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A big thank you to Bishop Mary

Graciousness that I carry with me

TREVOR POTTER

The Rev Trevor Potter is the Incumbent of the Church of Saint John the Baptist, Pointe-Claire.

As Bishop Mary is preparing to step down from her role as the Bishop of the Diocese of Montreal, I want to take the opportunity to publicly thank her. To thank her for her service and leadership of this Diocese over her tenure, but also, on a more personal note, to say a word of thank you for receiving me into this Diocese and into the Anglican Church of Canada.

I am still relatively new to the Diocese of Montreal, even though I am not new to Montreal. I was born and raised here, baptized here, started going to church here, disciplined here, and even ordained in this city. But I was ordained in the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC). ANiC was my home Diocese for more than 10 years, but in the early summer of 2021 I started sensing a call to the Anglican Church of Canada.

I began to feel a growing conviction that I was wrong for aligning myself with ANiC. That conviction came through a growing sense that I had not heeded Jesus' command to pursue unity, and that I was wrong for my stance on same sex marriage.

As that sense of conviction grew, I knew that I needed to repent and leave ANiC, and so I reached out to Bishop Mary to see if there might be a place for me in her Diocese.

Bishop Mary didn't immediately say yes, she very wisely invited me to meet with her, pray with her, and discern together if God was calling me to the Diocese of Montreal.

After about a year of meeting, sharing and praying together, Bishop Mary said that she had a



Trevor Potter and Bishop Mary at his reception ceremony at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Greenfield Park, September 4, 2022. Photo by Janet Best.

place for me in her Diocese and appointed me St. Paul's Anglican Church in Greenfield Park as the Interim Priest-in-Charge.

Bishop Mary specifically placed me in Greenfield Park as the Interim for three reasons; 1) Placing me in an interim capacity would give me time to orient myself to this new Diocese without as much pressure on me; 2) Placing me in Greenfield Park would give me space from my previous congregation, which was in downtown Montreal; 3) Placing me in Greenfield Park would also give my previous congregation space from me so that they would have time to reorient themselves after my departure.

"...she wanted to exercise as much grace as possible for everyone involved, even people who had previously left her Diocese!"

The wisdom and grace of all of those reasons impressed me greatly, but none more so than the third reason - wanting to give my previous congregation space to reorient themselves.

Most of the other Bishops that I have known wouldn't have been thinking about caring

for a congregation that wasn't their own, but Bishop Mary did.

Bishop Mary didn't want to sow further division or dissent among Anglican brothers and sisters, she wanted to exercise as much grace as possible for everyone involved, even people who had previously left her Diocese!

That graciousness will be the thing that I carry with me most from my time under Bishop Mary's leadership. She has done many wonderful things in my short time in the Diocese, and has impressed me in many ways, but her concern for a congregation that was not her own and taking the opportunity to care for them in a way that even their own Bishop wasn't doing, will forever be a lesson in godly leadership to me.

Wherever Bishop Mary ends up, and however she continues to serve the Lord after she steps down from her role as the Bishop of Montreal, her legacy of wisdom and grace will forever be something that I will hold onto, and that I will try to emulate in my own ministry.

And at the end of the day, what is a Bishop if not an example to their flock? Thank you, Bishop Mary, for the example of gracious and godly leadership that you have shown us all.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue, in large part, is devoted to The Right Reverend Mary Irwin-Gibson, who will retire next month after serving as our Bishop for ten years. On pages 3-5 you will find the musings and memories of many parishioners, clergy and others who were invited to contribute to what I have called "*Blessings for Bishop Mary*" as a tribute to her leadership and best wishes for her coming retirement.

The idea to collect these contributions came from The Rev Trevor Potter. Soon after Bishop Mary announced her retirement (month?), Trevor submitted the story below. He agreed to wait patiently for its publication while I invited members of the diocese to add their own blessings, which I limited to 100 words.

As my thank you to Trevor, I've featured his unedited, longer story on the front page. Alongside this, is a lovely tribute from Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Victor-David. He gets more than 100 words because he's the future Bishop. And my future boss. :)

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Janet Best, whose photography, as always, brings this publication to life.

Happy reading,
Nicki



Victor David, Bishop Almasi and Bishop Mary in Masasi on July 29, 2018. Photo by Beth Reed.

Honouring Askofu Mama Mary Irwin-Gibson

VICTOR-DAVID MBUYI BIPUNGU

The Ven Dr Victor-David Mbuyi-Bipungu is the Incumbent of Église de la Nativité and St Simon and Bartholomew, Laval, Archdeacon of St. Andrew and Coadjutor Bishop Elect.

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want." – Psalm 23:1.

Psalm 23 is truly a wonderful expression of what we expect of a bishop as servant, teacher and shepherd in the image of the Greatest of shepherds, our Lord Jesus Christ, who called us to follow him on the path of serving and caring for people.

For me, Bishop Mary has been a shepherd. As the first female bishop in our diocese, she brought a different way of being a bishop, adding to the role the very particular touch of assurance that a mother can provide.

That's why, after our trip to Tanzania visiting our partner diocese of Masasi, I got used to calling her "Askofu Mama" in Swahili.

In the Diocese of Masasi the Bishop's wife is called "Mama Askofu" and the Bishop himself is lovingly called "Baba Askofu", which means Father Bishop.

So if the Bishop is a woman like our own Mary, we can't call her "Mama Askofu", which would make Mark Gibson the Bishop (I appreciate Mark, too)! Instead, she should be called *Askofu Mama*, which means

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Bishop's Message, September 2025 Message de L'Évêque, septembre 2025

As summer draws to a close, so does my time with you as Bishop of Montreal. It has been a busy last few months, with General Synod, the election of our New Primate, visits to parishes, and a few more confirmations, inductions, bishop's awards, and celebrations of parish anniversaries. So much to celebrate with you, so much to give thanks for.

I have loved serving the Lord and this Diocese as your bishop. It has been an honour and a blessing – and, sometimes, it has been very hard and discouraging work. I am proud of the ways in which we have stepped out in faith, learned to reach out beyond our comfort zones and made changes that were lifegiving.

Thank you for praying for me. It is such a gift to be supported in prayer by so many people. Our new Primate, Archbishop Shane Parker spoke of feeling the prayers of the church as he takes on this role. I can certainly attest to that too.

Please remember to pray faithfully for our Bishop-elect Victor-David Mbuyi as he prepares for his consecration as bishop on October 3rd, and his installation as Diocesan Bishop on October 5th. We are in good hands and our prayers and support are an important part of our future.

We stand on the edge of a new chapter as a Diocese. I will continue to love and pray for you and for our new Bishop. God is still leading us all and inviting us to listen even more attentively. I am excited to see where that takes us.

The letter to the Hebrews encourages us with these words: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever...Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:8, 15-16 (NRSVUE)

God bless you richly!

+ Mary



Photo by Janet Best.

Alors que l'été touche à sa fin, mon mandat d'évêque de Montréal arrive également à son terme. Ces derniers mois ont été très chargés, avec le Synode général, l'élection de notre nouveau Primate, les visites dans les paroisses, ainsi que quelques confirmations, intronisations, remises des Prix de l'Évêque et célébrations d'anniversaires paroissiaux. Il y a tant à célébrer avec vous, tant de raisons d'être reconnaissants.

J'ai aimé servir le Seigneur et ce diocèse en tant qu'évêque. Cela a été un honneur et une bénédiction, mais parfois aussi un travail très difficile et décourageant. Je suis fier de la façon dont nous avons avancé dans la foi, appris à sortir de notre zone de confort et apporté des changements qui ont été porteurs de vie.

