a major focus of the intensive, the

material will also attend to the unique cultural challenges of doing ministry in the context of Quebec. "We should not forget that the Roman Catholic Church has had a huge impact on Quebec's history and culture that led to a radical mistrust of any Christian institution, and sometimes to a rampant atheism," says Clara. "However, the spiritual needs remain, so Christian Churches other than the Roman Catholic Church face a tremendous challenge and opportunity at the same time."

During the intensive, students will gain a more profound understanding of how the history of Christianity in Quebec continues to impact the spiritual needs and desires of Quebec's population in the present. By contextualizing the landscape of fear, hesitation, grief, and anger that often surrounds discussions of Christianity in Quebec, students will be better prepared to meet people where they stand and to be a guiding light rather than a source of anxiety and animosity.

"I want students to be able to share Christ's message with deep compassion and respect for the particular history and present situation of others, showing at the same time their own vulnerability and need to be understood in a language other than their own. This is always a beautiful challenge, or as we say in French, 'un beau défi'."

The community of students at Montreal Dio has grown evermore diverse culturally, linguistically, and ecumenically (especially as Dio has incorporated United Church Studies into its list of programs). With each year, it becomes more evident that a key role of seminaries like Dio is to nurture dialogue across difference, and to expose future ministers not just to their denominational traditions but to the possibilities for transformation brought



French for Ministry Intensive
Monday May 8th to Friday May 12th, 2023



For clergy, lay leaders, and spiritual care professionals seeking to engage with, lead, and participate comfortably in French or bilingual ministry and spiritual care settings. This course is designed to enhance students' French linguistic and communication skills for ministry and Participants may take this course as part of the Certificate in Bilingual Ministry or as a stand-alone continuing education course. Visit montrealdio.ca/courses/french-for-ministry or contact info@montrealdio.ca

forth when they look beyond these traditions, toward the traditions of others, and toward the reality of their own cultural context.

Dio's Acting Principal, Pastor Eric Dyck, spent over thirty-five years ministering in Montreal at St. John's Lutheran Church. Since beginning his work at Dio in January he has been pleased to see the increasing diversity of the college reflecting his experience in active ministry. "A diverse denominational and linguistic seminary community provides context to what will be in a parish, and if not there, then the context

in which the parish ministers," he says. "The church benefits when its ordained leaders can dialogue with understanding and compassion; the college can provide an experience of this greater reality."

The Certificate in Bilingual Ministry program is one important step Dio is taking to shift theological education in a direction that more accurately addresses the realities of contemporary life, in Montreal in particular.

At Dio, students are being faced daily with one of the most important challenges of the Christian faith, that is, how to find unity in diversity

while celebrating difference. By providing opportunities for growth in knowledge of the other, Dio is preparing future ministers for the church who are equipped to spread the gospel with love and sensitivity, and to listen at least as much as they preach.

The French for Ministry Intensive takes place May 8th to May 12th of this year. Any interested individual may visit www.montrealdio.ca/french-for-ministry, or e-mail Clara at claramaranzano@montrealdio.ca for more information.

The Best of Best

Editor's note: Following the interview of our Diocesan Photographer, Janet Best (see page 3), I invited her to share some of her favourite shots from around the diocese. She submitted over a dozen, from which I chose these eight.



"It's not easy to choose a few favourites out of tens of thousands of photos. Is it the content or the aesthetics that should mainly determine the choice?"

One tends to choose pictures that are different from the others, but they may not be better."



Top: I chose this shot of the 2019 Pride Mass because I like the colours, the symmetry and the exuberance of the performers.

Above left: There are many people whose volunteer work keep the church going, like the woman here lighting the candles. The preparations and ending work seem like a ritual in themselves.

Above right: In this picture, taken at Christ Church Cathedral, I like the contrast between the thurifer's (Tyson Rosberg) far-away look and the rest of the people in the procession behind him.

Right: At St John the Evangelist, the gold at the altar contrasted with dark nave is quite dramatic.



