



# WILLI'S WORD

*The Newsletter of the Community of St. Willibrord Parish  
351 Willibrord Ave., Verdun, Québec H4G 2T7 (514) 769-9678*

*Winter Edition - 2005*

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**A**s the days begin to lengthen and the snow begins to melt we come to you with our mid-Winter issue of Willi's Word. We are surprised by a very early Lent this year, Ash Wednesday arriving only five weeks after New Year's Day! Easter will be here before April; and though it will not be Spring-like here in Montreal yet, our hearts will still be full of joy because of the eternal Spring brought to us by the Risen One. Meanwhile, though, we are in Lent... the time of reconciliation with God and each other, a time of new beginnings. Aided by our sacrifices, our acts of kindness and our extra prayer-time we unite ourselves to the sufferings of Christ so that we may share in the joy of His Resurrection.

In this issue we have quite a variety of articles... from a scholarly article on the Eucharist to an amusing but inspiring article on our Christmas basket labours. We also include an important "Roof Update" and a delightful meditation on our church steps! This was sent to us by a former parishioner and reader of Willi's Word, Ed Scott. We are very happy to receive your comments on our little newsletter anytime. Please send us more! Let us continue to pray for peace in our very troubled world; and, as we generously aid the tsunami victims, let us not forget the suffering of many in African nations such as Sudan and the Congo.

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*The tendency to spread evil beyond one's self: I still have it! Beings and things are not sacred enough to me. May I never sully anything even though I be utterly transformed into mud. To sully nothing, even in thought. Even in my worst moments I would not destroy a Greek statue or a fresco by Giotto. Why anything else then? Why, for example, a moment in the life of a human being who could have been happy for that moment?*

*Simone Weil*

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## **The Church Steps**

The front steps are very important in church life and historically played a very significant part in the heritage and culture of the Parish. I would like to mention a few of my memories:

Following Masses, many parishioners waited on or near the steps to meet friends and relatives, to greet some that may have been away and sometimes to see someone for the last time.

Wedding processions started and finished on the steps, followed by large gatherings as group pictures were taken.

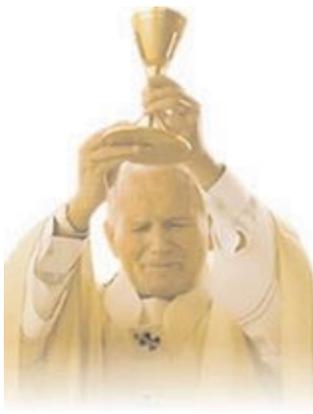
The sadness of funerals as coffins were carried up the steps. During the war many were empty and represented memorials of soldiers, sailors and airmen who did not return. We as young students attended such funerals en masse.

The walk down the steps following Midnight Mass at Christmas was always memorable, especially if there was snow falling at the time. I am sure many present day parishioners can recall their own treasured memories of walking the steps of St. Willibrord's Church.

Ed Scott

## The Year of the Eucharist

As we begin our Lenten journey towards the celebration of the Paschal mystery, I would like to offer a reflection on the Eucharist, the foundation of our Roman Catholic faith. His Holiness Pope John Paul II declared this to be the Year of the Eucharist, and so I believe that a renewal of our connection to Jesus Christ through Holy Communion is fitting at this time. We must keep in mind that every celebration of the Eucharist is in fact a celebration of the Paschal mystery; it is not symbolic, as we believe that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of our Lord through the words of consecration.



The Church draws her life  
from the Eucharist.

- Pope John Paul II

This change is known as transubstantiation. Furthermore, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that Jesus is in our midst in the Eucharist. Because of this, we must approach the Eucharist at Mass as though we were approaching Jesus himself: with the utmost respect and reverence.

In his "Instruction on certain matters to be observed or to be avoided regarding the Most Holy Eucharist," Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, acknowledges that any communicant is permitted to receive the Sacrament in the hand.

However, he also writes that the host must be consumed in the presence of the minister and that no one should go away carrying the Eucharistic species. It follows that communicants are asked to not intinct, or dip, the host into the chalice. There are many acceptable reasons that may cause one to avoid receiving from the Cup, yet the Holy Father reminds us that Jesus Christ is present under each of the species. If taking from the Cup is not a possibility, receiving the Body of Christ alone is sufficient to fully partake in Holy Communion. It is a greater sign of respect to consume only the host than to receive the Blood of Christ in an improper fashion. It is understood that this might be a source of confusion for some. However, since we truly believe that Christ is present under the two species, we will make an effort to participate in the Eucharistic celebration in a liturgically sound, and therefore profoundly respectful manner.

