

REASONS TO HOPE

In today's second reading, the Apostle Peter challenges the Christians of the first century to always "be ready to give an account for the hope that is in you": not defensively or aggressively, but with "gentleness and reverence". Jesus' own disciples were sad at the thought of his leaving, but he promised to send the "Paraclete": the Advocate, the Spirit of Truth, the living pledge of God's promise to never abandon his church. That promise holds true. As a church, our reason for hope is not our bank balance or the number of cathedral-size buildings we manage to keep open, but in the strength of our parish communities and the fidelity of our witness to the Gospel of hope.

Jesus invites us to refocus on our highest ideals – faith, hope, and love – and on our primary task of communicating the Gospel with courage and conviction. We must look for the signs of hope – those places where the church is growing, where parish life is vibrant, where outreach to the larger community is happening – rather than let ourselves be dragged down by the "doom and gloom" scenario of collapsing infrastructure and declining social influence.

At the report he gave following his recent pastoral visit, Bishop Dowd shared the following observations with us:

- Saint Monica's is a viable parish, expressing the Kingdom of God in its part of the diocese. There is genuine Christian community in this area. Liturgical life is vibrant. Key pastoral services are being offered. There is potential for growth.
- The parish is on a solid foundation to build for the future. Questions regarding the building will need to be addressed. Outreach activities, especially communications and welcome, can be strengthened even further. I believe that this parish can become a model of good stewardship.
- I am convinced that the Holy Spirit wants each parish to be a vibrant expression of the Kingdom of God. It has been a pleasure to discover how Saint Monica parish is living the Kingdom.

Then, Bishop Tom challenged us with a question: "What is our dream for the next 5 years?" Part of that dream involves reflecting on the quality of our stewardship, the way in which we make use of the time, talent, and treasure the Lord has entrusted to us for the building up of his Kingdom. As Bishop Tom mentioned, we are currently facing some issues regarding our physical infrastructure, the repair and maintenance of our physical plant. We want to ensure a clean, safe, attractive, and welcoming environment in which to carry on the work God wants us to do. *Please join us downstairs after the 11 a.m. Mass this Sunday for the presentation of the parish financial report and an open discussion about this necessary dimension of the work of the New Evangelization Pope Francis has invited us to embrace.*

DRIVERS REQUESTED FOR SHUT-INS WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND MASS

For the 2014/2015 season, we would like to put into action one of the suggestions stemming from the responses of our parish parishioners to the September 2013 survey.

Certain parishioners indicated they would like to offer their services as drivers, based on their availability, to people having difficulty getting out to a weekend Mass.

*If you know of anyone who would like to have this service made available to them, please fill out **the "Driver Request" sheet** found at the back of the church with the name and phone number of that person.*

For anyone who would like to volunteer as a driver, please sign up on the appropriate sheet at the back of the church. A member of the parish Committee will contact those signing up on both sheets. These sign-up sheets will be available until the end of August.

MASS INTENTIONS MAY 24 TO JUNE 1, 2014

Saturday, May 24: World Day of Prayer for Church in China

4:00 Alba & Luigi Paliotti By the Paliotti Family
Helen Des Roches By her Faith Sharing Group

Sunday, May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 **In Loving Memory:** Leona Clarke, Italo Falcone,
Italo & Anna Mariani, Carole Rouse, Madeleine DeRome
11:00 Fioravante Rotiroti By the Rotiroti Family
James McCadden By the Family

Monday, May 26: St. Philip Neri

8:00 Pasquale & Rosa Ferrara By Vincenzina and Michele
Ferrara

Tuesday, May 27: St. Augustine of Canterbury

8:00 Theresa, Julian & Kevin By Gary Rooney
Rooney

Wednesday, May 28: St. Germain

8:00 Dante Fiori By Sister-in-Law Berardina
Fiori & Family

Thursday, May 29: Weekday Mass

8:00 Aldo Brocca By his Daughter

Friday, May 30: Weekday Mass

8:00 Guerrino & Luigia By his Son Serafino
Ciambella

Saturday, May 31: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 Aniello d'Addio By Franca & Family
Elmer Carroll & the By the McCadden Family
Bauer Family

Sunday, June 1: The Ascension of the Lord

8:30 Marianna & Vincenzo By Concetta La Posta
La Posta
11:00 **In Loving Memory:** Joseph Onesi, Matteo John
Palumbi, Luigi & Rosa Mammone, Domenico Abbatiello,
Concetta Marinello.

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of May 17/18, 2014 totalled \$3,469.25 (which includes donations for Confirmation of \$1,011.00). The collection for the Archdiocese of Montreal totalled \$1,229.00

FAITH FIRST REGISTRATION

Faith First registration forms for the 2014-15 season are now available at the entrances of the church, church hall, and rectory. All new and returning students must fill out a form **before August 15** and return it the rectory to guarantee a spot. The cost of the program is \$75 for one child, \$100 for 2 children, and \$125 for 3 or more. Please note that your child will not be denied access to the program if you are unable to pay the fee. For further information, please contact Jennie Parsons-Armstrong at (514) 481-0267 or by email at jennie.armstrong@bell.net.

THANK YOU TO ALL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 2nd Annual Bake Sale earlier this month. Total proceeds came to \$984.00 in support of the Food Pantry and towards purchase of a dishwasher for the church hall.

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR MAINTENANCE (MAY 31/JUNE 1)

Diocesan Camping Association:

Offers 4 amazing, fun filled, faith-based, 1-week camping experiences for children, youth and families at the beautiful:

CAMP KINKORA!

Liturgy Camp 6-15yrs (July 20-26)

Family Camp (July 27-Aug 2)

Youth In Action 7-14yrs (Aug 3-9)

Visions 14-19yrs (Aug.10-16).

Info. and Registration:

Anna Graham: 514-683-0703 or

Cori-Ann Surette: 438-968-0317

"DCA - Serving the Montreal Catholic Community for over 40 years"

St. John Brebeuf - Yard Sale

When: Saturday May 31, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Where: 7777 George, LaSalle, in the large parking lot. (40+ tables!) Something for everyone! Snack bar on site.

ST. MONICA'S PARISH VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

In appreciation of all our wonderful volunteers, a luncheon will be served at 12:30 p.m. on Pentecost Sunday, the 8th of June. We are grateful for all those who share their diverse gifts in the many ministries at St. Monica's for the building up of our parish community! Those who coordinate the various ministries are asked to consult their members and submit the names of those attending the luncheon to the office by Monday, the 2nd of June.

