



# WILLI'S WORD

*The Newsletter of the Community of St. Willibrord Parish  
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*Spring Edition - 2006*

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As Winter begins to wind down and we approach the month of March, we also welcome the beginning of Lent as we come to you with our Spring issue of Willi's Word. We include some reflections on Lent submitted by Fr. Cameron, a biographical article about someone we all know and love very well as well as the latest reports on our new website and the Open Parish Council meeting.

We were happy to have Victor Chavez, a seminarian from Pucallpa, Peru, staying at the rectory for three weeks.

Pope Benedict has written his first encyclical entitled Deus Caritas Est - God Is Love. Check it out on the Vatican website. ([www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va))

We hope to see you at our scripture study day with Sr. Barbara Reid, a well known scripture scholar and friend of St. Willibrord's Parish.

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## **Sr. Clare, Much Loved by Our Community**

Constantly re-energized by the charism of the founder of the Congregation of Notre Dame (CND), Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys, Sister Clare O'Neill continues to be active and forward-looking in this, her fifty-sixth year of religious life.

Since her first assignment as a teacher at St. Ann's Elementary School in Griffintown to her present-day roles as spiritual director, member of the board of directors of Marianapolis College, and advisor on numerous committees within and without the CND, (to mention only some of her present day commitments) this native of St. Ignatius Parish in NDG, the youngest of five siblings, has always willingly shared her wealth of gifts and her capacious sense of humour with others. We, the recipients, are the richer for it.

The people of St. Willibrord's in particular owe her a great debt for her immeasurable contributions during the eleven years she spent here as a member of the Pastoral staff. She joined Father Cameron as he began his mandate as Pastor of our Parish in February of 1974. Says Father, " Her excellent judgment, insightful counsel, deep consideration for the welfare of others, and her intuitive 'street sense', along with her vast capacity for work, were indispensable not only in the early years, but all through her tenure here at St. Willibrord's. She, in turn, was (and still is) much loved by the people of our community." Along with with the late Jean Rodgers, Cathy Desautels and Mary P. as well as parishioners such as



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Kay Brophy and the Lapellos, she and Father Cameron laid the groundwork for the parish we have today.

Coming to St. Willibrord's after two years as chaplain at Loyola College she spent eleven years here gathering people, heartening them to recognize their spiritual gifts and teaching them how to channel those gifts toward the service of others. Though it has now been more than twenty years since she was officially a member of the St. Willibrord's Pastoral team her contributions resonate to this day. She continues to assist in many ways behind the scenes, whenever called upon. She is also famed for her vigorous co-management of the Scottish Booth at the annual Fall Fair.

Among her many achievements in religious life, in addition to teaching at St. Anthony's, St. Monica's and Marymount High School, Sister Clare was also principal of Villa Maria, served her order as "Mistress of Novices," and ultimately was elected Provincial leader of the Holy Angels Province of the CND, which is now known as Visitation Province.

Acknowledging the paradigm shift in cultural and religious life in Quebec since the "Quiet Revolution" of the Sixties, Sister affirms the "Spirit of Marguerite" is still very much alive, active and relevant in today's world. "We must be prepared to change," she says.

When asked for words to live by in today's world she responded, "Look for God in other people and pay heed to the Spirit in yourself and others."

Profound words of wisdom from a reflective, discerning, disciple of the Lord.

*Paul Moreau*

### **Saint Willibrord Has a Web Site**

Imagine what good Bishop Willibrord could have done with a tool like this! Like the folks in our own Parish who are so often somewhere else in the world, with names like Daisy, Lorraine and Thelma, the Saint could have opened his Internet browser anywhere that was equipped with a wireless connection, typed in [www.stwillibrordparish.org](http://www.stwillibrordparish.org), and seen the latest news from home along with a stunning set of pictures. He would have to be careful about doing this in a crowded Dutch café, though, because his own hymn would roll out of the computer's speakers along with the home page. From there, he could check the status of the Bible Camp, the Hospitality Centre, give some thought to attending the next Flea Market, and refresh his memory about the entire line of Pastors that have cared for this community. A quick tour of the web site, as happened at our last open Parish Council Meeting in January, would perhaps leave him with the impression that the Parish theme is food, served in abundance and merry-making on each and every occasion. He would see so many of our former parishioners, now gone to join him in glory, come back to life. And, to keep him current with the latest thinking in the Parish, there would be all the recent Willi's Words available for reading and downloading. All this has been made possible by Mr. Boris Polanski, who often worships with us, with much help from Chuck Ormsby and Paul Moreau. Check it out!