The Best of Best



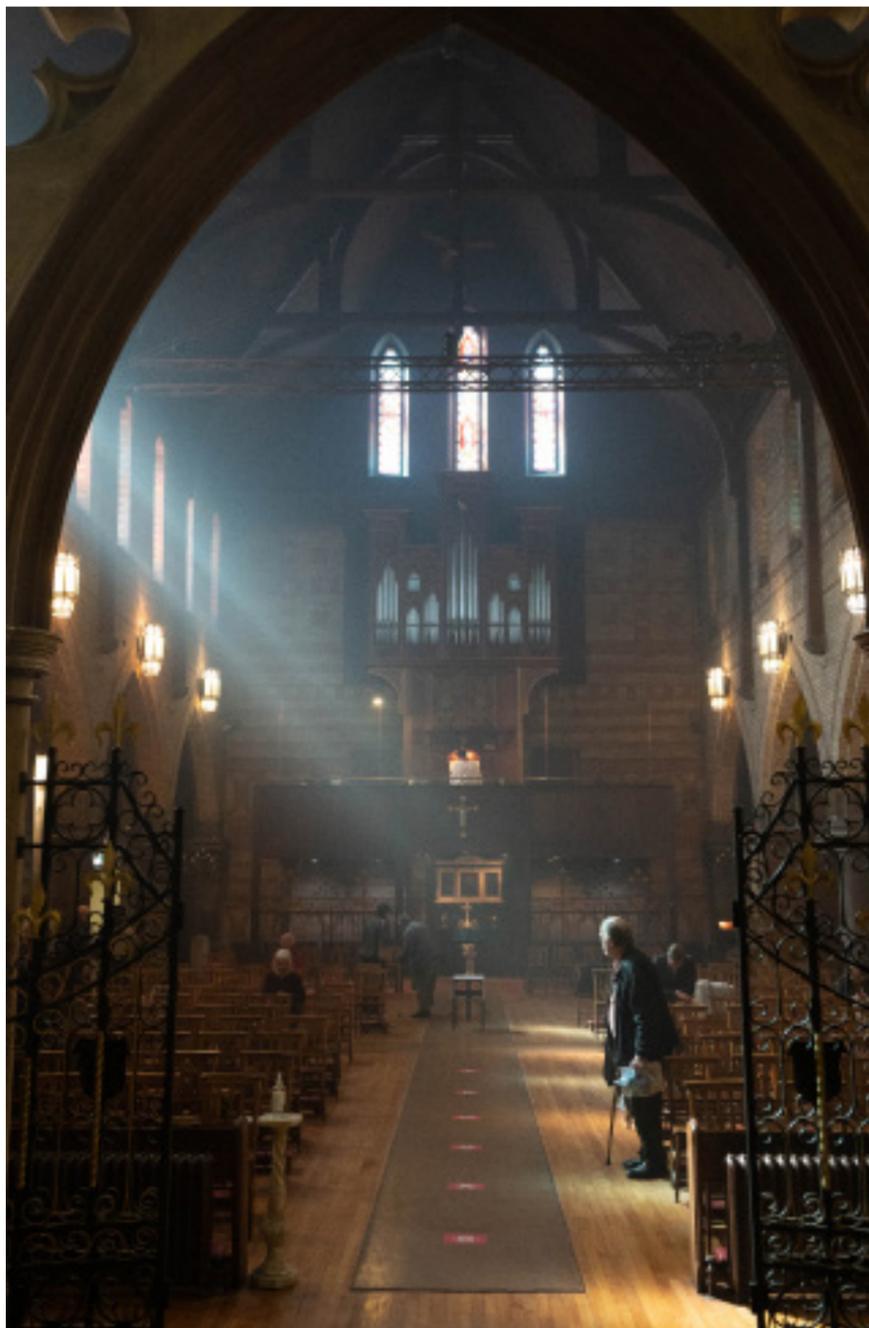
“I’ve included rather a lot of photos from the Church of St. John the Evangelist, since it is the church I attend and see the most. Of course, the choices are in no way a judgement on the value of the people or churches involved.”

Left: The simple, graphic quality of this photo emphasizes the laying on of hands, which is an important part of the confirmation cer-

Below left: To me this shot, taken at St John the Evangelist, looks a bit like a 19th century painting. I like the way the rays of light shine in and illuminate the man on the right.

Below top: I like the conductor’s expressive gesture with the church as a backdrop. I was lucky enough to be able to move around before the service. Otherwise I wouldn’t have been able to get this shot.

Below bottom: I chose this photo for its beautiful setting coupled with the off-centre, more unusual composition .



The Diocesan Synod Office Staff Remembers Marcel De Hêtre

NICKI HRONJAK, EDITOR

Along with countless others, we were saddened to hear the news of Marcel De Hêtre's passing on November 11, 2022 at the age of 57. Most might remember Marcel De Hêtre as a friend, partner or gifted tenor. For us at the Diocesan Office he was a beloved and talented co-worker.