Merci de prier pour moi. C'est un tel cadeau d'être soutenu dans la prière par tant de personnes. Notre nouveau Primate, l'archevêque Shane Parker, a dit qu'il avait ressenti les prières de l'Église au moment où il prenait ses fonctions. Je peux certainement en témoigner moi aussi.

N'oubliez pas de prier fidèlement pour notre évêque élu Victor-David Mbuyi alors qu'il se prépare à sa consécration épiscopale le 3 octobre et à son installation comme évêque diocésain le 5 octobre. Nous sommes entre de bonnes mains et nos prières et notre soutien sont essentiels pour notre avenir.

Nous sommes à l'aube d'un nouveau chapitre en tant que diocèse. Je continuerai à vous aimer et à prier pour vous et pour notre nouvel évêque. Dieu continue de nous guider tous et nous invite à l'écouter encore plus attentivement. Je suis impatiente de voir où cela nous mènera.

La lettre aux Hébreux nous encourage par ces mots : « Jésus Christ est le même hier, aujourd'hui et pour toujours...Par Jésus, présentons sans cesse à Dieu notre louange comme sacrifice, c'est-à-dire l'offrande des paroles de nos lèvres qui célèbrent son nom. N'oubliez pas de faire le bien et de vous entraider fraternellement, car ce sont de tels sacrifices qui plaisent à Dieu. » Hébreux 13:8,15-16 NFC

Que Dieu vous bénisse abondamment !

+ Mary

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BLESSINGS FOR BISHOP MARY

People, faith and ministry

I was a stranger, and you welcomed me *Matthew 25:35*
When I arrived in the Diocese to begin an Interim ministry in the Parish of Morin Heights and St. Sauveur, Mary was the Archdeacon of St. Lawrence and welcomed me most kindly, the first of many indications that she is of the blessed of God. Her kindness continued after she returned from her sojourn in my home Diocese of Ontario as Dean of St. George's Cathedral (where I had been a boy chorister and much later a Canon) when she quite unexpectedly made me a Canon of this Diocese. Among her many gifts, it is that essential kindness that I will treasure always. May her retirement be as long and happy as has mine!
- Canon David Sinclair

Listening to the Holy Spirit

As chair of our Board of Governors, Bishop Mary rightly sensed that the college was a place that could benefit from her energy and determination. Mary has given me space for my leadership while backing me up and supporting our ministry here. At several key instances, Mary made decisive interventions that have allowed us to make necessary progress. What I will always remember is how, when I have come to her with questions, she has invariably responded, “What do you think the Holy Spirit is saying about this?” I confess that I have sometimes found this response unsatisfying. But what Mary understands and what I have come to learn, is that when we actually spend time with that question, the answer becomes clear and I can sense the Spirit working in ways I never could have imagined.
- Jesse Zink, Principal
Montreal Diocesan Theological College



Gentle touch

Bishop Mary confirms Joshua Edward on April 7, 2019 at St Lawrence Lasalle, while Natasha Sawyers holds her crozier from Masasi. Photo by Janet Best.

Rooted in people, faith and ministry

In April 2022, my wife, child, and I arrived in Montreal. As an active Anglican, I connected with the diocese and was introduced to Bishop Mary. She responded quickly and kindly, meeting me for lunch and helping us feel welcomed. Soon after, clergy from her diocese reached out, offering pastoral care. Weeks later, we saw her joyfully serving cotton candy at a family event. We thank God for pastors like Bishop Mary—rooted in people, faith, and ministry more than structure. Her warmth and support in our early days here will always be a blessing we remember with gratitude.
- Jeroham Meléndez

An honour and blessing

Having worked alongside Bishop Mary has been an absolute honour and blessing. Her prayerful and spirit-filled oversight of our diocese has supported and enabled my ministry and the ministries of countless other clergy and lay people in our diocese. She has gently questioned and encouraged us along the way so that we might be able to hear and understand what the Holy Spirit is leading us into - for her strong leadership of the Diocese and for her friendship I am thankful! Gabe and I wish you, and Mark, a wonderful and restful retirement in the Laurentians filled with many adventures — but you know just how helpful and supporting having a retired bishop in our diocese can be to our bishop-elect and to the church!
- Robert Camara, Vicar General

Fiercely in favor

Although I was initially fiercely opposed to the ordination of women as Priests, I am now equally as fiercely in favor. I want to thank Bishop Mary for her understanding and constant support over the years.
- Peter Hannen

We’ve been blessed

We have been blessed by your ministry and your leadership as our Bishop. We wish you happiness and peace for your well-deserved retirement. May you and Mark enjoy your new life and new home in the country.
-The congregation of St. Hilda in Montreal

A grateful deacon

I would like to thank Bishop Mary for her presence and her ongoing encouragement as my Bishop over the last few years. Her support was instrumental in helping me achieve one of my life goals; in answering God’s call to the Diaconate. I am realizing and living a life in service, much to her support and guidance, and for that I will always be grateful. May God Bless her and keep her close to Him as she continues her journey.
- Randy Gates

The Best

Mary was the best bishop I can remember. She was always so thoughtful, hard working and very friendly to all of us. I hope her future will be a happy one.
- Tom Burpee



Prayerful encouragment

Bishop Mary and Robert Camara at the Bishop’s Dinner, November 13, 2024. Photo by Janet Best.

Meaningful support

I have felt nothing but support from Bishop Mary in all the ministries I am involved in: *Education for Ministry*, *Mile End Community Mission*, and *Action Réfugiés Montréal*. Thank you Mary, for your confidence in me and your prayers.
- Nancy Greene Gregoire

Open Arms

I went into a Presbyterian church and asked to be baptised. They were kind of non-plussed, so I went to Christ Church Cathedral. Bishop Mary welcomed me with open arms. I was baptised and confirmed in the same year. After being at the cathedral for a while, I changed parishes to CCB. Thank you Bishop Mary for all your hard work for the Diocese.
- John Matheson, Christ Church Beaurepaire

“Smiling, welcoming and encouraging - three words that speak about Bishop Mary’s ministry amongst us.”

A welcoming gesture

When I arrived in the diocese in 1991, Mary alone sent me a welcome card. I have never forgotten that gesture, nor the many other ways in which she has extended her gift of hospitality to me, and to others! I’m not sure how my PhD comps and dissertation would have gone, had she not encouraged members of the congregation of Holy Trinity Church in Sainte-Agathe to open their doors to an itinerant student in the early 2000s! She and those parishioners remain dear friends to this day! More recently, I observe that Bishop Mary has moved this diocese along substantially in anti-bias and anti-racism awareness, of becoming more conscious of the urgency of embracing diversity and of actively working toward reconciliation with our Indigenous and Inuit brothers and sisters. Well done, good and faithful servant!
- The Rev’d Dr Holly Ratcliffe

BLESSINGS FOR BISHOP MARY

Memories and musings



Essential kindness

Bishop Mary greets David Goodfellow during her visit to St. Margaret of Antioch Church in St. Hubert on September 10, 2019. Photo by Janet Best.

Welcomed by name

You had a vision for your episcopal ministry in this time and place, and worked tirelessly to pursue it, no doubt also experiencing some challenges of being the first woman to serve in this office. You welcomed me as an ecumenical partner at Diocesan Council and Synod, and always remembered my name and some of the things I am interested in. I trust that in retirement you and Mark will enjoy some of the things that were postponed during your years of faithful service.