Emily Moreau

## Lenten Litany

Joy of the Sorrowful	Lover of the Rejected	Caretaker of the Abandoned
Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord
Abundance of the Poor	Sustainer of the Desolate	Attention of the Ignored
Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord
Happiness of the Neglected	Truth of the Misjudged	Rememberer of the Forgotten
Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord
Hope of the Despairing	Comforter of the Frightened	Restorer of the Abused
Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord
Courage of the Sick	Home of the Refugee	Soother of the Dying
Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord	Stay with us, Lord

Dorothy Ormsby

## The Christmas Basket Caper

A few days before the big day, a couple of my students and I, who "volunteered" to help deliver Christmas baskets, arrive at the scene of the incident. A line of vehicles, most of them with their own stories to tell, wait their turn. Two of them are backed up to open basement windows, and, inside, the map of Verdun is laid out on the floor alongside the boxes. I turn to the boys to comment, but they are already on trucks to somewhere. No question about who's in charge; Beverly Fender and Sister Clare O'Neill are dispatching dozens of sweating foot soldiers to various points on the battlefield. Knowing that it'll be a good afternoon if I just don't cause any trouble, I head for a trolley team and start to stack boxes. "No, not that way, low numbers first, or is it last?" "Careful with that one, Jim, that's glass." "You gotta load all the boxes with the same address into the same place."

After half an hour of that, I need time for some reflection. I crunch some numbers and realize that I am seeing the equivalent of two Boeing 747's being unloaded, AND the baggage being delivered to the passengers' doors, all of whom live on the third floor. I worry about Air Canada discovering Chris outside directing traffic, and offering him a salary that nobody could refuse. "How did this all begin?" I ask. Here's what I found out.

It kicks off near the end of November, when those asking for baskets are assigned one of three afternoons to be registered. They are told to show up with their welfare card, a proof of address, and their postal code. A note is made of the age and gender of any children in the family, and these are put down for special gifts. Great care is taken to keep their identities confidential, and their details are then passed through the Volunteer Board registry to check for anyone trying to register with more than one donor. Addresses are sorted by streets, placed in envelopes, one per street and box labels are made up. Boxes are procured, and close to the delivery day are packed with food. No turkeys; they spoil too easily, but a nice big ham or a tourtière is included, depending on the size of the family.



The day of the delivery, about 250 boxes are out of the basement in around an hour and a half, and the total delivery is finished in under four hours. My students were back at McGill with plenty of time left to do things... but me, I was finished. Those two ladies are tough.

The gratitude comes in many ways, over the following days..... phone calls, some tearful, lovely cards and letters, warm greetings to parishioners recognized on the street.

"Where do the resources for all this come from?" I asked Beverly. Our own parish family is very generous, and it is joined by individuals and businesses that have come to know us. Schools, sporting organizations, and other groups organize fundraisers, and stores make direct contributions of food. The Christmas Basket Event is truly an expression of the joy of the Christmas Season from all of Verdun.

And when those big Airbus 380's with their 800 passengers arrive at Trudeau airport, they'll know where to go if they can't handle the load.

Jim Ramsay

## Roof Update

The "Roof Restoration Committee" is pleased to announce that the third and final phase of the St. Willibrord exterior renovation project has been completed. We express our deep gratitude to the many St. Willibrord faithful, near and far, for preserving our legacy for the next generation of worshippers. Through your gentle generosity and the kind encouragement shown to our fund-raising campaigns over the five years of this renovation journey, our church, built in 1927, is now structurally fit and protected for the next three or four decades.

This most recent six-month undertaking included the restoration and repair of the eight sub-roofs, pointing and repair of all masonry at the front of the church from roof-level down, restoring the wood windows on the front and sides of the church as well as the replacement of the exterior granite steps and parvis (landing.) In addition, the three entrance doors to the church were restored and refinished to their original condition. Even the angels on the front façade had their faces washed.

However, the committee's work is not yet complete. The final stage of work on the church exterior was also the most cost-intensive segment at \$308,650.00. The church steps, which had not figured in the original plans, were discovered to be seriously undermined once work began. That repair alone added \$14,000 to the final total. Since the roof fund had \$150,000 on hand, the parish found it necessary to enter into a loan agreement for the remaining outstanding amount of \$158,000.00.

Once again we count totally on one another to raise the dollars required to pay out this obligation. The most recent solicitation letter sent out last August resulted in donations of some \$60,000.00 between Sept. 1 and December 31. The Pastor and committee have been awed and inspired by the support shown by your reaction to our requests for the financial assistance to restore and repair our heritage church. Your patronage of this commitment to the future of St. Willibrord's is vital. Please continue to give generously to the St Willibrord Roof Fund. Tax receipts will be issued for all donations.

Paul Moreau

### Holy Week Schedule

**Holy Thursday** — *March 24th*  
 Mass of the Lord's Supper .....8pm  
 Adoration at the Altar of Repose will follow

**Good Friday** — *March 25th*  
 Children's Way of the Cross.....10am  
 Celebration of the Lord's Passion ....3pm  
 Outdoor Way of the Cross .....6:45pm

**Holy Saturday** — *March 26th*  
 Easter Vigil.....8pm

**Easter Sunday** — *March 27th*  
 Easter Sunday Mass.....9am & 11am



May 1st  
**First Communion**  
 11am Mass



May 15th  
**Sacrament of Confirmation & Feast of Pentecost**  
 11am Mass



June 27th-  
 July 8th  
**Bible Camp**