From 2001 until 2013, Marcel worked as the Bishop's Secretary, Webmaster and Front Desk Manager. According to his longtime partner, Laura Prince, "He loved his job at the Diocese. It was a perfect match for him.... His quirky sense of humour worked with most of the priests in the Diocese and the job allowed him to combine music and liturgy, which is what he knew, what he grew up with and what he loved."

Both bishops he served under allowed Marcel the flexibility to continue singing in professional choirs, which of course was his passion.

While he didn't sing much in the office, there was one song he performed with some regularity, called *Macaroni De-*

light. The song was co-written by Marcel and myself and sung to the tune of *Afternoon Delight* by the Starland Vocal Band. It was reserved for those days when someone in the office had macaroni for lunch. Although this was years ago, I still think of him when I take a package of macaroni out of my pantry.

I asked my coworkers to share their own memories:

"As a priest in the diocese, I remember Marcel's dry and quirky humour, his kindness in helping me navigate some word processing, and the beautiful translations into French of some of the hymns we sang at Diocesan services. Marcel always knew the answer to our questions. I will always remember the beautiful and meaningful funeral service Marcel planned and the extraordinary witness of his faith in the music he chose." - Bishop Mary

"Marcel's sense of humor came in handy when he helped coordinate office pranks. I remember one instance when a colleague was away, we took a whole lot of file boxes and built a wall around their desk! He was also a marvel when it came to



Photo supplied by Laura Prince.

creating interactive forms and was patient in helping me figure things out." - Ardyth Robinson

"My memories of Marcel go back to when I was a student at McGill, having moved to Montreal and made Christ Church Cathedral my home parish. Marcel was a member of the choir and at parish events, he was always friendly and poking gentle fun to make you feel like part of the "gang." When I joined the Programme Office, Marcel joined the

Bishop's Office where his collegial sense of humour broke the ice and made you feel like part of the family. I will always remember Marcel for his sense of humour and compassion." - The Ven Robert Camara

"As his successor, I had big shoes to fill. Marcel was the ultimate perfectionist, and I was very much in awe of his depth of knowledge. He had an amazing sense of humor too. I will miss his voice and his sharp wit." - Mary Abate

"He knew everything about things like how to address the clergy, which can be intimidating to a non-Anglican coming into the job. He always took the time to answer my many questions."

- Jennifer James-Phillips

"Marcel and I shared a love of the Montreal Canadiens. We often reminisced about the glory days of the Habs during the 1970's and 1980's and lamented their playoff failures of the past two decades. We looked forward to a Stanley Cup parade and joked that when that day came, we would be standing in front of Christ Church Cathedral wearing our jerseys and cheering on our beloved team. The Habs will be winning the Stanley Cup in near future. I will be at the parade and I will be thinking of my friend, Marcel, who will be looking down from Heaven, yelling "Go Habs Go!"

- Stephen Tam

There is a through line in these memories; he was a man of talent, competence, helpfulness, and humour. I'll bet he has those angels cracking up right now. Rest in peace dear Marcel. montrealgazette.remembering.ca



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Montreal Unit of PWRDF supports the Indigenous Responsive Program

ANN CUMYN

Mrs Ann Cumyn, along with the Rev Ros Macgregor, is Co-chair of the Montreal Unit of PWRDF.

There is a columnist from the New York Times whose work I read regularly. Nicholas Kristof champions the underdog and writes about situations of suffering that no person should have to endure. Some of his articles are success stories, showing the effect on the marginalised when they are given the opportunity to be the masters of their own success.

In a recent article Kristof writes about a kid from the slums in Kenya; Kennedy Odede ran away from home, taught himself to read, saved 20c and bought a soccer ball, and, with this humble start, he encouraged the inhabitants of his slum to play soccer. He then organised a group, SHOFKO, (Shining Hope for Communities) helping underprivileged communities to work together to improve their future. Kennedy's philosophy is 'Any solution is always more successful when there is a feeling of ownership in the community.'

This philosophy of Kennedy's underlies the PWRDF Indigenous Responsive program grants. PWRDF is establishing a bank of money to which indigenous communities can

apply for a grant to fund a project determined by themselves.