- Jim Slack Retired Dean of the Montreal Ministry Area

From ministry to Quebec cooking

'When I arrived in Montreal to take up the position of Rector of the Cathedral and Dean of the Diocese, Bishop Mary provided such a different model of Episcopacy that it took me a while to adjust to her hospitality, care as well as general advice on anything from ministry to Quebec cooking. In these past seven years, it has been a pleasure and privilege to work closely with +Mary, and I pray for a restful and creative retirement for both her and Mark. 'Well done faithful servant'!.

- Bertrand Olivier

Impact on our ministry

We are filled with gratitude and countless memories of our time with Bishop Mary. Her warm smile, her care and concern, her faithful prayers and patience all have shaped the ministry of the Synod office in profound ways. Bishop Mary, thank you for leading with love, humility, and grace. Your impact on each of us and on this ministry will be felt for years to come.

- The Synod Staff

Courage

For your warm welcome, constant encouragement, and for your courage in embracing the difficult work of healing and reconciliation, I give thanks. There are not words.

- Deborah Meister

Lapsed Methodist to active lay reader

I was a lapsed Methodist when I met Mary in 1997 for marriage preparation. She encouraged me to explore whether there was something more to being a Christian than I remembered from my childhood. I was baptized the following year and gladly attended services each week. Two years later she suggested I might like to become a lay reader, and so I did. Over the past 25 years I've gone from leading a few services a year to two alternative services a month. Mary helped me recognize my leadership skills in helping others find their faith. Her greatest gift to my ministry was allowing me to experience God in my own fashion, leave behind the judgmental impressions I had from my childhood and share God's love and support with others.

God bless Mary!

- Pamela Erskine-Layton

Kindness

Thank you for your service and ministry as our Bishop of Montreal. On your visits to the Townships and on other occasions, I want to thank you for your kindness and your presence. You make everyone feel at ease and included. God bless you on your retirement.

- Deacon Judith Ball

Quiet strength and unwavering grace

Bishop Mary saw possibility where others saw only decline. Early in her episcopate, she placed her faith in a small, bold experiment called St Jax—a church plant rooted in ancient stone but alive with new energy. At first, the idea was welcomed with excitement and support. But as is often the case with innovation in the church, resistance soon followed. Yet +Mary stood firm. With quiet strength and unwavering grace, she held space for this fragile community to grow. Now, a decade later, St Jax remains—a living witness to her faith, her courage, and her enduring belief that the Church must sometimes take risks in order to stay alive. This, too, is part of the beautiful story of her episcopal ministry.

- Rev Graham Singh, Incumbent, St Jax Montreal

“Among her many gifts, it is that essential kindness that I will treasure always.”

Just a young woman with a guitar

It was 50 years ago when I met a young lady named Mary Irwin. She was the eldest sister and music director of Irwin siblings and friends called *The Joyful Noise*. At that time the Rev. Garth Bulmer was priest in Trinity Church, Ste. Agathe Des Monts. Garth invited *The Joyful Noise* to visit for a summer weekend of worship and song. I have vivid memories of this wonderful visit, with a sung Eucharist on the church lawn, picnics and laughter, and a young woman with a guitar who shared her faith through music and storytelling. This new experience of church was a gift to the Trinity community and was a glimpse into God's calling to an extraordinary young woman. Over the years I have been privileged to work alongside Mary Irwin-Gibson in many capacities as a friend and colleague. I give God thanks for her strong faith and devotion shared generously throughout every stage of her journey. God's blessings always dear Mary!

- Sue Winn



Towards reconciliation

Learning from our Indigenous brothers and sisters at Synod. St. Jax Church June 14-16, 2018. Photo by Janet Best.

Holy Spirit

Overall I thank God for Bishop Mary's very prayerful way of proceeding and always asking the Holy Spirit to guide us. I have appreciated how Bishop Mary has encouraged Spiritual Direction in the Diocese.

- Ralph Leavitt

Energy and enthusiasm

Smiling, welcoming and encouraging - three words that speak about Bishop Mary's ministry amongst us. Wherever she went, she embraced people and the congregations she was a pastor to. Uplifting in her sermons, she spoke from her heart about God's love for us and our calling to love one another as Jesus loves us. Her energy and enthusiasm lifted us all with a sense of hope and purpose about our Christian ministry. She truly practised hospitality, welcoming everyone as Christ welcomes us all.

- Tim Smart

BLESSINGS FOR BISHOP MARY

Wishes for a happy retirement



Rain is grace

Arriving at her consecration shielded from the rain by Elizabeth Evans-Olders and Rev Amy Hamilton, September 29, 2015. Photo by Janet Best.

A sense of community

St. Thomas' Church NDG has served many bishops. Some, like you, came to us as students. Lay reader Norm Starkey remembers you from Dunham as his "summer minister." You and your team have given us a strong sense of community, of family. Reverend Canon Lettie James, one of our interim priests - and at one time your mentor - had that gift too. Mary, with you as our shepherd, we "did not want". Your smile, your sermons, your empathy were always uplifting. You will be missed. A happy and healthy retirement as you travel new roads.

- St Thomas, NDG

What fun!

When I was a summer student in Cowansville long ago, Bishop Mary was the rector in Dunham. She told me she considered going shopping with parishioners to be ministry. What fun! This idea freed me into creative outreach like shopping and strawberry picking with Cowansville women, taking 90+ year old Hester Kerr and other parishioners to visit the Sisters of St. Margaret in New Hartford, New York and much more. I am thankful.

- Ros Macgregor

Generosity and clarity

I join other deacons in paying tribute to Mary in whose episcopacy there have been steady advances in the restoration of the diaconate in Montreal and greater visibility and support for their collegial life and expression. My tribute has more personal dimensions as they encompass the decades of my own vocational discernment, formation and diaconal ministry in prison and community chaplaincy, spanning the years of Mary's own path through studies, ordination, parish ministry and episcopacy, all followed in deeply prayerful and pastoral generosity and clarity about our discipleship.

- Deacon Peter Huish

And then... I nodded off

Dear Bishop Mary, congratulations and sincere best wishes on your retirement. You will be missed, the warmth of your smile, the peace you brought everywhere you went. If I am correct, the parish of St. Thomas' in Noyan and St. George in Clarenceville were your first as priest in charge. At a confirmation ceremony years later you presided over the confirmation of my six grandchildren. What a memorable happy day. On another occasion as your crozier bearer, I nodded off at an inopportune moment. I spent the previous night caring for a cow having her first calf and had little sleep. You shared the news with the congregation to the delight of all in attendance. God bless you, Mary.

- Fred Wallet

Open heart for Open Door

"I am delighted to celebrate your 20th anniversary with you and to reflect on how the work of Open Door began out of compassion and wanting to meet a need in our communities... The Diocese of Montreal is proud to support and encourage this ministry of helping inmates find their places in society. Congratulations to all of you who have worked...in such a compassionate and generous way."

+Mary, Bishop of Montreal

The words above are featured in the Communitas book *Open Door- From the Inside Out* which celebrates 20 years of Open Door. Bishop Mary was instrumental in its success, giving her constant support through allowing Communitas to use Fulford Hall on Tuesday nights for our Open Door community meetings and through her attendance at our events. Without her support we would not be able to hold our weekly activities. We wish her a wonderful retirement and look forward to continuing to see her at our events.

- Michele Rattray-Huish, Chairman, Communitas Board of Directors, on behalf of the Board and Communitas' members

Outside the box

Bishop Mary - You shepherded St Peter's TMR through its building crisis into its merger with St Mark's, and you had the vision to give space for CMP to explore ways of worship and mission "outside the box". Your episcopal ministry enabled years of hard work to bear much fruit today. From the whole CMP community, thank you so much for your leadership and ministry over the past decade, and may God bless you and Mark richly in your post-episcopal season of life!

