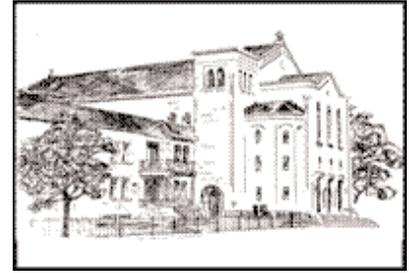


ST. WILLIBRORD
PARISH
351 WILLIBRORD
VERDUN, QC
H4G 2T7
514-769-9678

Willi's Word



Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2011

We're Back!

After a long period of reflection and by popular demand, "Willi's Word" has once again gone to press. In the last edition of "summer 2009" it was a sad farewell to Father "Joe" Cameron after 35 years of dedicated service to the parish and to the Verdun Community. A new era has begun with the arrival of Fr. Stephen Otvos as the 8th Pastor of St. Willibrord Parish. Our Mission is being met daily as all the parish ministries work to support the efforts of our new Shepherd as we move towards the celebration of the "100th anniversary of the parish" (1913-2013).

From the Chief Editor

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to inaugurate the renewal of our parish newsletter Willi's Word.

Through Willi's Word many people have been able to keep up with the ongoing activities of our parish and its support to our neighbourhood in faith and service to the needy. It is one way we have been able to keep in touch with those who have been close to us over these many years of service.

I arrived at the parish as pastor in September of 2009 after Fr Cameron's 35 year service to the community. It has been a wonderful gift getting to know this warm and caring community. As with all changes there are growing pains. Many things are naturally questioned when a new pastor comes in to a new place. The first thing I remember that people wondered about was whether I would continue the Christmas baskets. I said a definite yes to this. Why stop a good and important service like

this. Beverly Fender graciously trained me in how we organize this big project, and we looked for new volunteers to take on this work for the future. I hope and pray it will continue on for as long as it is needed. Angele LaFlèche now heads this up with many volunteers.

Not too long after my arrival our secretary Anne Daye had to take a leave of absence due to health concerns. She was a wonderful help for me to get to know my new community. We had hoped for a speedy recovery but unfortunately her recovery took longer and she made the difficult decision to retire from the parish.

A new face came to our parish staff then. Miss Yvonne Pelling was hired as our new administrative secretary. With her help we renewed and updated the office facilities and with Boris Polanski our Webmaster, we renewed our parish Website. We hope to continue updating

our Website as it can become a very useful tool for the future of our community.

One of our big projects in my second year here at St Willibrord was the replacement of the Sanctuary carpet. The carpet had been getting worn over the years. We put in a new carpet with a wooden façade on the sides of the sanctuary. It looks great!

Our future projects are to continue living out our renewed mission statement and reach out to the community to invite all people to journey with us in the faith. Christ is alive and he is making a difference in our lives and in the lives of the people in Verdun. Please continue to pray and support us.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Father Stephen Otvos
Pastor
St. Willibrord Parish

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22 Months in Review - In Random Order



