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Primate Shane Parker outside of the Cathedral prior to the Consecration of Bishop Victor-David, October 3, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.

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Bishop Victor-David at his Consecration Service, October 3, 2025. To learn about his vestments, see article at right. Photo by Janet Best.

The Rt Rev Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu 13th Bishop of the Diocese of Montreal

NICKI HRONJAK, EDITOR

The Consecration of Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu opened with the hymn *"All Creatures of Our God and King"* with text from St Francis of Assisi, as the ceremony took place during the Feast of St Francis. The several hundred people gathered were then welcomed by the Most Reverend David Edwards, Archbishop of Fredericton and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada.

What followed was a moving and historic service as the 13th Bishop of Montreal was consecrated; Victor-David being the first black and Francophone bishop of the Diocese.

Following the presentation, and signing of official documents, the Archbishop asked the gathered: *"Is it your will that we ordain Victor-David a bishop?"*

The people responded *"It is."* He continued, *"Will you uphold him in this ministry?"* They answered, *"We will."*

There followed readings read by Victor-David's daughter, Davidine Loane Mbuyi and then-Church Advocate (now Chancellor), James Woods.

Next the Rev Dr Nathaniel St-Pierre, Priest of the Diocese of New York and Former incumbent of l'Église de la Nativité preached a rousing, passionate and -at times- humorous sermon that elicited joyful responses from those gathered. The personal relationship between the two men was evident as Rev St-Pierre made several references to Victor-David's family, but, most of all, he emphasized that the Bishop is never alone, *"When the hands are laid today, it is not just the weight of tradition that falls, it is*

the presence of Jesus that will rest upon you."

Following the sermon, the archbishop addressed Victor-David directly to read the Covenant of the Bishop's office, asking the future bishop *"Do you believe that you are truly called by God and the Church to the life and work of a bishop?"* He responded, *"I believe I am so called."*

The provincial bishops then asked their own questions regarding Victor-David's intention, to which the future bishop answered appropriately.

During the Litany, everyone stood with the exception of Victor-David, who prostrated before the altar.

Following the Litany, a period of silent prayer followed the singing of the *Veni Creator Spiritus*. The archbishop and

continued on page 8

The 166th Synod of the Diocese of Montreal, October 4, 2025

NICKI HRONJAK, EDITOR
WITH BEN STUCHBERY AND
VALERIE TAYLOR, SECRETARIES OF SYNOD

Following the opening prayer and initial agenda items including Safety Announcements, Privileges of the Floor, Nominations, etc. members of Synod were treated to an Address by the recently-elected Primate, the Most Rev. Shane Parker.

The Primate thanked Bishop Mary for her ministry as Diocesan Bishop and for her presence in the House of Bishops. He reminded Bishop Victor-David that many people are praying for him and noted that he, personally, looks forward to serving together in episcopal ministry.

The Primate said the Diocese should be optimistic and realistic about the future. Guiding change and speaking the

Gospel at a time when much of society is not interested in faith are central to the work of the Church. The Church is largely still living in post-war (WWII) culture and Bishop Victor-David will need to guide the Diocese through change as the the General Synod (GS) is also working hard on guiding change.

Following the passing of the Six Pathways Report at GS 2025, the National Church is standing on a platform of three pillars: Property, Staff and the Operations of Church House.

In order to manage the implementation of the Pathways we need to embellish existing structures. The Primate will form a new "Primate's Council" with designated teams to guide the changes needed under the three pillars. He emphasized that every diocese needs to do this work.

continued on page 4



A light moment at Synod. Front Row: Rev Jean-Jacques Goulet, Rev Josee Lemoine, Ms Angela Alleyne, Ms Alice Njoki Githinji, Mr Hilliard Goldfarb. Second and Third Rows (visible): Rev Amy Hamilton, Deacon David Blizard, Mr Robert McLachlan, Rev Randy Clark. Photo by Janet Best.

Pastoral Letter, December 2025

"With Jesus Christ, let us embrace hope"
(Romans 5 :5)

Grace and peace to you my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I am writing this message to you as I have just begun my episcopal ministry among you. Roughly two months have passed. These months, as indeed my entire first year will be, have been a time of adjustment filled with anxiety, fear, and concern about how I should respond to the call.

The truth is that being a Christian has never been a guarantee of a comfortable life. On the contrary, it's about a never-ending struggle to live in accordance with our Christian identity or in coherence with the Gospel of Christ. Since real life is made up of both happy and unhappy events, or more unhappy events than happy ones, our faith is often challenged and questioned, because it doesn't provide us with the answers we're looking for. In addition to this, we are tormented by everything that is happening around us: endless wars, growing social injustices, financial hardships and lack of resources in our societies and in the Church, etc.

But I am happy to tell you that the anxiety, fear, and concern about being up to the task have given way to joy and determination to throw myself into the Lord's vineyard. I had the privilege of meeting the Bishop's Staff, some clergy colleagues and churchwardens; I have been lucky enough to discreetly worship with some communities and visited others more formally; I attended the Mile-End Mission 17th Annual Thanksgiving Benefit Dinner. All of this foreshadows how exciting our work together will be. The foundation of this my repositioning is indeed hope, this value which nurtures our Christian life like gas for an engine.

In view of all this, what is the meaning of Christian hope? Is it reasonable to be hopeful?

Once again, we have the opportunity to enjoy the Advent Season, a four-week liturgical season during which we will be called upon to train ourselves to welcome and hold on to hope. So, brothers and sisters, let us embrace hope with Jesus Christ.

In fact, the period leading up to Jesus' birth was one of joyful expectation of the Saviour. Every year, we have the opportunity to relive this expectation in faith. Reflecting on the Word of God and practicing prayer are activities that will nourish our hope and grow our faith in the God who never abandons his children, and who always fulfills his promises. As a diocese, we have the opportunity to reimagine the best way to fulfill our mission. I have suggested that we be a co-responsible missionary church, caring for one another, respecting our diversity, and working toward our sustainability. All of this can only be possible if we keep hope alive in trusting one another and, above all, in trusting the Lord, the Owner of the harvest.

So let us be watchful as we look forward to the annual celebration of Jesus' birth, a reminder of what happened two thousands of years ago, and a commitment to witness the liberating visit God made to the world, and continues to do so every day of our lives. This is the essence of our hope today. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5 :5)

Wishing you and yours a fruitful Advent Season with every blessing!

+Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu

+Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu



Photo by Lee-Ann Matthews.

Lettre pastorale décembre 2025

« Avec Jésus-Christ, accueillons l'espérance »
(Romains 5 :5)

Que la grâce et la paix soient avec vous, mes frères et sœurs en Christ.

Je vous écris ce message alors que je viens de commencer mon ministère épiscopal parmi vous. Environ deux mois se sont écoulés. Ces mois, comme le sera d'ailleurs toute ma première année, ont été une période d'adaptation, marquée par l'anxiété, la peur et le questionnement sur la meilleure façon pour moi de répondre à l'appel reçu.