-Chris Barrigar



Sticky Situation

Serving cotton candy with a smile at Family Day on the grounds of St. Philip's Church in Montreal West June 4, 2022. Photo by Janet Best.

"Weeks later, we saw her joyfully serving cotton candy at a family event."

Memories from decades past

Many of us will be adding thoughts and connections for Bishop Mary to call back up and remember. Mine go back a year or two with family connections. Bishop Mary's Mom and my Mom became good friends during the charismatic movement that rose in our Diocese during the 1970's. My first remembrance of Bishop Mary was sitting cross legged, on a table, playing guitar with a friend of mine at Champlain CEGEP, St-Lambert. The second was as being a server at her wedding at St-Barnabas, St-Lambert. Many memories, fun and glorious times. Blessings on your retirement.

- Rev. Deacon Dave Blizard

Come visit!

Congratulations on your retirement. May you have many happy, healthy years ahead in your new home. Thank you for your support to our community. Now that you're closer, we hope you visit us. All the best,

- Grace Church, Arundel

Now... relax

On behalf of the family of St-Paul's Church in Dunany, we wish you a wonderful retirement. You have served with a great faith, always under the guidance of our Lord. You gave so much to so many, and we thank you. May you have good health and blessed adventures in this next chapter of your life. Take some time to relax and enjoy the beautiful nature all around you. And continue to share your Christ guided thoughts with all who you will meet. Love and blessings from

- Wendy Crooks, Robert Percy, June Parker

"For such a time as this..." you were called Mary to be our bishop. Thank you for answering the call. Thank you for your support, your guidance and your prayers over the years. May God bless you and Mark richly as you begin this next step in your lives.

- Jean-Jacques Goulet

Grace

Bishop Mary has worked dedicatedly and with grace to serve this diocese and its many individual parishes. I know that I join many others in wishing her a fulfilling retirement.

- Hilliard Goldfarb

Around the Diocese



Fred Parks and Grant Edwards at the 140th anniversary and closing service of the Church of the Ascension in West Brome May 25, 2025. Photo by Tim Smart.



Valerie Cook and Shelly Scott at the 140th Anniversary and closing service of the Church of the Ascension in West Brome May 25, 2025. Photo by Tim Smart.



Linda Ransom and Kate Murray. St James Foster, June 1, 2025. Photo by Tim Smart.



Sarah and John Hoblyn at the 140th anniversary and closing service of the Church of the Ascension in West Brome May 25, 2025. Photo by Tim Smart.



Ros Macgregor with her cousin Stuart Prest at her 33rd anniversary of ordination on Pentecost, at St Margaret's Church, June 8, 2025. The adorable Ellie Pelletier looks on. Photo supplied.



Deacon Jean Willcocks, Taran Giroux, Bishop Mary, Aria Giroux and Amy Hamilton at the confirmation of Taran and Aria at the Church of the Epiphany, June 16th, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.

Around the Diocese



Bishop Mary with Yann Ahadagagbe, Tahina Ahadagagbe at their baptism, June 8, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.



Following the confirmation and baptism ceremonies at Christ Church Cathedral, June 8, 2025. L to R: Ronald Cajuste, Aubrey Higgs, Rev Deborah Meister, Michel Gagnon, Tahina Ahadagagbe, Yann Ahadagagbe, Christnaldo Cajuste, Bishop Mary, Jeremy Désiré, Mélissa Bull, The Very Rev Bertrand Olivier, Kathleen Winter, James Woods, Austin Patrick, Erik Chiniara. Photo by Janet Best.



Following the confirmation and baptism ceremonies at St George's Place du Canada, June 1, 2025. Front row: Emma Pennings, Chloe Caso, Evelyne Bois, Bishop Mary, the Rev Heather Liddell, Cecilia Fletcher. Back row: Seth Bulkat, Gavin Stuart, Liyana Laghaei, Eli Bjedov-Stankovic, Freddie Fletcher, Gabriel Oppong-Borntraeger. Photo by Janet Best.



Patrick Burrows serves communion at St George's Place du Canada, June 1, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.



Segun Olaniyan on the barbecue at St. Thomas' BBQ & FunDay, July 19, 2025. Photo by Margaret Gregory.



Shirley Newell and Rowena Gregory Segun at St. Thomas' BBQ & FunDay, July 19, 2025. Photo by Margaret Gregory.

Mots de gratitude, Alongside Hope et atelier

Note de la rédaction :

Le samedi 31 mai, à l'église anglicane St Lawrence, la section montréalaise d'Alongside Hope (anciennement PWRDF) a organisé un atelier intitulé « Hope with Haiti » (Espoir avec Haïti). Avec le soutien de Suzanne Rumsey et Kim Umbach, membres du personnel d'Alongside Hope, l'équipe a organisé une journée d'apprentissage, de culte et de fraternité afin d'informer les participants sur le contexte historique et culturel d'Haïti, sa situation actuelle désastreuse et les défis auxquels le pays est confronté, ainsi que sur les moyens dont nous disposons tous pour aider, en solidarité avec les partenaires d'Alongside Hope, Rayjon Share Care et la Fédération des femmes haïtiennes. Plus de 80 personnes se sont réunies pour apprendre, manger et prier ensemble pour cette cause urgente. Et, plus impressionnant encore, 2 209 dollars ont été collectés – cette somme a été donnée en mémoire d'Ann Cumyn, ancienne coprésidente, amie et fervente partisane du PWRDF. Voici l'expression de gratitude d'un participant



Le rév Jean Fils-Chéry avec sa fille Khloe à *Espoir avec Haïti*, le samedi 31 mai, à l'église anglicane St Lawrence. Photo fournie.

à l'événement de la journée, le révérend Jhon Steeker Saint-Clair, diacre de la paroisse Nativité à Rosemère

L'heure est grave, et il serait honteux de ne rien faire. Mais c'est une source de fierté et d'espoir lorsque nous choisissons d'agir ensemble. Alors que nous arrivons à la fin de ce séminaire riche de sens, je

tiens à exprimer ma profonde gratitude à tous ceux qui ont contribué au succès de cette journée de réflexion, de prière et de solidarité pour Haïti.

Un grand merci à la révérende Roslyn pour sa patience, sa motivation contagieuse et tout le temps et l'énergie qu'elle consacre à cette cause, malgré sa santé fragile. Vous êtes un exemple inspirant de dévouement.

Je tiens à exprimer ma sincère gratitude à Suzanne et Kim, qui sont venues de Toronto pour apporter un soutien logistique essentiel à ce séminaire. Merci pour votre générosité et votre efficacité en coulisses.

Merci à ma femme Immacula pour tout son soutien et merci à la gardienne Jocelyne de la paroisse Nativité. Merci à tous les groupes de femmes et d'hommes qui ont fait de cet atelier une priorité.

Je remercie également chaleureusement les membres et les jeunes de ma paroisse locale pour leur participation active et leurs prières. Je suis convaincu qu'un diocèse sans jeunesse est comme un paysage sans soleil. Merci d'être cette lumière dans notre Église.

À tous les participants, merci pour la richesse de vos contributions, la profondeur de vos réflexions et l'esprit d'écoute et de collaboration que vous avez apporté à cet espace.

Un hommage sincère aux bénévoles infatigables de la paroisse Saint-Laurent pour votre hospitalité, votre humilité et votre service offert avec tant de générosité d'esprit. Vous avez fait de ce lieu un véritable

espace de fraternité et d'accueil.

