



# WILLI'S WORD

*The Newsletter of the Community of St. Willibrord Parish  
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*Fall Edition - 2005*

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It's time again for your Fall Issue of Willi's Word! We come to you during the wonderful month of October, the month of Thanksgiving, the month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month in which we pray for the protection of all life, especially the aged, the infirm and the unborn. It is the month of bright Autumn leaves and plentiful harvests, a time when families head out for apple-picking to Rougemont or Oka and children look forward to the fun of Halloween; but we must also be aware that in times of war and natural disasters, such as recent hurricanes in the U.S. and the terrible earthquake in Pakistan, life becomes truly a valley of tears for many of our brothers and sisters in this world. It is therefore our duty as Catholic Christians to help them out of that valley in any way that we are able and to always assist them with our prayers.

October is also Fall Fair time at St. Willibrord's, a very important event for the financial future of our Parish; so come and bring your friends. Also, don't forget All Saints and All Souls Day with our own special memorial Mass for all parishioners who have died during the past year. It is also time for some parishioners to get out their dancing shoes; because the feast of St. Willibrord is coming soon and we want to see you again in the Hopping Procession in honour of our patron saint.

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## I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD

There are many people at St. Willibrord's doing great work behind the scenes, but perhaps none illustrate our Lord's words - "When you give alms do not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing." - better than Emmett and Lilly Cavanagh. In their ministry to our Parish Food Bank they have worked many years and spent endless hours in a rather dark and dreary room in the rectory basement, filling hundreds and thousands of bags with beans and bread, peanut butter, soup and many other gifts as food for the hungry.



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Though Lilly was born in New Brunswick and Emmett, in Prince Edward Island, they met in Montreal during a square dance at Preston Hall on Drummond Street and were married in 1951 at St. Anthony's Parish. They have been parishioners at St. Willibrord's since 1955 and raised their four children: Kevin, Karen, Gail and Gary on Gordon Street where they lived for thirty-seven years. They have six grandchildren and as Lilly said, they were "blessed" to be able to provide childcare in their home for these little ones while their parents were at work. They did this over a period of sixteen years; and it was a comfort to them because of the tragedy that entered their lives with the death of their youngest son Gary. As a result of a motorcycle accident he had spent four years in an irreversible coma, visited daily by his mom and dad until his death in 1991. The world famous neurologist, the late Dr. Herbert Jasper, attended Gary's funeral at St. Willibrord's out of respect for Emmett and Lilly's devotion to the care of their son.

There are many other things that I could say about Emmett and Lilly's contribution to our Parish during the past fifty years; but they are not self-important people and when I talked to them in the rectory kitchen I got the impression that they would be embarrassed by too much praise. I think these words from Psalm 41 say it far better than I could: "Happy are those who consider the poor and the weak, the Lord will save them in the day of evil, will guard them, give them life, and make them happy in the land."

*-Dorothy Ormsby*

#### OUR FRIEND, JACK DOYLE

As a "Nine o'clock guy" I can't help but share the sadness and deep sense of loss experienced by our Parish community with the passing this past August of our beloved doorkeeper, gentle Jack Doyle. For as many years as anyone can remember, Jack was a willing volunteer at St. Willibrord's. Doing whatever was asked of him in his kind and cheerful manner, Jack was best known (especially by our neighbours on Willibrord avenue for devotedly ringing the church bell before Mass every Sunday morning. Whether pealing the bell or down on one knee at the back of the church, during the Consecration, Jack represented an era which has now passed, the era of the "official usher." Rest in peace, good friend.

*-Paul Moreau*

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Christ always gives his Church the gift of unity, but the Church must always pray and work to maintain, reinforce and perfect the unity that Christ wills for Her. This is why Jesus himself prayed at the hour of His Passion, and does not cease praying to His Father for the unity of his disciples: "That they may all be one as you, Father, are in me and I am in You, that they also may be one in us, ... so that the world may know that you have sent me." (Jn 17:21) The desire to recover the unity of all Christians is a gift of Christ and a call of the Holy Spirit.

"Catechism of the Catholic Church"

## THE GOLF PRO FROM WILLIBRORD AVENUE

Bill Walsh, (or Billy, as he was called in school) is not only a close personal friend of Father Cameron's but also of St. Willibrord's. He was a classmate of mine at St. Willibrord's school, a team-mate in our pee-wee hockey days and a fellow altar boy in the days of Father Stanford and Father Byrd.