En vérité, être chrétien n'a jamais offert la garantie d'une vie facile. Au contraire, c'est un combat permanent pour vivre en accord avec notre identité chrétienne, en cohérence avec l'Évangile du Christ. Puisque la vie est faite d'événements heureux et malheureux, ou plus souvent malheureux que joyeux, notre foi est souvent mise à l'épreuve et questionnée, car elle ne nous donne pas toujours les réponses que nous cherchons. En outre, nous sommes tourmentés par tout ce qui se passe autour de nous: guerres sans fin, injustices sociales croissantes, difficultés financières et manque de ressources dans nos sociétés et dans l'Église, etc.

Mais je suis heureux de vous annoncer que l'anxiété, la peur et l'inquiétude quant à ma capacité à être à la hauteur ont fait place à la joie et à la détermination de me consacrer pleinement à l'œuvre du Seigneur. J'ai eu le privilège de rencontrer l'équipe du bureau de l'évêque, quelques collègues du clergé et des marguilliers ; j'ai eu la chance de participer discrètement aux offices avec certaines communautés et d'en visiter d'autres de manière plus formelle ; j'ai assisté au 17e dîner-bénéfice annuel d'Action de grâce de la Mission Mile-End. Tout cela laisse présager combien notre travail ensemble sera enrichissant. Le fondement de ce retournement est en effet l'espérance, cette valeur qui nourrit notre vie chrétienne comme l'essence alimente un moteur.

Au vu de tout cela, que signifie l'espérance chrétienne? Est-il raisonnable d'espérer?

Une fois de plus, nous avons l'occasion de vivre le temps de l'Avent, quatre semaines de temps liturgique durant lesquelles nous serons appelés à nous exercer à accueillir et à garder l'espérance. Alors, frères et sœurs, accueillons l'espérance avec Jésus-Christ.

En réalité, la période précédant la naissance de Jésus fut marquée par la joie de l'attente du Sauveur. Chaque année, nous avons l'occasion de raviver cette attente dans la foi. La méditation de la Parole de Dieu et la prière nourrissent notre espérance et fortifient notre foi en Dieu, qui n'abandonne jamais ses enfants et qui tient toujours ses promesses. En tant que diocèse, nous avons l'opportunité de repenser la meilleure façon d'accomplir notre mission. J'ai suggéré que nous soyons une Église missionnaire coresponsable, prenant soin les uns des autres, respectant notre diversité et œuvrant pour notre pérennité. Tout cela n'est possible que si nous gardons vivante l'espérance en nous faisant confiance les uns aux autres et, surtout, en faisant confiance au Seigneur, le Maître de la moisson.

Soyons donc vigilants dans l'attente de la célébration annuelle de la naissance de Jésus, un rappel de ce qui s'est passé il y a deux mille ans, et engageons-nous à témoigner de la visite libératrice que Dieu a faite au monde et qu'il continue de faire chaque jour de notre vie. Voilà la raison d'être de notre espérance aujourd'hui. Et l'espérance ne trompe pas, car l'amour de Dieu a été répandu dans nos cœurs par l'Esprit Saint qui nous a été donné. (Romains 5:5)

Je vous souhaite, à vous et à vos proches, un temps de l'Avent fructueux et rempli de bénédictions !

+Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu

+Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu



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Judy Yankowski Appointed Diocesan Ombudsperson



Photo supplied.

NICKI HRONJAK, EDITOR

An ombudsperson is an impartial, independent official who investigates complaints against public and private organizations to ensure they are treated fairly. They handle complaints, mediate disputes, and can make recommendations to correct unfair situations or systemic issues. The services are typically free and confidential.

At the June 10th meeting of Diocesan Council, members passed a motion to endorse the Bishop's recommendation to appoint a Diocesan Ombudsperson. The appointment was, in part, a response to conflicts that arose during the Electoral Synod Committee's process.

Over the summer, Bishop Mary, the Chancellor and the Vicar General met with Ms Judy Yankowski to establish a three-month contract, with future arrangements to be made following the work of the Safe Church Review Committee and their future recommendations to Diocesan Council.

As an ombudsperson, Ms Yankowski will receive complaints and assist with the complaints process from both clergy and lay members of the diocese. A safe space has been set aside at the Synod offices, should she need to hold in-person meetings. Contact information for Ms Yankowski is on the Diocesan website.

About our Ombudsperson (biography supplied by Ms. Yankowski)

Judy Yankowski's career is a powerful testament to unwavering dedication, community engagement, and breaking barriers. Raised in Montreal's East End, she entered the male-dominated world of policing with determination, earning a degree in Police Technology and launching her career with the SPVM in 1990 in Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

Judy's exceptional interpersonal skills quickly set her apart, leading to assignments in undercover work across some of Montreal's most complex neighborhoods, including The Main, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, and The Gay Village. Over time, she transitioned into mentoring roles and took on temporary duties as a sergeant, continuing to lead by example.

For two decades, Judy served as a Socio-Community Officer in Ville Saint-Laurent, where she designed and delivered impactful presentations on domestic violence, fraud, substance abuse, cyberbullying, social media risks, sexual exploitation, and youth laws. Her commitment earned her the Governor General's Service Medal in 2011 and a nomination for the Saputo MVP WORKS award in 2014.

Throughout her career, Judy also served as a sign language interpreter and worked to strengthen ties between the police and LGBTQ2+ communities—advocating for inclusion, understanding, and respect.

A lifelong saxophonist, she

continued on page 5

FIND ANY MYSTAKES?

Do you have an eye for detail and proficiency in both official languages? If so, please consider helping me to proof the paper. Just four times a year! Contact Nicki Hronjak at editor@montreal.anglican.ca.



Let's Stick Together

LEE-ANN MATTHEWS

Lee-Ann Matthews is the MTL Youth Project Coordinator and Diocesan Web/social Media Coordinator.

In a podcast interview shortly after his consecration, our new Bishop, Victor David, encouraged us to stand in solidarity with one another. From parish and committee members to youth group leaders—both lay and ordained—he called us to recognize that we are one body in Christ, each performing unique tasks toward a shared mission.

Let's make this solidarity tangible. Together, we can be supporters, allies, leaders, and advocates for children, youth, and family ministry. To help nurture that unity, we invite you to join a monthly Zoom gathering—a brief but meaning-

ful time of prayer, connection, inspiration, and networking.

Your opinions, experiences, insights, and ideas are deeply valued.

- If you are not currently leading a program for children or youth — you are welcome.
- If you once served in that capacity but no longer do — you are welcome.
- If you feel called to begin serving — you are welcome.
- If you simply value ministry with young people and wish to support those who do — you are very much welcome.

Let's come together, strengthen one another, and continue building up the body of Christ—one conversation, one prayer, one act of support at a time.

Monthly at noon on Zoom mtl youth@montreal.anglican.ca

The 2025 Bishop's Action Appeal A focus on Parish Growth

"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." (Proverbs 11:25)

Our aim is for each parish to manage itself effectively, provide a space where everyone can flourish, and to open itself up to the surrounding community



With your partnership we can continue to provide resources, programs, and peer-to-peer support that will foster renewal and growth across our parishes.

We encourage you to use the gifts you have received to bless the Church's mission.