Enfin, nous tenons à adresser nos sincères remerciements et nos encouragements au révérend père Jean Fils-Chéry pour son accueil chaleureux, ses réflexions éclairantes et sa sensibilité pastorale et humaine. Vos paroles nous ont aidés à mieux comprendre les réalités urgentes d'Haïti et nous ont invités à rechercher, avec conscience et compassion, des voies d'espoir et d'action.

Que ce séminaire ne soit pas une fin, mais un commencement, un appel renouvelé à marcher « aux côtés de l'espoir », ensemble.

Dans les moments où tout semble s'effondrer, l'espoir devient un acte de résistance et une voie vers la reconstruction. Accompagner un peuple qui souffre, c'est choisir d'être une lumière discrète mais fidèle au milieu des ténèbres. Haïti ne se relèvera pas grâce à la force d'un seul, mais grâce à la solidarité patiente, déterminée et pleine de foi de ceux qui refusent d'abandonner.

L'amour pour notre prochain ne connaît pas de frontières, et même une prière silencieuse est un puissant baume pour les

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Words of Gratitude for Alongside Hope & Workshop

Editor's Note:

On Saturday, May 31st at St Lawrence Anglican Church, the Montreal Unit of Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF) held a workshop called Hope with Haiti. Along with support from Alongside Hope staff Suzanne Rumsey and Kim Umbach, the team created a day of learning, worship and fellowship to educate attendees about the historical and cultural background of Haiti, its current dire situation and challenges, and the ways which we can all help in solidarity with Alongside Hope partners Rayjon Share Care and the Haitian Women's Federation. The over 80 people who showed up learned, ate and prayed together for this urgent cause. And, most impressively, \$2,209 was raised – the amount was given in memory of Ann Cumyn, former Co-chair, friend and ardent supporter of PWRDF. The following is an expression of gratitude from one attendee – and participant – in the day's event, Rev. Jhon Steeker Saint-Clair, Deacon of Nativité Parish in Rosemère.

The hour is serious, and it would be shameful to do nothing. But it is a source of pride and hope when we choose to act together. As we come to the close of this meaningful seminar, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this day of reflection, prayer, and solidarity for Haiti.

First, heartfelt thanks to Bishop Mary, whose term



L to R: Rev Deacon Jhon Steeker Saint-Clair, Suzanne Rumsey from Alongside Hope, Davidine Loane Mbuyi, Rose Maella Sainvil, Rev Roslyn Maregor, Dana Liette Mbuyi, Dany Mbuyi, Rose Aymna Sainvil, Ven Dr Victor David Bipungu Mbuyi, Rev Jane Bell. Photo by Carlo Sainvil.

is coming to an end, for her steadfast presence and unwavering support for this cause. Your presence has been a gift throughout this journey. We are also grateful to our venerable Archdeacon and Bishop Coadjutor-elect, Victor-David who always shows sensitivity and encouragement toward the Alongside Hope cause.

A special thank-you to Reverend Roslyn, for her patience, her contagious motivation, and all the time and energy she devotes, despite the vulnerability of her health. You are an inspiring example of dedicated service.

My sincere appreciation goes to Suzanne and Kim, who came from Toronto to provide vital logistical support for this

seminar. Thank you for your generosity and efficiency behind the scenes.

Thank you to my wife Immacula for all your support and thank you to the warden Jocelyne of Nativité Parish. Thank you to all the ladies and men's group who made this workshop a priority.

I also warmly thank the members and young people of my local parish for their active participation and their prayers. I am convinced that a diocese without youth is like a landscape without sunshine. Thank you for being that light in our Church.

To all the participants, thank you for the richness of your contributions, the depth of your reflections, and the spirit of

listening and collaboration you brought to this space.

A heartfelt tribute to the tireless volunteers of St. Lawrence Parish for your hospitality, your humility, and your service offered with such generosity of spirit. You turned this place into a true space of brotherhood and welcome.

And finally, a word of deep encouragement and gratitude to Rev. Father Jean Fils-Chéry for his warm hospitality, his enlightening insights, and his pastoral and human sensitivity. Your words helped us better understand the urgent realities of Haiti and invited us to seek, with conscience and compassion, pathways of hope and action.

May this seminar not be

an end, but a beginning - a renewed call to walk 'alongside hope', together.

In times when everything seems to collapse, hope becomes an act of resistance and a path toward rebuilding. Walking alongside a suffering people is choosing to be a quiet but faithful light amid darkness. Haiti will not rise through the strength of one, but through the patient, determined, and faith-filled solidarity of those who refuse to give up.

Love for our neighbor knows no borders, and even a silent prayer is a powerful balm for broken hearts. In the unity of our parishes lies a spiritual strength capable of crossing through crisis and planting life where fear reigns. Reaching out to Haiti is honoring the dignity of a people, believing in their inner strength, and walking with them in respect and hope. Today's workshop is not an end, but a beginning - a renewed commitment to be, together, bearers of concrete hope.

These are the kinds of real-world challenges that should confront theology students — not internships placed in settings of ease and comfort that neither sharpen their sensitivity nor deepen their empathy.

The Alongside Hope certificate, given to the young people of Nativité, is not a decoration for the bulletin board but a glimpse that reminds us of Jesus' vision for the most vulnerable and makes us sensitive to the needs of the world.

We are called to be the salt of the earth, to bring flavor to a world that is steadily losing its own.



Photo by Lee-Ann Matthews.

The Rev Denis Gévry, 1952-2025

JOSÉE LEMOINE

Denis Gévry, ordonné au sacerdoce le 15 mai 2016, est décédé le 17 juillet 2025 au Pavillon Sainte-Marie de Trois-Rivières.

Lorsqu’il a été ordonné en 2016, Denis voyait le rêve de sa vie se réaliser. Il en rêvait depuis sa tendre enfance. Il a été pasteur un certain temps auprès de la communauté de Saint-James à Trois-Rivières, et il a servi de nombreuses années comme laïc et comme pasteur auprès de la communauté de Christ Church à Sorel.

Avant de servir notre Seigneur comme pasteur, Denis a travaillé entre autres pour le développement de programmes et l’enseignement de la foi dans le réseau des écoles catholiques françaises de l’Ontario.

Denis était un homme dévoué qui se donnait à fond pour les communautés qu’il a servies. Il trouvait toujours un aspect positif aux événements de la vie et il avait un sens de l’humour particulier, un peu pince sans rire, qui jetait de la gaieté dans nos échanges.

À Sorel, il a travaillé auprès de personnes vivant à la marge de notre société autant qu’auprès des fidèles.

Amy Hamilton, James Duckett, Jean-Jacques Goulet et moi avions noué des liens particuliers avec Denis, ayant

été ordonnés en même temps que lui. Son décès nous a pris par surprise et laisse un vide dans nos cœurs, ainsi que dans le cœur de ses paroissiens et paroissiennes, des membres de sa famille, de ses enfants et petits-enfants, ainsi que de son époux, Jean-Luc Durand.

Denis a servi notre Seigneur jusqu’à la fin, ayant célébré sa dernière messe le 13 juillet. Donne-lui, Seigneur, le repos éternel, et que ta lumière perpétuelle l’illumine.

Denis Gévry, ordained to the priesthood on May 15, 2016, died on July 17, 2025 at the Pavillon Sainte-Marie in Trois-Rivières.

When he was ordained, Denis was seeing the dream of his life come true. He served for a time as priest of the Saint-James community in Trois-Rivières, and for many years as a lay and then ordained minister of the Christ Church community in Sorel.

Before becoming a priest, Denis worked in curriculum development and faith education in the French Catholic school system in Ontario.