Bill grew up in the shadow of our church just up the street at 416 Willibrord. Once out of school we went our separate ways and so it's been decades since I last saw him. I had, however, heard about his progress through the ranks of Canadian golf professionals (CPGA), where he reached the summit of his craft when he was named head pro at the prestigious Thornhill Golf and Country Club outside Toronto, a club which has hosted the Canadian Open, and from which Bill recently retired after twenty one years.

Hearing of his successes didn't surprise me at all. I clearly recall his leadership, determination and loyalty. The leadership was apparent early. I have a picture of our 1951 St. Willibrord hockey team and sure enough Bill is the guy wearing the captain's "C". He deserved it, too, because he would be the one pushing everyone to try harder, even in pee-wee hockey. But he always showed his grit by asking the most from himself. As a teenager, Bill was always one fellow who had a part time job.



While working at the Old LaSalle Golf Club for no pay (so he could play golf for free), Bill was also delivering flowers (by streetcar, since the florist didn't own a delivery vehicle,) or delivering zippers to the garment industry on his bicycle.

I am certain that when he decided on golf as a career, Bill's tangible talent was likely outstripped by his determination to be the best he could be. Predictably, he succeeded.

As for his loyalty, despite having moved to Ontario in 1976 Bill has never forgotten his Verdun and St. Willibrord roots. He will be embarrassed by my writing this but, year after year, he has quietly and without fanfare supported our fund-raising events with donations of new, high-quality clothing and sports equipment valued in the thousands of dollars.

So, as I read of his recent retirement I hope he can answer a question I have had for years. What does a golf professional do in retirement? He can't play golf. Isn't that what he just retired from ???

On a more serious note, the St. Willibrord community congratulates Bill on a fine career, thanks him for his caring generosity over the years and wishes him and his family many healthy, happy days in retirement.

*-Paul Moreau*



The Parish is about to set foot into the digital era, by building its very own website. With the faithful help and computer know how of former parishioner Boris Polanski, St. Willibrord's Parish will soon be offering online information concerning church history, parish activities, Mass schedules, issues of Willi's Word and more, as well as regularly posting news on upcoming events! Whether from your home in Verdun or your rectory in Nigeria, be ready to go online with St. Willibrord's Parish. The website is planned to be up and running by the end of November 2005 and the internet address will be printed in the Parish Bulletin.

-Chuck Ormsby

#### Announcements

-The soup kitchen will be opening Monday, October 24th under the capable leadership of Tessie Alonar. We continue to receive more and more people for a soup and sandwich three times a week and are very grateful to all our volunteers at the Hospitality Centre.

-We were very happy to have another visit from our Nigerian friend Fr. Gabriel Ezewudo this summer. Did you know that Willi's Word reaches him all the way over in Nigeria?

-Our Parish Food Bank gives out approximately 250 to 300 bags of food every month. Most of this food is bought by the Parish, though some is donated, quite a bit of it from Ascension Parish in Westmount. Therefore we are grateful for any financial assistance to aid us in this important ministry.

-We are currently exploring the possibility of building a seniors' residence. It will be built in the space which currently houses the parking lot and formerly housed the first St. Willibrord's church. Jim Tremain has been spearheading this project.

-We are thankful to God that, again this summer, we had a very successful Bible Camp under the faithful leadership of Sr. Katherine and all her helpers. This was followed by a very creative effort on the part of Patricia Pine and her helpers... a wonderful Arts & Crafts Camp which the children enjoyed very much. They produced some truly beautiful artworks which were displayed in the back of the church.

**Oct. 21-22:** Annual Fall Fair: Baked Goods, Raffles, New Clothing and Sportswear, Books, Antiques, Games and more fun for the whole family...  
Friday 1:00 - 9:00pm & Saturday 11:00am - 7:00pm

**Nov. 1:** All Saints and All Souls Day  
Memorial Mass at 7:30pm

**Nov. 6:** Feast of St. Willibrord  
11 o'clock Mass with Hopping Procession  
Followed by a reception in the Parish Hall

**Daily Mass:** 8:00am on *Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri* and 7:30pm on *Wednesday*  
**Mass:** *Saturday* at 5:00pm and *Sunday* at 9:00am and 11:00am  
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** *Friday* from 8:30am to 11:30am (*new schedule*)