The Montreal Unit of PWRDF has chosen this project to support in 2022- 2023 and is actively raising money for this bank to which Indigenous Communities may apply. Our local project is being called Decolonizing Fundraising to emphasise that this approach puts the ownership firmly on the local community. Colonials tend to see programs of aid as their own programs, even if they have local input.

In the days when religious affiliations were more common there used to be a saying 'The family who prays together stays together'. Today this might be replaced by 'The community that works together grows together.' Your Montreal PWRDF team hopes that we in our communities and congregations can work together to raise funds to donate to PWRDF's Indigenous Responsive Program Grants.

Material for the project has been distributed.

You can support this program by making a designated gift through your church or directly to PWRDF at pwrdf.org/Indigenousgrants, or indicate Indigenous Grant on your cheque and mail it to: PWRDF, 80 Hayden St., 3rd Floor, Toronto, ON, M4Y 3G2.



About 70 people gathered from the Eastern Townships Regional Ministry for Holy Eucharist followed by a Pot-luck luncheon at Grace Church Sutton, January 29, 2023. Photo by Tim Smart.

priests living and serving in the area: Archdeacon Tim Smart, as Team Leader, and myself as Associate Priest. On any given Sunday, Tim and I each cover services in one to two (and occasionally three) different churches. Rural ministry requires a lot of driving. Regularly 100km per Sunday— even more at Christmas and Easter!

Archdeacon Linda Borden Taylor is a welcome addition to the ministry team as an Honorary Associate. The region is also served by Deacons Randy Gates and Judy Ball, and a dedicated group of Lay Readers. Together we tirelessly provide services across the Townships based on a regional schedule.

Some churches have a Eucharist every Sunday, while others have a priest once or twice a month, or only a few times a year. Churches without a priest on a Sunday may have services of Morning Prayer, or are encouraged to com-

mute to another parish with a Sunday Eucharist. Anyone can also tune into the live-stream broadcast from Grace Church in Sutton, the "digital hub" of the Regional Ministry.

Certainly, it is daunting to juggle so many different churches across such a large geography. Yet, ironically, COVID19 provided the initial momentum towards a team ministry, as we all gathered online for a single Zoom service from across the whole region — and beyond. These Zoom services provided an environment for fostering new relationships, new friendships, and unity. Those who now travel around to different churches for Sunday worship often remark how they already know so many friendly faces because they've met online.

To continue to build momentum, the Regional Ministry hosts special joint worship services on months with a fifth

Sunday, during which we all worship together in a single service and share a potluck meal afterwards. Upwards of seventy to eighty people attend these regional services, and they are important opportunities for building a strong team spirit; there is a tremendous sense of fellowship at these services, and it is a real joy to see churches so full.

Crucially, these big services also provide a sense of hope to rural churches whose congregations are otherwise very small (often with less than a dozen in attendance), and who face decreasing financial resources. Alone, many of the churches in this region have limited futures; together, we have an opportunity for greater longevity. The team ministry exploration here in the Eastern Townships may even provide a much-needed model for other areas of the Diocese!



A broadly ecumenical group of Christians, and church leaders from the Roman Catholic, Anglican, United, Baptist, Orthodox and Armenian traditions, gathered for our annual Montreal service of prayer for Christian unity, which this year centered on the theme "Do good; seek justice" (Isaiah 1:17). Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson and the Rev. Joel Amis (Diocesan Ecumenical Officer) represented our Diocese. Photo by Levon Isakhanian.

News from Mile End Mission

ROS MACGREGOR

The Rev Roslyn Macgregor is the Chaplain of the Mile End Community Mission

Mile End Community Mission Chaplain's Report for 2022

We remember all who have died, especially Neil, a much-loved long-time member and Noemia (Nancy) a dedicated, always hard-working volunteer. We also remember Colin Munro, former board member and chair who died suddenly on 17 December. Colin gave so much to the Mission in so many ways: as a friend, architect, compassionate, thoughtful leader and mentor. When we can be together again safely, we will hold a memorial service for them.

When one of our members moved into a group home I initially kept in touch with cards/letters and then later with walks to chat and get coffee. He often calls the Mission, and I was happy to bring him cigarettes and the goodies we know he likes.

This contact led to me preparing 18 Christmas stockings for the residents at the home as well as bringing them treats for special occasions. In the near future, when it is safe, I will be presiding at a small eucharist for those who wish to attend. The home's social worker is very thankful to me and the Mission – saying how appreciative the residents are that they are remembered by the outside world.