- Retirement of Cathy Desautels, Joan Field and Ann Daye
- Hire of Yvonne Pelling as Administrative secretary in May 2010
- Theft of the “75th anniversary Plaque” from the church façade and replacement with a new plaque 2010
- Fr. Stephen Otvos named as Vocations Director of Montreal and spiritual leader of The Challenge youth group
- Increase in ordinations and enrollment of men in the seminary thanks to prayers for vocations.
- Quebec medal of merit awarded to Fr. Joseph Cameron for his service to the Verdun Community
- Summer picnic to Therrien Park (Lafrance Park)...Verdun Water front
- Sanctuary upgraded after many years...new carpet/wooden facade and cleaning of marble on the original altar
- Establishment and first annual visit of “St. Willibrord’s Gardens” within the Lake-view Memorial Gardens in Pointe Claire
- St. Willibrord rectory serves as temporary host for missionary priests arriving in Montreal
- St. Willibrord Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry continues to provide hospitality and quality meals for it’s guests
- The Church basement is now officially known as “Cameron Hall”
- Fundraising event such as Flea Markets, white elephant & Super sales continue under the dedicated work of our husband and wife team Chris and Leyla Ramdhanie
- New cement walkway designed and installed by Warden’s and Friends
- Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Bonsecour...the only parish to continue this annual visit in the month of Mary
- Pilgrimage to the Monastery of Ste. Marie Reine de Coeur—Chertsey Quebec
- Committee forming for the “100th Anniversary” of the parish (1913-2013)
- Celebration of the Feast of St. Willibrord with the ancient “Hopping Procession”
- Sr. Marie Azzarello recently published her second book Mary and the Maternal Face of God – Reimagining Ourselves as Church
- St. Willibrord’s hosted several “Come and See Evenings” where young men who are curious about the priesthood come and learn more about it.
- Hosted Operation Andrew—A series of conferences lead by Fr. Stephen where men who are serious about the priesthood come to discern.
- Hosted the Women’s World Day of Prayer
- Started an RICA Program—Right of Christian initiation
- Fr. Stephen gives several Marriage classes for young couples wanting to get married.
- *Errors or Omissions will be publicized in future editions

Vacation Bible Camp

Our Vacation bible Camp offers a safe environment for children ages 5-13 to make new friends, explore their faith, and stretch their limits through exciting activities. We have a caring and dedicated Christian staff that desires to assist all campers in having the best experience possible.

Established in 1995 we have been striving for a program that encourages spiritual, physical and social development. Our days are filled with learning bible stories through drama, song and crafts. Campers enjoy our daily visits to the local swimming pool, field trips to spiritual points of interest such as St. Joseph's Oratory and the occasional surprise guest!

Our theme this year is "Discovering One's Vocation". Inspired by our Pastor, Fr. Stephen Otvos, and his role as Vocations Director of Montreal, we have designed a program that will excite kids and youth in discovering their special gift from God and His plans for them in sharing this gift with others.

Our camp will run from June 27th to July 8th from 9am-3pm, under the direction of Helene Di Lallo, our children's director. Be sure to watch our website for updates

By Helene Di Lallo

Our Church Ministries

As the apostle, Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians:

"...There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV, 2010)

Over the coming months we want to highlight the gifts that our parishioners offer in their various ministries.

Interview with Lily Cavanagh - Sacristan

The Sacristan ensures that the sacred gifts of bread, wine and water are prepared and brought to the altar for the celebration of the Eucharist.

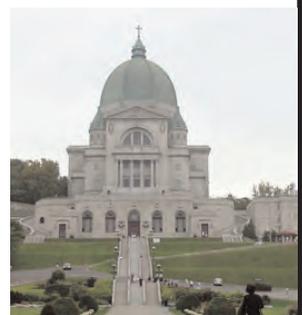
Lily was appointed Sacristan by Sister Marie Azzarello shortly after a decision was made to combine the 9:00 and 11:00 am masses to one Sunday mass at 10:30. Prior to that time she did not know what the ministry of Sacristan entailed. Lily recalled the time prior to Vatican II when women were never allowed in the sanctuary nor in the Sacristy.

When Fr. Cameron was our pastor, Lily also offered to take on the responsibilities of preparing the vessels and elements ahead of time for the various masses. She saw that this was something she would be able to do and Fr. Cameron was grateful for her help. Lily's motto is: "If you see something that needs to be done, don't wait to be asked...offer yourself." She feels it is a privilege to serve and is thankful that God has continued to bless her with good health so that she is able to do so.

**Lily and her husband Emmett were involved for several years in the organization of the Food Pantry so vital to the distribution of the monthly food bag*

*A quote from one
of our Camp
Counsellor 's
about Bible camp
2010*

*"Amazing
energy, lots of
love, filled with
the Holy Spirit" –
Sheannena
Ratnadurai*





"We serve between 60 – 80 people. Individuals with limited income, (for example) those on welfare, elderly people, some homeless people."

Church Ministries Continued....