Go to montreal.anglican.ca/baa to learn more and to give

Thank you!

The 166th Synod of the Diocese of Montreal October 4th, 2025

At GS, the Sacred Circle presented the Primate with a Survivors Flag (representing the survivors of the Residential Schools). This flag should be in every church in Canada as a symbol of acknowledgement, respect and compassionate welcome to survivors of the Residential schools.

Bishop’s Charge

The Bishop presented her final Charge to Synod beginning; *“This is my 11th Charge to Synod in 10 years!! My first was in October 2015, just after being consecrated bishop and my last is just hours before I retire and hand over the reins to Bishop Victor-David! Dear Bishop Victor-David, ... We are so grateful that you said “yes” to the Holy Spirit!”*

She went on to give reflections on her past addresses to Synod, in which she and members of the Diocese focused on various themes, including:

- Partnerships and our partner bishops from Masasi and APCI (now The Territory of the People)
- Truth and Reconciliation: Anglicans Respond
- The Challenges of Evangelism
- Racism; Listening, Naming, Reconciling

She said that the focus of the past year has been on electing her successor and ensuring the new Bishop has adequate time to prepare for the role. *“It is clear to me that the Holy Spirit led our Synod in making the right decision and that the Diocese will be very well served by Bishop Victor-David Mbuyi. Our job is to now pray fervently for our new bishop and to support him.”*

Bishop Mary then discussed the challenges that the Church at large continues to confront and praise the work of General Synod in creating a framework to meet those challenges. Our newly-elected Primate, Shane Parker will lead us in executing the Primate’s Commission’s *Six Pathways for Change* for which General Synod voted to allocate significant funds.

And, finally, she named and thanked those who provided guidance and support along the way. Among them, the Vicar General, Robert Camara, the Dean, Bertrand Olivier, the archdeacons, the Synod Staff and Mr David Eramian, who served as Diocesan Chancellor since 2003.

“I am so grateful to you all.”

The complete text of the Bishop’s Charge (in both languages) is available on the Diocesan website.

Presentations

- Ecumenical Partners, Pastor Sarah Wicks-Potter, Director of Saint Martha’s Chapel, brought greetings from the Disciples of Christ and the Right Rev. Bruce Myers, Bishop of the Diocese of Québec spoke a



Mr Robert McLachlan poses a question at Synod. Photo by Janet Best.

- few words.
- Ms. Lee-Ann Matthews gave a video presentation on her work in Youth and Children’s Ministry as well as the Supper Club.
 - The Vicar General gave an update on the recently formed Safe Church Review Committee. The Bishop has appointed an ombudsperson, Ms. Judy Yankowski, whose contact information is available on the diocesan website. The Committee will be responsible for recommending changes to current safeguarding policies and practices.
 - Mr. Mark Gibson, Chair of the Stewardship of the Environment Committee (SEC) gave a presentation on the work of the SEC. He noted that a GS Synod 2025 motion, calling for all dioceses across Canada to attain net-zero emissions by 2035, was passed. He said that approximately half of our churches are now running primarily on electricity, working towards zero emissions by 2030. The SEC is working with the largest and oldest church buildings in our Diocese to assist in creating the best heating solutions.
 - The Rt. Rev. Clara Plamondon of the Territory of the People gave a short history about the dissolution of the Diocese of Cariboo due to the restitution offered to survivors as part of the Truth and Reconciliation process. She explained how they are gradually building new structures with inclusivity and respect for the Indigenous people who form a large portion their congregations. Bishop Clara also spoke about their Partnership with the Diocese of Montreal with whom she hopes there will continue to be opportunities to cooperate in ministry and friendship.

Finance Presentation

Mr. Tam began by thanking Episcopal Council, Diocesan Council, the Finance Committee, the Audit Committee, the Chancellor and his colleagues in the Synod Office, especially Ms. Jennifer James Phillips for keeping everything in order in the accounting office.

Mr. Tam gave a short overview of what will be shown on the Balance Sheet and Statement of Operations slides.

2024 Audited Statements

Highlights show that investment income was down, with an overall operating loss of 403K. Revenues were 1.9 million. Expenses were also up. Net income was 1.146 million. The net assets increased to 13.9mill. due to the sale of 2 churches and unrealized gain on investments. Trends indicate that total revenues have remained flat over the past 2 years, while

loans receivable are down. A motion to Approve the Statements was moved, voted upon and carried.

2025 Forecast

Mr. Tam noted that the 2025 forecast for Loss from Operations stands at 416K with a net loss of 526K.

2026 Budget

The Budget is very similar to 2025 with no overall increases expected, including 950K in assessments, increases in investment income and steady ground rent.

Revenues are budgeted at 2 million. Expenses are budgeted at 2.4 million. Largely due to “Cost of Living” increases, the budgeted overall loss is expected to be 585K, with the loss from operations estimated at 495K.

Expenses totals are 2.497K, up from the 2025 forecast of 2,438K. 60% of the Budget is allocated for Ministry and Mission. One noted new expense is for a Strategic Plan Consultation.

When asked if there were any comments or questions, The Rev. Deacon Jessica Bickford said that she is really encouraged by the decision to pursue a Strategic Plan, noting it is a “time to dream”.

Mr. Mark Weatherley noted there is a long -term trend of annual spending of almost half a million over what we receive, thus using up investments. Mr. Tam responded agreed that, while unrealised gains do help to cover losses, it is not good to be showing huge deficits. He added that discussions are happening at the committee level and there is hope that the Strategic Plan will help us to reduce expenses.

Mr. Steven Atkinson, a former Diocesan Treasurer, commented that Manulife Private Wealth returns are about 3% whereas the plan the Cathedral is using has a return of 7%. Mr.

Tam responded that in 2021 the Diocese switched Managers. Last year our return was 10.3% and that we look at long-term performance.

The Rev. Fresia Saborio said that she is also encouraged by the announcement of a Strategic Plan. She hopes that such a plan might include supporting parishes in financial management. Mr. Tam expressed his hope that this area of concern will be addressed.

The motion to Approve the 2026 Budget was moved, voted upon and carried.

Motion “F”

Moved by the Rev. Jean -Jacques Goulet and seconded by the Rev. Jean-Fils Chery that: *The diocese seek to divest itself from any financial investments in Israel.*

The seconder the Rev. Jean-Fils Chery noted that he is from Haiti, a country that continues to suffer due to political upheaval. The church needs to speak out for peace and for all who suffer, such as the Palestinians. We should not remain silent on these issues.

A number of members proposed texts for amendments. After further debate, the Rev. Deacon Geoffrey McClarney moved to call the question on a friendly amendment to the motion, which was voted upon and carried.

The Final text of the motion reads: *That the diocese seek to divest itself from companies that consistently, knowingly, and directly enable or facilitate war crimes and crimes against humanity.*

Members’ Forum

Canon Chris Barrigar expressed his concern regarding the Provincial Government’s intention to pass a law stopping all public prayer. He asked if the Diocese has the resources to do something about it.