I was able to prepare another 51 stockings for Mission folks, including one that was delivered to a former member now in a Vermont nursing home, one for her roommate, and several others for people



Blue Christmas gathering at Mile End Mission, December 2022.

we know who are alone. I fill the stockings with candies, decorations, socks from the Mission, and other needed articles. Missy helped pack the last few things including two large Christmas cookies from Première Moisson. The stockings were handed out with the Christmas baskets.

Ministry has taken different forms during covid – but it has always been creative at the Mission, adapting to the needs of the community, which of course includes the staff. This year I supported the staff with phone calls, and a special gift bag at Christmas with a thank you for their dedication, love, and commitment to Mission members. I also emailed creative liturgies to Mission folks. And finally, I led a special service during Advent called

Blue Christmas --- we sat in a circle, lit candles, remembered those whom we love who have died and whom we especially miss at Christmastime. It was peaceful and beautiful.

With the help of four friends and Mission folks we held a dinner for 12 Mission members on Christmas Day. We worked together peeling and cooking veggies, preparing stuffing (Julio, the expert), arranging the tables attractively (Lise and others). Lori and Doris prepared the turkey and there were yummy baked goods from friends. The dinner was intimate, quiet and joyful.

It has been disappointing not to be able to be more physically involved at the Mission during the pandemic. I look forward to a return to in-person ministry.



Crosstalk Daycamps

Is your community looking for a summer outreach ministry that goes beyond the average boxed VBS? Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps can meet your needs! Our Program is a low cost, pre-planned and all-inclusive package that provides churches and communities with an affordable outreach opportunity for families from all income levels.

Saturday March 18th we will host a **Webinar** for communities undecided about applying. A panel of experts, including several Day Camp Coordinators, will be on hand to answer your questions.

For summer 2023 we offer **"Something to Celebrate!"** exploring Parables from the Gospel of Luke. Our program unpacks these parables through songs and games, crafts and liturgical dance all geared to campers of 4-12 years. CTM offers two different models:

- **The Backyard Package** is designed for a church to share via a secure link with participating families. It includes five 2 ½ hour sessions to be presented at times/days suited to each family from the security of their own backyards.

- **The Super Day Camp** comprises five units each of 5 hours of activities. This

package provides you with a detailed Planner taking you through the process of recruiting volunteers, collecting supplies and encouraging the whole church family to be involved, plus access to a "mentor" who will join your set-up and daily debrief meetings via an online platform as well as offering support via text message throughout your Day Camp week.

In Addition we also offer

- **The Extended Day Package** for communities wishing to offer additional activities, stretching the Super Day Camp program to a full 8-hour day.

Both packages include digital copies of promotional and program materials. The Super Day Camp package also includes a comprehensive training video for volunteers plus optional mentor support. Whatever your community's situation, one of these programs can help ensure that the children of your church family, and wider community have **"Something to Celebrate!"** for summer 2023.

Visit www.crosstalkministries.ca to access the Day Camp Application form or contact us at office@crosstalkministries.ca to receive a pdf version or to sign up for the free webinar.

A Prayer from the Diocesan Representatives The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer - Canada

Creator God, in the beginning, you formed us from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into our lungs. This breath is yours to give and to take. We give you thanks for this precious gift. As we enter into Lent and prepare ourselves to recreate once again the death of your Son Jesus Christ on the cross and to celebrate His triumphant resurrection, help us to remember that, for the departed, death is not the end, but a joyful beginning.

Pain bearer be with those who remain and whose sorrow fills their hearts with grief and loneliness. It's been three years since the pandemic started this deluge of death. As we age and more loved ones die, this heaviness grows deeper



the dust, we beseech you Sustainer God to open for us unexpected and positive visions for accepting this bitter truth.

God of consolation, we offer prayers of gratitude for the people in our lives who accompany the dying and who offer support in times of sorrow. May their words of sympathy, time spent with mourners, and kind gestures be beacons of comfort and light. We pray for those who lack such blessings and are alone at their time of death or in their grief for lost loved ones. We beseech you Gracious God to bring people into their lives at this moment of need and we give thanks for this special service.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.
Valerie and Stacey

and deeper. Gracious God we are weary of death and the sadness it brings. We pray you will help us find new ways to engage with dying, to speak about death, and to deal with its consequences. Knowing that we will all return to

For more information on AFP-C, contact Valerie Bennett and Stacey Neale at valstacey@bell-net



Esther Guillen (confirmed), Leonard Ciornii (received), Bishop Mary, Jeannine Belanger (received) and Livy Jordan holding newly baptised Skyla Reign Jordan at Christ Church Cathedral January 8, 2023. Photo by Alex Griffin.