Interview with Tess Allonar, co-ordinator of the Hospitality Centre

- by the candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Willibrord's Parish, April 2010

Q. Tess, why do you like running the 'soup kitchen'?

A. *"It is a joy in my heart to be able to serve our needy people because I feel this is what Jesus wants us to do ('...in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.' Jesus said in Matthew 25:40)... When we say Grace we say: 'Thank-you, Jesus for bringing us here to serve these people.'"*

Q. What do you find hardest about working in the 'soup kitchen'?

A. *"...at first it was encounters with difficult people." (Tess overcame these initial problems recognizing that people's issues result from their difficult backgrounds...she has learned to be patient and loving with them regardless of their response.)*

Q. Who comes to the Centre?

A. *"We serve between 60 – 80 people...individuals with limited income, (for example) those on welfare, elderly people, some homeless people. More young people are showing up these days and occasionally families will come in."*

(The government provides a list of centres to social welfare organizations in the community where people can get a meal.)

Q. Who helps you?

A. *"Each day different volunteers come in to help...most are retired parishioners. But others come a long way from Laval and the West Island."*

Q. When are you open?

A. *"9:30 – 12:30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday...people come in for coffee and conversation and stay for lunch." (Our doors are open from the end of September until the end of June.)*

Q. What kind of food do you serve?

A. *"...Soup and sandwiches usually, sometimes pasta. On Wednesdays, cake is provided by a local bakery. Donations often come in from Dunkin Donuts, Tim Hortons as well as the Bazaar. Special dinners are prepared for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas."*

Q. Do you buy the food?

A. *"A list is given to Chris Rhamdanie and he purchases the food. Some people who used to help in the kitchen and now have fulltime jobs send donations."*

(The Hospitality Centre is funded by donations from groups and individuals. Further information is available at www.stwillibrordparish.org/hospitality2.html)

**Tess Allonar is also very active within her own parish of St. Kevin's.*

By Patricia Kehler



Please join us in the fight against hunger...

Soup Kitchen is offered three days a week to anyone in need of friendship and a nourishing meal. In the year 2009/2010 the centre served over 7000 meals. Our monthly distribution of food bags is a way to respond in a modest way to the needs of those who may have some difficulty at month's end. During the Christmas season we will deliver approximately 350 baskets to families in our Verdun community.

However, today's tough economic conditions make it difficult for us to meet those needs without help from people like you. You can support us by donating food items or sending financial contributions to the parish. We are so blessed in having you share with us in our ministry of outreach.

General Information

Willi's Word will be published quarterly "in-house". It remains an important link with those parishioners and friends so important in the history of St. Willibrord Parish.

The editorial staff welcomes articles of general interest especially those dealing with the "100 year celebrations"

Deadline for submissions are:

Summer issue: June 15
Fall issue: Sept. 15
Winter Issue Nov. 15

Submissions may be sent to
Yvonne Pelling —News Editor
Mail: 351 Willibrord Ave
Verdun, Qc. H4G 2T7
Fax: 514-761-1717
Email: stwillibrordparish@videotron.ca

All submissions will be acknowledged. Your editorial staff will review all material and articles will be published "on their merit/interest" and may be edited as space permits. Some articles may appear in later issues.

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Fr. Stephen Otvos
News Editor: Dan Boyer
News Editor and
Layout and Design: Yvonne Pelling

Contributors: Patricia Kehler
Hélène Di Lallo

Got Email?

You can help us reduce our costs by sending us your email. We will be happy to email each edition of Willi's Word to you.

Look for us online:

You can find more information, up to date activity calendar, ongoing events and ways to support us by checking us out at www.stwillibrordparish.org.

Want to donate:

Set up weekly tithing's, monthly or one time donation by logging on to www.canadahelps.org and looking for St. Willibrord's Parish

Coming Soon:

A Facebook page—we will be looking for you!

Sponsors

We would welcome sponsors (corporate or individual) to defray the cost of each issue. Your generous past support is much appreciated.

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