The Bishop invited the Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers to respond.

continued on page 5



Bishop Mary and David Eramian, who was recognized for his years of service as Diocesan Chancellor. Photo by Janet Best.

Walking Together: The In-Ministry-Year Students’ Journey Toward Reconciliation

JERO MELÉNDEZ
Jero Meléndez is the Communications Coordinator for the Montreal Diocesan Theological College and United Theological College at Dio

Students from the Montreal School of Theology, including those from the Presbyterian College and Montreal Diocesan Theological College, representing both Anglican and United Church traditions, embarked on an intercultural learning experience with Indigenous communities in mid-October. The Intercultural Learning Experience (ILE), directed by Marc Potvin, Director of Field Education, aims to provide students with an encounter that goes beyond academic study and moves toward personal engagement. “Informative, insightful, eye-opening,” he says. “My aim for the ILE is to provide first steps for students to begin an intentional reconciliation journey with First Nations.”

Encounter and Discovery

The week included a visit to Kahnawake where they met with leaders of the Kahnawake United Church and a visit to the Abenaki Museum in Odanak, outside of Sorel. In Odanak, students encountered centuries of Indigenous history and living heritage. Among the museum’s exhibits was a display of artifacts unearthed in the village, some more than three thousand years old, offering tangible evidence of the Abenaki Nation’s long relationship with the land. For some, this visit was



Intercultural Learning Experience at Kahnawake. Photo by Nathan Zwicker.

more than educational, it was transformative. Nathaniel McMaster reflected, “There were many memorable moments. Our guide in Kahnawake spoke about the impact of the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway on the community. It made me realize all the possible ways that what we, white North Americans, might never think of as challenges or obstacles—or even simply important—can pose great challenges for Indigenous people or have negative consequences on their communities.” The same student was struck by a small framed document in Odanak, listing family names present in the community since the early 19th century. “It was fascinating to see how some Indigenous names had become more French over time, how some French names

had been adapted into Indigenous language, and how some names had remained the same. It was indicative of the nature of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, exchange, adaptation, and resistance.”

Confronting Ignorance

Another student, Danny Fontaine, noted that the experience revealed how much mutual understanding still needs to grow. “I was struck by how two groups of people can live in such close proximity to each other and yet know very little about each other. Actually, Indigenous people know a lot more about us than we about them. One of the initial barriers to reconciliation is simply ignorance.” Referencing *The Invisible Nation*, a film narrated by

Richard Desjardins, Nathaniel added, “We tend to assume that other people live lives comparable to ours, or that their lives are so different that there can be no exchange. In either case, we remain ignorant of their reality.” “Everyone training for ministry in North America should learn more about the Indigenous peoples in their area. History always shapes context, context shapes ministry, therefore history shapes ministry. The history of Indigenous peoples plays an important role in the history of our culture and country at large, often in ways we do not realize.” **Listening and Relationship** Students were particularly moved by stories of resilience and healing. At the heart of the experi-

ence was the opportunity to meet and listen. “Meeting the people, hearing their stories of creation, and realizing that we are not that different,” said Danny. “Being informed of their side of the story, what they’ve been through, and how they are trying to rebuild themselves on top of these traumas, listening to them, connecting with them, and recognizing their part in our story... these are people that were instrumental in building major infrastructure across North America” Another student, Juyoung Lee, shared, “As an international theology student in Montreal, this was my first time journeying to hear the stories of Indigenous peoples, on their land and through their voices. The stories I had heard before were from a distance. But this time was different. I was on their land, walking, feeling the breeze, hearing the sounds of animals, and listening to their stories. A kinship was built between us, and through that relationship, our stories came together in the light of the Creator. ‘Now our minds are one.’ As the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Prayer says, when we gather and build relationships, the fear of the unknown, disguised as cultural differences, loses its power, and we become one in God.” **Toward Reconciliation** For many, the trip deepened awareness of the Church’s historic role in causing harm and the ongoing need for humility and repair. Danny Fontaine reflected: “Reconciliation comes slowly but surely by listening to their stories, continued on page 12

The 166th Synod October 4th, 2025

continued from page 4

Bishop Bruce responded that Canon Barrigar has raised an excellent point. The current government insists there is consensus on this issue. The Anglican dioceses, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Quebec Assembly of Catholic Bishops are working on a statement. There are public hearings, but groups are rarely invited to present. Societal implications are much larger and will likely happen through the media. Perhaps we can set up a conversation, but we do not have much time. Mr. Dion Lewis suggested that everyone has access to email. The Roman Catholic Church has sent a letter to all its parishes. We could email our MNAs, we can “move the needle” on this, but the window will be very short. **Acknowledgement of Chancellor** Bishop Mary expressed her personal gratitude for all the Chancellor has done during his tenure, and, on behalf of the diocese and presented him

with the Bishop’s Award. The Chancellor received a standing ovation, as he stepped down from Office. The Bishop then welcomed Me. James Woods for agreeing to serve as the new Chancellor. **Symbolic Passing of the Crozier** Bishop Mary symbolically passed to Bishop Victor-David the crozier, given to her by the Diocese of Masasi. **Coadjutor Bishop’s Address** Bishop Victor-David addressed Synod. He spoke about looking ahead with hope and dedication to the work ahead. Bishop Victor-David shared some of his life journey, starting in the Congo, becoming a Roman Catholic Priest, seeing God’s plan at work. He spent 17 years as an RC priest, 10 years of which were spent here in Québec, in the Diocese of St. Jerome. In 2014, he joined the Anglican Church and married his wife, Brigitte.

Bishop Victor-David asked Synod to work together for the future as we share friendship and love with Jesus Christ at the center. Listening to the Bishops who were here today, we heard how the Church needs to work and plan together, not just the Clergy, but the whole Church. In creating a new strategic plan, he recognized the need to review past plans to see what elements can be used as we go forward. He named five pillars upon which the future plan will rest.

- The first pillar will be Missionary Co- Responsibility.
- The second is to be proud of our diversity and respect our differences.
- The third pillar is to ensure safe church policies. The Coadjutor Bishop is committed to a robust review of current policies in order to foster a future culture of transparency.
- The fourth pillar is financial responsibility with a Diocesan Advisory Board offering advice to parishes.

- The final pillar is ministry for youth and by youth. He plans to form a Youth Council to share in this ministry.

Bishop Victor-David closed his address by thanking the outgoing Chancellor and welcoming Me. James Woods, who will take up this role. He also thanked the Synod Staff for working so hard in this time of transition and to the Vicar General, the Ven. Rober Camara, as he prepares to leave the Diocese. The Rev. Dr. Deborah Meister has been appointed as Executive Archdeacon. Bishop Victor-David then thanked Bishop Mary for welcoming him into the Diocese, and for her wisdom. Lastly, Bishop Victor-David thanked his wife and children for their support and asked the Synod to pray for our Diocese and for him as he exercises his ministry. **Thanks and closing** Bishop Mary presented Ms. Janet Best with flowers, thanking her as she steps back from

fulltime diocesan photography. Bishop Mary thanked everyone who had participated in this Synod and the people who facilitated this gathering. The worship team lead in a closing hymn and reading. The Right Rev Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu, Coadjutor Bishop, closed the 166th Synod of the Diocese of Montreal with an Episcopal Blessing. **Election Results Diocesan Council** **Clergy:** Rev Deborah Noonan Rev Emmanuel Saint-Hilaire Rev Deacon Alexander Griffin **Lay:** Mr Philip Castonguay Ms Kim Briand Ms Carol LeDiez 2026 BusinessSynod will be held on June 20th.