Denis gave his all to the communities he served. He always found a positive side to life, and he had a particular sense of humor, a bit tongue-in-cheek, that brought joy to our discussions.

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Archbishop Shane Parker installed as Primate

Archbishop Shane Parker was installed as the 15th primate of the Anglican Church June 29 in a ceremony at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, Ont. Parker was elected June 26 when his name was added to the third ballot after members of General Synod called for additional candidates.

For more on Archbishop Parker and General Synod, please see the September issue of the Anglican Journal, which accompanies this publication. Or, go to www.anglicanjournal.com.

Notables

Saturday, September 6th: Buffet Breakfast, All Saints, Deux-Montagnes – First Saturday of the month

Saturday, September 13th: Fundraising Church Supper, St Barnabas, Pierrefonds

Sunday, October 5th: Pet Blessing at All Saints, Deux-Montagnes

In celebration of the ministry of
the Rt Rev Mary Irwin-Gibson
please join us



Festal Eucharist

September 21, 2025, 4pm
Cathédrale Christ Church

Followed by cocktails in Cathedral Place



Consécration

Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu
comme 13e évêque de Montréal

Vendredi 3 octobre 2025
Cathédrale Christ Church



Pride Mass 2025

Dean Bertrand Olivier recognized Bishop Mary at the Annual Christ Church Cathedral Pride Celebration with the following words:

"This is the last Pride service at which Bishop Mary is officiating and I think it's right that we should acknowledge her support over her many years of ministry here in this Diocese. So Bishop Mary, we want to thank you from the depth of our hearts for your support and the work that we can all do together here at this cathedral and in a diocese... Let's give a round of applause to the bishop."

To which Bishop Mary replied "More, Lord. More, Lord."

Deborah Meister, Bishop Mary and Alex Griffin at Pride Mass, August 3, 2025.
Photo by Jonathan Sa'adah.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED: Proofreader

Proofreader for Anglican Montreal

We are searching for someone to proofread the *Anglican Montreal*, starting in February 2026. The commitment includes reviewing and correcting the paper (typically 12 pages) approximately one month prior to publication dates: the first of March, June, September and December. Fluency in written French is appreciated.

If interested, please contact Nicki Hronjak at editor@montreal.anglican.ca.

Thank you!

Outreach at CMP- finding creative ways to support others

CHRIS BARRIGAR

The Rev Canon Dr Chris Barrigar is the Incumbent of the Church of St Mark & St Peter.

CMP has recently initiated a couple of new outreach projects.

One of these is a new project in the Plateau, to establish a fellowship out of the home of CMP members Paul Bode and Catherine Irwin-Gibson.

The vision of this project is to offer a safe space for franco-phones on the margins of faith (who have been dis-churched or are un-churched), and who are reluctant to enter a traditional church building or community, but who nonetheless are spiritually interested, to engage with Christian spirituality and community through a home environment.

CMP member Jeremy Favreau, who has extensive French-language ministry experience across Quebec, will be investing one-day per week to lead this project. While Catherine and Paul will provide the hospitality, Jeremy will be making connections and creating French resources, for which he will be remunerated.

CMP wishes to thank the Diocesan Standing Committee on Mission for their generous financial support for Jeremy's work, and to the Bishop and Council for their support for



Bracelet making at Family Fun-Fest, June 14, 2025. Photo supplied.

CMP's funding application to The Anglican Foundation.

CMP has also been seeking to strengthen its connections to Ville St Laurent.

To this end, CMP has recently joined the *Comité des organismes sociaux de Saint-Laurent*. Through this Committee, local community groups come together for shared planning, sharing resources, and for access to municipal government.

CMP is the only religious organization in the committee, and there was some wariness

in the Committee about our application. However, through CMP's programs supporting recent immigrants and refugees, and through the good relationships built by CMP's Outreach Ministers, André and Fatima Leitão, CMP was accepted, and can now participate in municipal activities (such as the annual St Laurent Festival), and advertise our events through municipal channels.

For instance, on Saturday June 14, CMP hosted a "Family

Fun-Fest" in the park behind St Laurent City Hall, in which our youth and their leaders provided an afternoon of food and games for local families and children. We were very happy with the turnout, of about fifty local children, plus parents and municipal officials.

Activities at the Family Fun-Fest included action games, along with table activities, such as face-painting and bracelet making, among many others!

Mots de gratitude

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cœurs brisés. Dans l'unité de nos paroisses réside une force spirituelle capable de traverser les crises et de semer la vie là où règne la peur. Tendre la main à Haïti, c'est honorer la dignité d'un peuple, croire en sa force intérieure et marcher avec lui dans le respect et l'espoir. L'atelier d'aujourd'hui n'est pas une fin, mais un commencement, un engagement renouvelé à être, ensemble, porteurs d'un espoir concret.

Ce sont là les défis concrets auxquels devraient être confrontés les étudiants en théologie, et non des stages effectués dans des environnements faciles et confortables qui ne permettent ni d'aiguiser leur sensibilité ni d'approfondir leur empathie.

Le certificat « Alongside Hope » (Aux côtés de l'espoir), remis aux jeunes de Nativité, n'est pas une décoration à afficher sur un tableau d'affichage, mais un aperçu qui nous rappelle la vision de Jésus pour les plus vulnérables et nous rend sensibles aux besoins du monde.

Nous sommes appelés à être le sel de la terre, à apporter de la saveur à un monde qui perd progressivement la sienne.

Denis Gévry

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In Sorel, he worked with people living on the margins of society as well as with the faithful.

Amy Hamilton, James Duckett, Jean-Jacques Goulet and I had a special bond with Denis, having been ordained at the same time as he. His death took us by surprise and leaves a void in our hearts, as well as in the hearts of his parishioners, family members, children and grandchildren, and his husband, Jean-Luc Durand.

Denis served our Lord to the very end, celebrating his last Mass on July 13. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him.

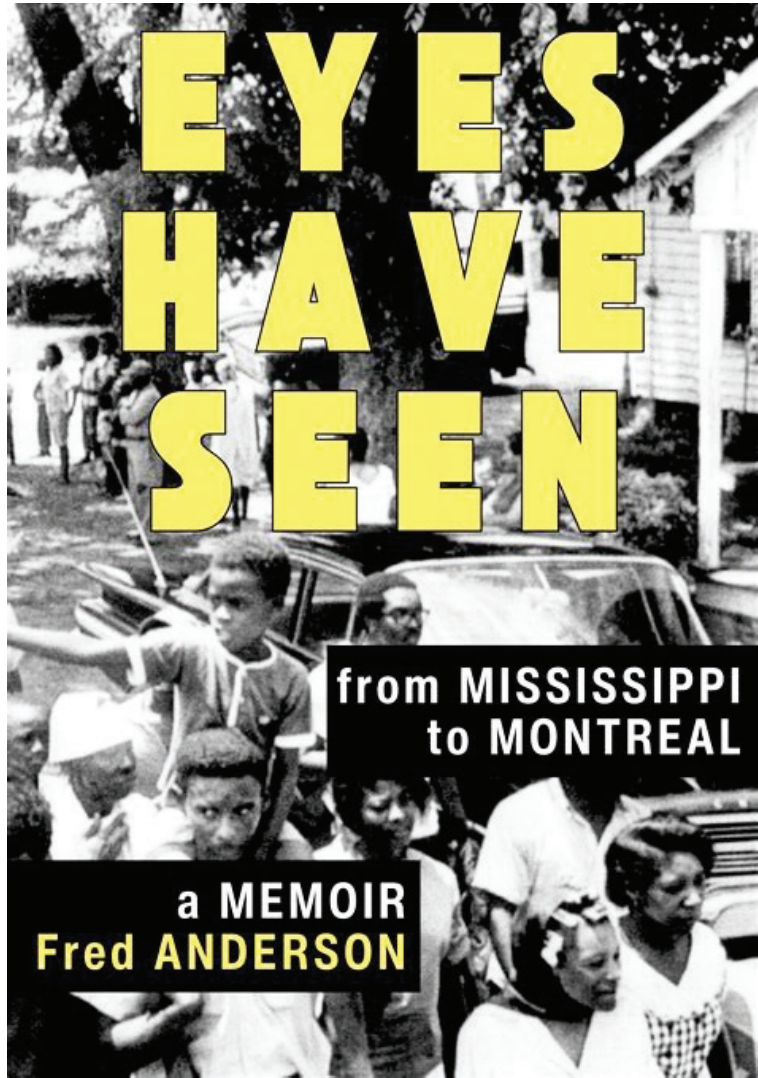
Honouring Askofu Mama Mary

continued from page 1

Mother Bishop.