*Jim Ramsay*

## **Lenten Springtime**

The three Lenten pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, give direction to our Lenten springtime "housecleaning". The word "Lent" comes from Lenten, an Anglo-Saxon word that means springtime. All three of these ancient disciplines allow us to open up our hearts to make room for God. Lent is a joyful season. Among the Prefaces in the Sacramentary for the Lenten season is the very first preface, LENT 1, which boldly states: "Each year, you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Mystery with mind and heart renewed. You give us a spirit of loving reverence for you, our Father and of willing service to our neighbour".

Joy happens when we open our hearts and minds, our fears and hopes, our hurts and sins, to the transforming action of the Holy Spirit. Wherever this Breath of God moves, something new happens, something beautiful is created, there hovers the promise of transformation from darkness to light, from death to life, from bondage to freedom. Let us encourage one another as we begin the Holy Season of Lent. We are not alone in our Lenten journey and so .....

With the whole Church, we are on the way to Easter ...

Led by God's Spirit, we walk this way, following Jesus.

With our eyes fixed on the cross of Christ,

We now sign ourselves with that mark given to us at baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the peace that comes with accepting the cross of Christ

Be always with you. Amen

*Submitted by Fr. Cameron*

## **Open Parish Council Meeting**

On the evening of January 15, 2006, forty members of St. Willibrord's Parish braved the cold to attend the open parish council meeting. The parish council was hoping to receive input from parishioners in response to the question "What can we do to grow together as a parish community?" Sr. Marie Azzarello opened the evening with a moment of prayer and reflection, followed by an informative overview by Jim Ramsay of the new parish website, created by Boris Polanski. Fr. Jean Isabel, who has become a familiar face at St. Willibrord, was also in attendance. Fr. Jean spoke on the topic of mission, particularly our own personal missions as baptized Roman Catholics. After the evening's theme question was presented, parishioners formed small groups and discussed what they felt could and should be done to help the parish community and those surrounding it to flourish. The parish council received many interesting suggestions, including the creation of a group of people to visit the sick as well as increased parish involvement in social justice issues.

On behalf of Fr. Joseph Cameron and the entire parish council, I wish to thank all those who attended the meeting, Fr. Jean Isabel for his insightful words and also Susan Charlebois for preparing the refreshments which were enjoyed by all. Your participation in the St. Willibrord community is greatly appreciated and we look forward to putting your ideas in motion in the coming months.

*Emily K. Moreau*

### Update on the Building Fund

In recent months we have been experiencing rainwater invading the church over the St. Willibrord shrine. On inspection, the roof of the former confessional was found to be in a deteriorating condition. The remaining five were also found to be in need of renovation as well. Repairs are scheduled for Spring. The Building Fund continues to benefit from our Super Sales and the generosity of all who support them and accepts with gratitude your kind donations to the upkeep of our church building.

Paul Moreau

*"Why can I not patiently bear the weaknesses I see in my brother which, either out of necessity or because of physical or moral weakness, cannot be corrected? And why can I not instead generously offer him consolation? Is it because I lack that virtue which suffers all things, is patient enough to bear all, and generous enough to love? This is indeed the law of Christ, who truly bore our weaknesses in His passion and carried our sorrow out of pity, loving those He carried and carrying those He loved."*

Blessed Isaac of Stella

### Announcements

March 1st.....Ash Wednesday Mass -- 7:30 pm  
March 3rd .....World Day of Prayer, St Clement's Church, Verdun  
March 11th .....Scripture Study Day with Sr. Barbara Reid O.P., \$25,9am-4pm  
Mar. 14th - Apr. 4th..Bible Study Group with Fr. Cameron, Tuesday nights, 7pm  
April 13th.....Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 8pm  
April 14th .....Good Friday, Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm  
.....Outdoor Way of the Cross, 6:45pm  
April 15th .....Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, 8pm  
April 16th .....Easter Sunday, 9am & 11am  
May 7th .....First Communion  
May 15th .....Confirmation  
June 26th - July 7th ..Bible Vacation Camp

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We love to hear from former Willibrordians, especially your phone calls and letters with anecdotes from yesteryear. Thank you for your prayers. Please think of our Fall Fair when you receive gifts that you're willing (or even glad) to part with!

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### St. Willibrord Parish Mass Schedule

Saturday ..... 5pm  
Sunday ..... 9am, 11am  
Mon, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ... 8am  
Wednesday ..... 7pm  
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Friday.....8- 11am