Around the Diocese



Dulcy Drew performs at the 60th Anniversary of St. Joseph of Nazareth, September 21, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.



Susan Mathai prepares for Communion at the 60th Anniversary of St. Joseph of Nazareth Church. Photo by Janet Best.



Bishop Mary cuts her cake at her farewell reception, September 21, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.



Dr Emmanuel St Hilaire with Rev Jean Fils following his induction September 13, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Alex Griffin and the Rev Peter Lekx following their ordination September 14, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Canon Jean Willcox with Bishop Mary at her Installation as Canon September 14, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.



Melinda Kurti and Charlotte Ryeprepare for the Induction of Dr Emmanuel St Hilaire to St Paul's Anglican Church, Greenfield Park on September 13, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.



The Rev Emmanuel St Hilaire with his wife Lorry Nerestil Saint-Hilaire and their son Théo Saint Hilaire following his induction September 13, 2025. Photo by Janet Best.

Around the Diocese



Sharing a meal together during the St. Matthias Camping Trip in Parc Régional Kiamaka on Labour Day weekend. Photo by Jesse Zink.



Deborah Noonan, Abbie Buckman, and Tyler Schmidt (and Bobbie) on a canoe at Kiamika reservoir during the St. Matthias Camping Trip in Parc Régional Kiamaka on Labour Day weekend. Photo by Jesse Zink.



Chorister Anna de Bakker with her kitten Jutta Wilfrida Claricia von Katzenheim at the Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St Francis, Sunday, October 5th at Christ Church Cathedral. Photo by Alex Griffin.



Michou Betty Alexandre and the Rev Franz Joseph Casseus, members of the founding family of l'Église de la Nativité received a gift of appreciation for their contributions to the parish during a presentation marking the 50th Anniversary of the congregation.



The Dean blesses Jack, Lukus and Trevor's dog at the Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St Francis, Sunday, October 5th at Christ Church Cathedral. Photo by Alex Griffin.



Janet Best was presented with flowers by Bishop Mary at Synod in recognition of her talent and dedication as Diocesan Photographer. Photo by Robert Camara.

Consecration and Seating of Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu October 3&5, 2025

assisting bishops then lifted up their hands as the archbishop read the Prayer of Consecration. Then the archbishop and other bishops laid their hands on the head of the bishop-elect, while the archbishop prayed for Victor-David. Finally, everyone exclaimed together, *“Amen! Point us to Christ, the living Way, feed us with Christ, the bread of life, and unite us in Christ rejoicing!”*

The laying on of hands on a bishop is a sacred and solemn ritual during their ordination, which signifies the passing of the Holy Spirit and the authority of apostolic succession. This action, called a consecration, is a form of laying on of hands that confers the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders.

The assisting bishops then vested the new bishop according to the order of bishops.

Bishop’s vestments are highly personal and are chosen with care to reflect the episcopacy of the person wearing it.

Bishop Victor-David’s vest-

ments depict the following symbols:

The Jerusalem Cross

It was in Jerusalem during his 2012 pilgrimage that Victor-David made the decision to join the Anglican Church. The Jerusalem Cross comprises a large cross and four smaller crosses. While the large cross symbolizes Jesus himself, the meaning of the four small crosses a matter of debate. What is not debated is that they are all about a facet of Jesus Christ.

The Baobab Tree

This symbol reflects the bishop’s African heritage, wherein the baobab tree is a powerful symbol of life, resilience, and wisdom. It’s often referred to as the “Tree of Life” due to its longevity, ability to store water, and the vital resources it provides for both humans and wildlife. The baobab is also associated with spirituality and is often seen as a link between the earthly and

spiritual realms.

The blue fleur-de-lis

An expression of the bishop’s connection with French-speaking Quebec, the fleur-de-lis signifies Quebec and French Canadians’ cultural and historical ties to France.

Victor-David was presented with a Bible and pastoral staff, and the Metropolitan presented the new bishop to the community saying, *“I present Victor-David, bishop in the Church of God.”*

The applause was resounding.

The Seating, Sunday, October 5th

The Seating of the 13th Bishop of Montreal began with Bishop Mary laying her crozier on the high altar, a visible sign of the conclusion of her role as Diocesan Bishop.

Using his newly-acquired crozier, Victor-David then knocked three times on the

door and when the warden opened the door, the people stood. The Dean, the Very Rev Bertrand Olivier, exclaimed, *“My sisters and brothers, siblings in Christ, our bishop has arrived. Let the doors be opened and let us rise to greet him.”* Therein followed an exchange between the dean and the new Bishop, as Victor-David promised to be a *“faithful pastor and servant among you”*.

The Executive Archdeacon then welcomed him as did all in attendance, *“We welcome you in the name of Christ!”*

After the chancellor read the certificates of election and ordination, the Executive Archdeacon picked up the diocesan crozier and passed it to the former bishop who then gave it to the new bishop who is escorted to the chair. The people say *“Victor-David, we, the people of this diocese, receive you as our bishop. Be seated among us as our pastor and leader. May the Lord stir up in you the flame of holy charity, and the power of faith that*

renews the world. Amen.”

The bishop was then seated.

Following the communion service members of the Choir of l’Église de la Nativité, sang hymns in Creole, French and English while the congregation was treated to a lovely liturgical dance by Lorice Ann Mathurin.

A reception followed in Fulford Hall where the new bishop celebrated with friends, family, past congregants and new co-workers. The speeches were light-hearted and the mood celebratory.

Yes, it was a full, joyous, momentous and exhausting weekend. And now, as Victor-David begins his service as bishop, let us all unite behind him in spirit and in practice to lighten the weight of the mitre. In the words of Rev Dr Nathaniel St-Pierre, *“Take the yoke, bishop of God. We will pray with you. Take the staff servant of Christ, we will walk with you. Take your seat, teacher of the faith. We will learn with you.”*



The Rev Dr Nathaniel St-Pierre, Priest of the Diocese of New York and Former incumbent l’Église de la Nativité, preached. Photo by Janet Best.



“When the hands are laid today it is not just the weight of tradition that falls, it is the presence of Jesus that will rest upon you.” Photo by Janet Best.



Victor-David with his family; wife Bridgitte Neneh Brigitte Tshiela Ngoudie, daughter Daena Liette Mbuyi Bipungu, son Dany Liam Mbuyi Bipungu and eldest daughter Davidine Loane Mbuyi Bipung. Photo by Robert Camara.



Liturgical dancer, Lorice Ann Mathurin performed. Photo by Janet Best.

Until We Meet Again

ROBERT CAMARA

The Venerable Robert Camara has served as Vicar General and Executive Archdeacon of the Diocese of Montreal since 2017. On December 12, 2025 he will return to parish ministry in the Diocese of Ottawa.