Dear Askofu Mama Mary, thank you for being a shepherd to the flock and a guiding light in our lives. As a pioneer, you have quietly strengthened our openness to the richness of our diversity and committed our diocesan church to listening to what the Holy Spirit is saying to us through who we are. Your dedication to the Lord's work has touched our hearts and souls for ten years. For your wisdom, guidance, and unwavering faith, we are forever grateful. You were and will be a blessing to our diocese of Montreal. We thank God for that.

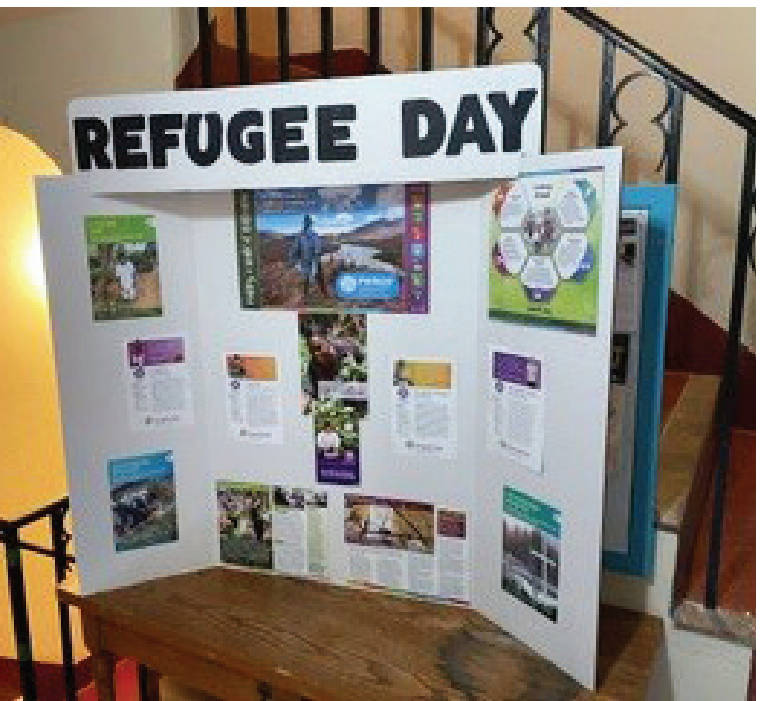
Asante sana Askofu Mama Mary!



Civil Rights Activist Fred Anderson to speak at the Cathedral September 17th.

At times when many of us are concerned about the erosion of civil rights, it can be good to remember how those rights were won. Fred Anderson, a Black civil rights activist from Mississippi who ended up living

in Montreal under an assumed name, will speak at the Cathedral and read from his new memoir, *Eyes Have Seen*. All are invited; please sign up at <https://cccmtl.breezechms.com/form/FredAnderson>.



Display for Refugee Sunday at St Thomas Church. Photo supplied.

Refugee Sunday at St Thomas

SHIRLEY NEWELL

Ms. Shirley Newell is a parishioner of St Thomas Church, NDG.

June 29th Alongside Hope, the new name for PWRDF, provided Nancy Greene Gregoire with a suggested liturgy for Refugee Sunday which Guy Grolimond and Nancy adapted to our service.

A delightful young ten year old read the lesson from the pulpit and a dramatization of the Book of Ruth provided the sermon. Three people from the congregation took the parts of Ruth, the Moabite, a foreigner who in effect was a refugee,

plus Naomi, her mother-in-law who was an Israeli returning to her home country, both peniless widows and a narrator telling the story.

Instead of the Creed there was an *Affirmation of Faith* and the *Intersessions* were prayers for all who have been uprooted, compelled to flee for their lives, because of war, injustice and violence

The hymns were appropriate: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken* and *Your Hand, O God had Guided*.

Altogether it was an invigorating and stimulating service that we all enjoyed.

Faith in Action: Interns Reflect on their Summer with the Montreal Mission Internship

JEROHAM MELÉNDEZ

Mr Jeroham Meléndez is the Communications Coordinator for the Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

Each summer, a small group of students from across Canada joins the Montreal Mission Internship (MMI) at the Montreal School of Theology, immersing themselves in a program that brings together theological reflection, community service, and spiritual formation.

For Jôsi, Amani, and Nicolas, this summer's experience is more than a co-op or volunteer placement, it has been a journey of faith, self-discovery, and purposeful service.



Amani Ciccarelli. Photo by @timchinphotography

Amani Ciccarelli, a student at the University of Waterloo studying Environment, Resources, and Sustainability, applied after her grandfather forwarded her the opportunity. What started as a practical search for a co-op placement became something more.

"I hoped it might help me develop my faith," she reflects. Having recently been confirmed in the Anglican Church, Amani was eager to keep the promises she had made in that spiritual commitment, and MMI helped her do just that.



Jôsi Pretto Simmons. Photo by @timchinphotography

For Jôsi Pretto Simmons, a political science and international development student at McGill, MMI offered a rare chance to bring together her deep concern for social justice with her Christian faith. "I came into the program wanting to connect my heart for social justice with my faith because I felt like there wasn't really any opportunity to do so," she explains. Having heard about the program from a friend and campus ministry staff, Jôsi saw MMI as a unique opportunity for growth.



Nicolas Shone. Photo by @timchinphotography



MMI interns immerse themselves in community ministry. Photo by @timchinphotography.

Nicolas Shone, a Concordia University student in Human Relations with a minor in Theological Studies, was raised in Quebec City and heard about MMI through an Anglican priest mentor. Now rooted in Orthodox Christian tradition, he came to the program with a strong spiritual foundation but found himself stretched in new and unexpected ways. "It's been a wonderful summer, getting to know myself better, getting to know the other interns, and really understanding what it means to serve God in our modern world," he says.

Serving on the Ground

Each intern was placed with one or more community organisations across the city, gaining first-hand experience of ministry in action.

Jôsi split her time between Disarm the Dark, an anti-trafficking organisation, and St. Columba House, a mission-focused ministry in Montreal's Point St. Charles neighbourhood. Her days were filled

with a mix of research, policy work, and hands-on community service, helping with lunch preparation, youth programming, and political discussion groups. "It's been a really great opportunity to be hands-on in the community," she says.

At St. Philip's Church in Montreal West, Amani tended gardens filled with vegetables, herbs, fruit trees, and berry bushes. "My day-to-day changed with the season," she says, describing moments spent harvesting Saskatoon berries, making jam for a church bazaar, and battling beetle infestations. The garden, she says, was a place of abundance and mystery: "It's amazing how well the plants grow there. Even though I help in the garden, I still don't fully understand how everything thrives so much!"