The Great Vigil of Easter

A West Island Celebration. April 8th, 7:00 pm

All are warmly invited to this community celebration of the Resurrection

Holy Week Services at Christ Church Beaurepaire:

April 2nd, 10:00 am: Palm Sunday

April 2nd, 4:00 pm: Paws&Pray in Holy Week (dog friendly)

April 6th, 7:00 pm: Maundy Thursday

April 7th, 2:00 pm: Good Friday

April 8th, 7:00 pm: Easter Vigil (joint service)

April 9th, 10:00 am: Easter Sunday

455 Church Street, Beaconsfield | christchurchbeaurepaire.ca



Notable

Saturday, March 4th: Book sale and Luncheon at St. Paul's, 321 Empire, Greenfield Park from 9:30 - 1:30. Books, puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs and more. Muffins and coffee in the morning and luncheon starting at 11am. For information call 450-678-2470.

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crowd. A slick brochure was available – "10PP – Political Vision – The 10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity" – which gave a fairly positive note on how countries are committed to funding biodiversity.

Quickly moving on we visited the Canada Pavilion where we were treated to little maple cones. While there we were fortunate to find ourselves practically rubbing shoulders with the Minister of the Environment – Stephen Guilbeault, who was rushing past (body guard in tow) to attend a press conference. Wendy hurried after them and tried to get into the room – but the security was having none of it. No press badge, no entry!

Heading back toward the Faith-based kiosk, we encountered Elizabeth Mrema – the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She was giving a press conference – this one was out in the open – but again, we were politely asked to move along – as we were blocking the passage!

By far the most interesting press conference was the last one we attended on Billionaires and Biodiversity, where we heard passionate testimony from the following organizations – Rainforest Action Network (Australia); Friends of the Earth International (Costa Rica); Global Forest Coalition (Netherlands/Paraguay); Panganga Pungowlyl – indigenous Environment Network (US) – about how billionaires are destroying the planet with their money – funding capitalist ventures of extraction and destruction.

As Neil commented later – you couldn't have gotten a more diametrically opposite take on how things were going than to contrast the first and the last presentations we had attended that day!

At around 8pm on the final day I headed up to the Plenary room on the 5th floor to catch the closing - which had been scheduled for 6pm. (I knew there was little chance it would start on time!) The room was full of people – chatting, eating, writing, and journalists setting up cameras everywhere. Yet, the podium was empty. I quickly found the Faith-based assigned seating, where I encountered Grove Harris of The Temple of Understanding, and Samuel Chiu of A ROCHA – Environmental Stewardship. They were chatting away so I parked myself beside them at

the table.

We were later joined by four more people – Amy, Gopal, Wesley and Alex. Together with Grove and Samuel we formed quite a large delegation!

Samuel told me about the work his Christian organization was doing – engaging in scientific research, environmental education, and sustainable agriculture. When I told him about our own Stewardship of the Environment Committee's involvement in the Net Zero Project for Churches, I was delighted to hear that he already knew about the program.

It was past 10:30 when I spotted David – the COP Secretary and former colleague. We quickly ambushed him to see if he could give us an idea as to the starting time. He hemmed and hawed and eventually said that we should be underway before midnight. Later, when I saw the CBD Executive Secretary's Assistant (a good friend) near the podium and told her we had been told 'before midnight' for a starting time – she just rolled her eyes. I asked her, "so when"? Her answer was – "You know you can watch it live on-line."

I got the picture and decided that it was time to go home. I said goodnight to the group and headed downstairs, which was deserted. The music had stopped and no one was around – except for the one still-open food station that had a line around the block...hungry delegates getting fueled up for the long night ahead.

I got home before midnight and jumped onto my computer to follow the Plenary online. I think I fell asleep at around 1:45am- it still hadn't started. I woke up at around 6am and was finally able to watch. It was quite the show – but we finally got there – the Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted to great applause a little past 3:30am on Monday 19 December 2022! I was happy to learn that the rest of the Faith-based gang hung in there until the sweet end – forming a part of the general acclaim in the room.

At COP15, nations adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreeing, by 2030, to conserve and manage at least 30 percent of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans. With emphasis on areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and services.