The author of the Wisdom of Ecclesiastes writes, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (3:1). I certainly have been reflecting on these verses the last few months as the reality of moving from the Diocese of Montreal to the Diocese of Ottawa begins to sink in.

As this edition of the Montreal Anglican arrives in people’s mailboxes, I will be packing the final boxes and preparing for the move in the coming weeks. Some have said to me over the last few months, in a light spirit, “you’re abandoning us.” But I have replied in all seriousness, “I am responding to the call of the Spirit to a new place.”

I have worked and been part of this diocese for almost 30 years, having arrived in Montreal to study political science at McGill and then hearing the Spirit call to discern ordained ministry. For most of my life, I have known this city and this Diocese as home and I have been blessed to have had such a full and robust involvement, both in the city and in the church.

The last 8 and a half years I have had the honour and privilege to serve as Vicar General and Executive Archdeacon – a role which has allowed me to see the hand of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in so many places throughout this diocese. What a blessing it has been to have served along side



Robert Camara addresses Synod, October 4, 2025. To his right is David Eramian, former Diocesan Chancellor. Photo by Janet Best.

so many faithful and talented clergy and lay leaders in this diocese.

As I prepare to leave and continue the work of transition with Bishop Victor-David and Archdeacon Deborah Meister, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for this diocese. Of course, the ministry that lies ahead doesn’t come without some hard work and commitment. It is a commitment that needs to be part of the course for which we as church are being called to move into – but indeed a time of excitement and hope for what God has in store for us as a Diocese.

In this season of Advent, I wait patiently to see what wonderful things God has in store for the Diocese of Montreal and for what God is calling me to in the years ahead. I also give thanks for the many friendships, love and encouragement I have experienced over the last three decades and continue to hold you and the work of this diocese in my prayers. This isn’t so much a good-bye, but rather, until we meet again. In the words of that well known Irish blessing: *May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Set the Tone: Rooted, Empowered, Called Youth Overnight Brings Faith, Fun, and Friendship

JESSICA BICKFORD

The Rev Jessica Bickford is the Executive Director of Phoenix Community Projects.

From Friday, September 27, to Saturday, September 28, 2025, youth from Christ Church Beaurepaire, All Saints by the Lake, and Christ Church Cathedral came together for a special overnight gathering filled with faith, fun, and friendship.

Themed “Set the Tone: Rooted, Empowered, Called,” the event invited participants to explore what it truly means to be called by God—and how to listen for God’s voice in their own lives. Through guided reflections, prayer, and meaningful conversations, the youth discovered new ways of understanding how their faith shapes who they are and who they are becoming.

Workshops and group discussions encouraged participants to think deeply about being rooted in faith, empowered by God’s love, and called to make a difference in the world. Leaders helped the youth reflect on questions like: Where do I feel God’s presence most strongly? How can I live

out my calling in everyday life?

Of course, no youth sleepover would be complete without fun! The night was packed with laughter, games, creative activities, and shared meals that helped build lasting friendships among participants from the three parishes. From late-night conversations to energizing morning reflections, the sense of joy and community was felt throughout.

As part of their time together, the youth also engaged in a meaningful act of service. Partnering with Bread and Beyond, they prepared over 70 sandwiches for those in need. This hands-on outreach reminded everyone that living out one’s calling often begins with simple acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion.

By the time everyone packed up on Saturday morning, hearts were full and spirits lifted. The weekend left participants feeling more connected to their faith, their peers, and the God who calls each of us by name.

It was truly an inspiring and joy-filled experience—one that “set the tone” for a new season of youth ministry and faith in action.



Creative activities and shared meals helped build friendships among participants from the three parishes. Photo by Jessica Bickford.



A farewell celebration for David Burnstun as he retires from the Diocese

The Synod Staff gathered with stories and well wishes as David Burnstun (5th from right) retires after 27 years of service as Office Clerk for the Synod Office. L-R: Stephen Tam, Lee-Ann Matthews, Jennifer James-Phillips, Nicki Hronjak, Bishop Victor-David, Ardyth Robinson, David Burnstun, Neil Mancor, Sophie Bertrand, Sandra Koukou, Robert Camara.

Ombudsperson

continued from page 3

led the SPVM Police Orchestra for 23 years, bringing music to senior residences and community events. Even after retiring from active duty, Judy remains deeply involved—coaching officers, leading school workshops, and sharing her expertise on social issues across the island of Montreal and in Lanaudière.

Today, Judy continues to inspire those around her through her enduring commitment to service, mentorship, and community empowerment.

Contact Ombudsperson

For safeguarding concerns or questions contact Ms. Judy Yankowski;

ombuds@montreal.anglican.ca

(514) 843-6577 ext 280

Mile End Mission is being mindful of our impact on the climate: Every step counts!



LOU HACHEY
Ms. Linda Lou Hachey is the Executive Director of Mile End Mission

With the kind assistance of Mark Gibson, Chair of the Stewardship of the Environment Committee of the Diocese of Montreal, and the generous financial support of several donors, the Mile End Mission has taken another meaningful step toward sustainability. We're delighted to announce the installation of a York HH8 series cold-climate heat pump, replacing our aging gas-powered HVAC system. This new green-energy solution will keep our Mission warm in the winter and cool in the summer and significantly reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. By lowering NOx and particulate emissions, it will

also improve the overall air quality for everyone who walks through our doors. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mark for his guidance and expertise throughout this process. For several years, the Mission has also been committed to recycling the used clothing we cannot sell in our Friperie. These items are shipped to communities in need around the world, ensuring they find a second life while reducing textile waste. As we continue our work in the Mile End community, we are mindful that every action contributes to a healthier planet. Together, we are making a difference one step at a time.

ABOUT US
Mile End Community Mission is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organization and community centre working with members of the community who have been marginalized by society for a variety of reasons. Our services are used by people of all ages, many of whom struggle with addiction, are in poverty and/or are homeless. We strive not only to help these people, but to empower them to help themselves.

HOW TO HELP
In this season of giving we are always happy to accept financial contributions. Go to www.mileendmission.org/donate/. In addition, the mission is pleased to accept:

FOOD DONATIONS
Unopened non-perishable food, including canned food, rice, and pasta, dropped off to us Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 3pm.

continued on page 12

Christmas Around the Diocese

Carols and Cocoa 2025

Saturday December 6th 4-5pm EST via ZOOM

Welcome the Christmas Season by joining the *Crosstalk Ministries Day Camps Community* for our sixth annual "Carols & Cocoa", an hour of video presentations, brought to you by performers from across Canada and beyond.

Contact the CTM office by DECEMBER 1st for the link: office@crosstalkministries.ca

Mark your Calendar, make a mug of cocoa and cosy up to your computer!

A suggested \$10 donation would be gratefully received and by e-transfer



Wassail: festive carol sing-along + sing-along Hallelujah chorus!