Nicolas's placement with the Ministry to Seafarers took him beyond the church walls and into one of the city's lesser-known outreach efforts. His time was often unpredictable: "Some days, we were quiet while other days we were visiting ships,

picking up seafarers, talking with them, listening to their joys and sorrows." As someone who prefers structure, he found the lack of routine surprisingly life-giving: "I was totally fine being thrown out of my comfort zone. Every day was the same, yet so different, and that's what I loved the most."

Encounters with God

All three interns spoke about moments when God's presence was unmistakable. For Jôsi, it was often in the unexpected: her nervous first day that began in a cat café, or quiet times of connection with staff and community members. "I could see how God was really calling me to just be present," she says.

She also highlights a moment from the program's early days, climbing Mont Royal with fellow interns and choosing together to take the harder path. "We were panting and tired, but we all took that path together. At the top, we set our goals. It was an impactful moment."

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They will soar on wings like eagles; a reflection on the Canadian General Synod 2025

DANICA MEREDITH

Mrs Danica Meredith is a Warden of St Jax, member of Diocesan Council and Lay Delegate to General and Montreal Synods.

At the Canadian General Synod this past June (23rd-29th) I experienced a week of pure Holy Spirit, some hard but rewarding work and deep friendship.

When I received the schedule and pre-reading, the reality of this Synod commitment landed. The meetings were book-ended with two full travel days, there was pre-reading for procedures and motions and a packed schedule: prayer at 7:30am with wrap up daily at 9pm.

The business of Synod included such resolutions as restoring the Diaconate, pathways for transformational change of General Synod (presented by Dion Lewis), hospitality to migrant workers, tenets of Dis-

ability, and reduce greenhouse gas (moved by our own The Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson).

We also received reports from the Council of the North, the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, the Anglican Foundation and Alongside Hope, and sent messages of support and prayer to the Diocese of Jerusalem.

During our breaks we met and chatted with the sponsors of Synod and visited their display tables on subjects ranging from financial management to insurance to theological colleges and archives. Please do reach out to us if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

The teaching by Primate Anne Germond was framed by three questions that we discussed at our tables:

- What is Jesus (the Gospel) calling the church to do?
- How is the church facing



The Ven Dr Victor-David Myubi Bipungu, Danica Meredith, The Rev Grace Burson, The Ven Robert Camara, Bishop Mary, Victoria Amato, Kim Briand, Dion Lewis. Photo supplied.

dark nights?

- How is the church soaring like eagles?

On each table was a stone, a cedar sapling, and a copy of the First Nations Version New

Testament, which we often use in Montreal. We took turns holding the stone to speak and truly listened to each other. We came together to tackle difficult questions, frame resolutions,

and find solutions. What a wonderful experience to encounter people from different dioceses and different parts of the country and to share many

continued on page 12

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

Heavenly Father, thank you for the guidance of your Holy Spirit in electing the Venerable Dr. Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu as the new Bishop for the Diocese of Montreal. We ask for your divine blessings for him and his family as they transition to this new responsibility. Help them move forward together in your strength and wisdom. Help the members of this diocese to support them in matters spiritual and practical as we build up your kingdom.



in our midst with progressive views and ideas. We realize also that there are many opposing factors that we must face. Help Victor-David to be discerning and choose the right paths for us to follow, accepting only those ideas that are pleasing in your sight. We know that with you all things are possible. Help us, we pray, to all be of one mind and spirit as we work through the coming changes and do everything to the honour and glory of your name.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the smooth running of the electoral synod that took place on May 3rd. We pray for all the candidates who were called to let their name stand for this important office. May you ease the disappointment of those who prayed for a different outcome, and rally all your faithful servants behind Victor-David and the new way forward that will emerge for the diocese.

God of endless possibilities, we pray that you would impart Victor-David with your grace, wisdom and encouragement. Grant him your guidance so that he will be able to steer this diocese into flourishing times. We thank you Gracious God that there are many people

O Great Shepherd, please hold in your heart the parishioners of l'Église Anglicane de la Nativité St James (Rosemère) and St Simon and St Bartholomew's Anglican Church (Laval-Chomedey). While they rejoice in Victor-David's success, they have lost a trusted and compassionate pastor. May the Holy Spirit be present during this period of discernment and send a new incumbent to these parishes who will lead with hope, enthusiasm, and compassion.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. AMEN

Valerie and Stacey

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



2025 Episcopal Transition

6pm Friday, October 3
Consecration of The Ven Dr Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu as Coadjutor Bishop

8am-6pm Saturday, October 4
Business Synod

4pm Sunday, October 5
Installation of Victor-David as 13th Bishop of Montreal

ANGLICAN DIOCESE MONTREAL

Montreal Mission Internship cont from p 11

Amani found spiritual insight through the program's reflective workshops, especially one on Ignatian discernment using stones and crystals. "It was really cool," she recalls. "It helped us reflect on how much we rely on one sense, like sight and what it means to engage the world through others."

These experiences helped her reconnect with a childhood faith that once felt lost: "As a child, I had a strong faith and felt like I could hear God. I still struggle with that, but I think I'm getting closer or at least more committed to working toward that."

Nicolas, grounded in spiritual discipline, found that MMI expanded his understanding of ministry. "It made me realise that ministry isn't all about preaching or big actions or beautiful vestments," he says. "It's about the quiet moments, the still, small voice of God in dark places where you wouldn't expect to hear Him."

Through his work with seafarers, he also came to a deeper understanding of grace: "Maybe this is where God comes in learning that God accepts us as we are, as the people He made us to be."

Looking Ahead

The impact of the Montreal Mission Internship isn't limited to one summer. Interns spoke about how the program has influenced their sense of vocation and faith going forward.

Jôsi is heading into her final year at McGill with a renewed sense of purpose. She and another intern plan to continue working with one of their host organisations. "It doesn't stop here," she says.

For Amani, MMI provided guidance in a time of uncertainty. As she looks ahead to graduation, she values the space the program gave her to ask hard questions and grow in commitment, even without having all the answers.

And for Nicolas, the experience was transformative. "MMI has been a place where I could be vulnerable. A place where I could be myself. And a place where God is glorified," he says. "It shows you how the Gospel can be lived out, right here in Montreal."

The Montreal Mission Internship is open to ages 18-25. Applications for 2026 open in February; montrealmission.ca.

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views of Scripture and an enduring faith in Jesus.

The selection of our new Primate was a refreshing gift of Holy Spirit: after several rounds of voting, the Laity voted to ask the House of Bishops for another candidate. Bishop Shane Parker emerged as our new Primate. We felt, as Synod, that Primate Shane Parker offers hope and possibility for the church in this moment. Later, when inducted, he told a story about not having been sure the mitre would fit his head. Looking at the mitre, he had seen that there were layers of insulation and duct tape inside (for it to fit the previous Primate). He removed those layers, and it fit. An apt metaphor for the work to be done, as he said: "Now it's time for us to remove the insulation, to feel the heat and the cold." Throughout the many important decisions and

votes at Synod, I felt absolute trust and faith in our Montreal delegation (clergy and laity). We worked solidly together and enjoyed each other's company.

As we move forward, as Anglicans in Canada, I am inspired and encouraged. Our delegation returned comforted and recharged. The theme of this 44th Synod was, "They will soar on wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40.31). In the words of acting Primate Anne Germond in her welcome, "This verse offers words of hope and promises of strength and resilience for those who trust in God. Even in a time of immense challenge in the church and in the world, this will be a time of spiritual renewal. We will be formed by our common prayer and worship, as well as opportunities for fellowship and the study of God's word".