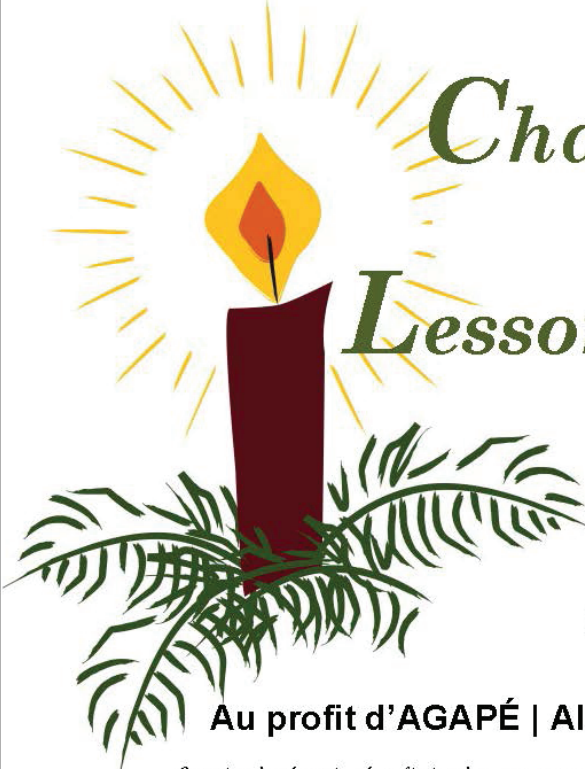
Refreshments + mulled wine

Friday, December 5th, 7 pm

Christ Church Beaurepaire, Beaconsfield

christchurchbeaurepaire.ca/wassail





Soirée écuménique de Chants et Prières

Ecumenical Service of Lessons and Carols

DIMANCHE LE 7 DÉCEMBRE À 19H
SUNDAY DECEMBER 7 AT 7PM

Église All Saints Church
248 18e Avenue, Deux-Montagnes
info: 450-473-9541 [facebook](#)

Au profit d'AGAPÉ | All Proceeds for AGAPÉ

Cette lumière était la véritable lumière, qui, en venant dans le monde, éclaire tout homme. Jean 1:9
The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world, John 1:9

Grand Bazaar

LE 6 DÉCEMBRE
9H30 - 15 H

ÉGLISE ST. THOMAS' CHURCH
6897 AV. SOMERLED

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Alongside Hope - Collaborations in Kenya

IAN VAN HAREN

Ian Van Haren is a member of the Alongside Hope board of directors. He was the Executive Director of Action Réfugiés Montréal from 2022-2024.

A small amount of money in Canada goes a long way elsewhere. When we support Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF), our funds are put to good use to improve the lives of people around the world. In June, I had the privilege of travelling to Kenya with other board members to learn about the type of initiatives Alongside Hope supports.

Learning About Local Initiatives

The projects we saw varied but mainly focused on implementing resilient agricultural practices to support livelihoods.

Our trip started along the Indian Ocean. In Kilifi, the Kenyan Evangelical Lutheran Church, using funding from Alongside Hope through the ACT Alliance, supports local “self-help groups” implementing new agricultural practices and partnered with local government officials to support agricultural resilience.

Here, the assistant county commissioner let us know of her appreciation for the support we had provided to help with local efforts that contribute to the nation-wide initiative to plant 15 billion trees. We planted trees in support of the initiative and visited three local growing projects for seedlings that support small-scale farming initiatives.

Further up the coast, in the Tana River Delta, we visited communities affected by drought and floods. We heard how more extreme weather has caused challenges for the community. The previous year, flooding within the river delta displaced local communities and caused conflict between pastoralists and herders. Church World Service (CWS), an Alongside Hope partner, provided emergency food assistance to displaced communities, and then, as the situation improved, supported small-scale farming initiatives with chickens and honeybees. Community members told us how the support from CWS helped members of different backgrounds and religions in their community support each other.

Collaborating with ecumenical partners and local, well-established NGOs ensures that the work responds to community priorities and has a durable impact. Alongside Hope runs a lean operation and does not have its own staff overseas. Rather, they support local partners to accomplish a shared mission.

Moving inland, in Embu County, we learned about a project Alongside Hope supports through local partner



Ian Van Haren, Bishop of Kitui, Gedion Muneni Nzoka, and John Mutua, Executive Director of Anglican Development Services-Eastern, in front of a community-managed tree nursery. Photo by Will Postma.



Community members in front of a solar powered well and cistern supported by Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF). Photo by Will Postma.

Eclof Kenya, a microfinance institution supported by Protestant churches, when we met members of the Kwanjara Dairy Cooperative. Here, small-scale local farmers receive training and can observe a model farm that implements climate-smart agriculture initiatives for inclusive and resilient dairy farming.

I was deeply impressed by the training that was provided to local farmers on improving milk production through innovations like biogas production, manure management, fodder management, newly incorporated plants and technology to efficiently produce silage. Eclof also supports the local cooperative through a local milk clearing house.

The next day, in neighbour-

ing Kitui County, we learned about projects operated by the Anglican Church of Kenya’s development agency, Anglican Development Services, with support from Alongside Hope. Our host was the Anglican Development Services - Eastern (ADS-Eastern). We met Bishop Gedion Muneni Nzoka, Bishop of Kitui, who accompanied us for the day as we visited ADS-Eastern projects.

Here, in local communities that often did not have an Anglican presence, we again met small-scale agricultural collectives supported by ADS-Eastern staff. Like some other projects we saw earlier in the week, the focus was on training and developing local knowledge to pool funds and improve agricultural practices

in raising livestock and vegetables. Local initiatives varied by community needs and included training on Gender Based Violence, support for people with disabilities, and a community managed tree nursery with a solar powered well and cistern.

The Kenyans we met were delighted with Alongside Hope’s new name. They recalled the challenges of the complicated five-consonant acronym: PWDR... RD... PWRF... PWRDF!

The Kenyans we met were delighted with Alongside Hope’s new name. They recalled the challenges of the complicated five-consonant acronym: PWDR... RD...

PWRF... PWRDF! Alongside Hope is much easier to remember, though adjusting to the new name takes some time.

I was impressed with the organization of local committees who support each other with new agricultural innovations. Many local groups were proud to present their work to us and show us the crops they had grown or animals they were raising. For me, the clear delineation of responsibilities within their groups was remarkable. The chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer would identify themselves and often there would be deputies for some positions as knowledge was shared and mentorship was provided to younger group members. The importance of clearly identifying how each person contributes to the goal of an organization is a lesson I take back with me.

Good governance is needed not just in local communities where projects are implemented, but also in ensuring responsible management of organizations. In Nairobi, we had a roundtable conversation with leaders of the organizations whose projects we visited and some other ecumenical partners, including the National Council of Churches of Kenya. During the meeting, John Mutua, the Executive Director of Kenya’s Anglican Development Services - Eastern, reminded us all that “good governance and policy don’t guarantee success but their absence almost guarantees failure”.

Grappling with challenges

During the trip, we heard from CWS and other agencies that the abrupt decrease in funding from the US government has left organizations eager to find new partners to support their work. Many aid organizations in Kenya have had to significantly cut back programming and staffing given drastic decreases in support for their work from American and other funding agencies.

While in Nairobi, we met with Canada’s High Commissioner, Chris Thornley. He reminded us to focus on the needs not just in Kenya, but also in Burundi, Somalia, and other countries which face severe humanitarian challenges.

It is not possible for one organization to respond to every need, and we cannot completely fill the gap left by the sudden shift from the Trump administration. However, I have seen the value that development assistance provides. I feel compelled to advocate for continued support for international development and humanitarian work from our government and to continue giving as I am able in support of, as the Alongside Hope vision statement declares, working towards a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.

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

O Come, O Come Emmanuel signals the start of the Advent Season. “God with us” is coming.

Majestic music and full voice congregations bellow through the church. “God with us” is approaching.

Pageant planning and choir rehearsals fill our agendas. “God with us” is getting nearer.

Items for Christmas Baskets and giving trees are filling our shopping carts. “God with us” is closer.

Silent Night and O Little Town of Bethlehem herald Jesus’s birth on Christmas Day. “God with us” is here now. Rejoice! Rejoice!

The Magi bring gifts full of meaning and honour. They depart full of wonder and awe. Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and sky.¹ “God with us” is with them and the world.

The Holy Family full of fear flees to a foreign land. “God with us” is with them and all the dispossessed.

Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day. His men of might, in his own sight, all young children to slay.² “God with us” have you fled from us? Are you with

him? With his men of might? Gracious God, we pray for peace full stop. There are too many wars raging in your precious world. “God with us” is hard to find. We feel too small, too powerless to stop them. Fill us with a sense of urgency to act against the hatred, racism, and greed that is at the root of all conflicts. Fill all those in authority with a sense of reason and compassion. Open a crack to let the Prince of Peace entre their hearts to soften their wills and instill a true love of neighbour. Fill us with the certainty that with “God with us” all things are truly possible. This we pray in Jesus’s name. Amen.

Gracious God, please bless my partner in prayer, Valerie Bennett, as she steps away from the role of Diocesan Representative for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. We started this journey with great enthusiasm for the task at hand. Finding ways and means to encourage more prayer in our Diocese was harder than we thought. Writing this prayer on a regular basis was our humble effort to reach out to this community and lift up to God those issues, good or bad, that were impacting us all. I thank God for Valerie’s presence in my life and for her tempering hand in drafting these prayers.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Stacey Neale

Notes: 1 – last two lines from We Three Kings; 2 – middle stanza from The Coventry Carol.

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

Mile End Mission is being mindful

continued from page 10

We also welcome fresh produce and fruits, in larger quantities, to be used for our lunch and breakfast programs.

CLOTHING DONATIONS

In-season, clean and undamaged clothing for our small thrift store: “Clothes that you would be proud to wear yourself.” We also accept gently used winter coats and boots.

Drop in our bin at the corner of Bernard and St. Urbain.

OTHER DONATIONS

Other items on our wishlist include: personal care supplies (including toothpaste, tooth

brushes, deodorant), warm sleeping bags and gently used or new art supplies.

Drop off to us Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 3pm.

Our Address:
99 Bernard Street West
Montreal, Quebec
H2T 2J9

From all of us at the Mission we would like to thank everyone at the Diocese who has contributed to our program over the years. We wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Journey Toward Reconciliation

continued from page 5

supporting their projects, and walking together in the rehabilitation of their rights.”

A Continuing Journey

For these students, reconciliation is not a theory but a practice, a journey of listening, learning, and walking along-

side. As Marc Potvin reminds them, “The ILE is not an end, but a beginning.”

Their steps toward understanding, taken together on the lands of Kahnawake, mark a shared commitment to healing and to a future where the Church’s ministry is rooted not in words alone, but in relationship.



CTM Day Camps 2026

VALERIE TAYLOR

Ms Valerie Taylor is the Day Camp Director of Crosstalk Ministries.

For almost 50 years!! Crosstalk Ministries has been facilitating Day Camp programs for children ages 4-12, across Canada, and beyond. Children in these communities spend a week learning about God .and lives are changed as campers and leaders come to know Jesus and experience His love.

Our 2026 program, “One of Us” is very dear to our hearts as it was first created exclusively by the CTM community to celebrate the millennium. It includes lovely handcrafted slides designed by talented Montreal artists, telling the story of Jesus’ birth and childhood as recounted in the Gospel of Luke.

Each day the campers will experience one of these five exciting stories: “Mary’s Surprise”, “Born in a Stable,” “Let’s go to Bethlehem”, “Taken to the Temple” and “Talking with the Teachers” The program unpacks the stories through songs and games, small groups and creative media, including liturgical dance - all geared to children of 4-12 years.

Program Options

Classic Day Camp

A locally-led program for churches & communities with five days of content, lasting 5 hours per day. Cost: 500\$

The Extended Day Manual

Additional resources to extend content to 8 hours, per day. Cost: 50\$

Backyard Day Camp

A program for smaller host communities unable to mount a full-day program. This version includes five two and a half hour-long sessions, with content from the 5 Daily Stories including slides, sing-along songs, small group materials, creative activities, games and daily challenges. Cost: \$250

Visit the Day Camps section of the CTM website for further promo details. The fillable application form for 2026 may be accessed here.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact our office at any time.

Valerie Taylor,
Day Camp Director
Mobile- 514-481-1414

Two favourite Janet Best photos I couldn’t find space for!



Victor-David with his cousin, Abbé Roger Busugutsala following the service of induction.



Sandrine, Willow, Alex, Georgie and Angie at Alex's ordination to the diaconate September 14, 2025.

Advent Activities 2025

Support a cause that supports the health of the earth

Tape some money on a vending machine

- Read Luke 1:39-45
- Read Luke 2:1-20
- Read Luke 3:1-6
- Read Luke 3:7-18
- Read Luke 21:25-36
- Watch a film version of the Gospels, like The Chosen
- Study the life of Jesus written by scholars

Go an entire day without criticizing anyone
Listen more; talk less
Be kind to unkind people

Listen for God’s voice in music.
Set aside time and place to hear the Holy Spirit.
Pray for every neighbour on your street.

Write a gratitude note to a friend or family member and hide it in their pocket.

Give a treat to a community helper

Write a list of who and what you are thankful for this year

Smile and thank someone who serves you

Take a shut-in to lunch.
Read to a child.

Reflect and record how much joy this Advent season has brought you

Notables

Saturday, December 6th:
All Saints breakfast. Church Hall, 248 18th Ave, Deux-Montagnes. Good will offering pilkington@sympatico.ca

Saturday, December 6th:
Concert-bénéfice et souper, La Nativite Rosemere. At Complexe La Providence, St Leonard. 438-524-2056.

Sunday, December 21st:
Family Service at St Barnabas. At 9:30am, with sweets after the service! 12301 Colins St in Pierrefonds All welcome! www.st-barnabas.qc.ca

Sunday, December 21st:
Paws&Pray Christmas: Bring Your Dog to Church! 4 pm at Christ Church Beaurepaire, 455 Church St, Beaconsfield. (accessible by bus 211) christ-churchbeaurepaire.ca/paws