

# The Messenger

## St. Edward the Confessor Mission

### Annual Bazaar in Aid of Christmas Baskets

This years Annual Tea Bake Sale and Bazaar held on November 10th was an outstanding achievement. This year almost \$6000 was raised in aid of our Christmas Basket Fund. All the funds raised will allow us to help more West Island families in need.

The convener for this years event was Dianne Sitholé, well known for her organizational skills. She was ably assisted by many of the ladies of the parish.

Parishioners were asked and donated nearly new and new items along with preserves, bake goods, sandwiches, crafts, gifts for the raffle and many other items.

There was quite a line up to get into St Edward's famous Tea Room known for its delicious sandwiches and pastry. The Used Books, Country Kitchen, Nearly New and Bottle tables were very success full as was the main raffle.

A Big Thank You to all.



## C.A.C Christian Action Chrétienne

Christian Action Chrétienne or C.A.C is a non profit organisation dedicated to helping needy families on the West Island with emergency food and financial assistance.

This summer and fall, C.A.C has had a steady number of requests for assistance. Forty-nine orders were delivered over the summer months (June, July,

and August). So far this fall (September to early November), 38 orders were delivered and \$2720.00 in vouchers were given out. It has become necessary to purchase non-perishable items in order to fill baskets as the pantry is pretty depleted. We can use all basic foodstuffs: canned protein, fruit, vegetables, soup, pasta sauce, pasta, juices, peanut but-

ter, jam, cereal, crackers, coffee, tea, sugar, juice: large containers, and small

*Story cont'd on Pg. 5*

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# An Ernest Reflection— A Christmas Message

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At a recent meeting of our pastoral council, we talked about the various changes that have taken place in our faith community since St. Edward's birth almost forty years ago. First, our population has changed. Originally, most of our parishioners lived in single-family cottages with the rest in town houses and apartments. There were quite a few children. Now, we have seen an explosion of seniors' residences, some offering assisted living, others not. The Wellesley Residence has now been joined by Le Cambridge and Le Vivalis Residences, both of which are still expanding.

In addition to the natural aging of our original community, there is now a large influx of seniors into our region of Pointe Claire, many of whom are, technically at least, members of our faith community. At the same time we have experienced a diminishment in the number of children, at least in the number who come to church. This is borne out by the decreased number of baptisms and first communions.

So, the demography of our community appears to be in flux. This represents a number of challenges to us—how do we welcome the newly-arrived seniors into our faith community? how do we serve them? what resources do we have? what do we need to fulfill our mission?

This is but one of the

changes that challenge our faith community. In recent years much of the global community has come to realize that the climate of our world is in the process of warming up, substantially. While many of us in St. Edward's might appreciate milder winters, we now understand to at least a limited degree that global warming will have a tremendous impact on our planet and all its inhabitants, human and non-human alike.

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To date, Canadians have been much more contributors to the problem than to a solution. Some individuals might take the threat seriously but our government, despite words to the contrary, has not. Once again we must ask the questions. What does our faith say to us about how we should respond to this extremely important issue? What should we do?

A third issue is closely related to the last—the terrible imbalance between the world's "haves" and "have-nots". The issue is not new to us. For years our community has demonstrated a certain interest in global social justice issues. A couple of our younger members are currently working with the poor in Asia and Africa; we have financially aided people in Latin America and elsewhere. To be honest, though, we have scarcely scratched the problems that face the world's poor majority. Mean-

while, Canadian corporate interests and Canadian government policy contribute to the ongoing impoverishment of the world's poor. Again, we find ourselves contributing more to the problem than its solution. We at St. Edward's live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world but one which does very little to help the global poor. At the risk of being monotonous, we must ask once more, what does our Christian faith say to us?

At the same pastoral council meeting, one of our members brought to our attention the lack of food in *Christian Action Chrétienne* food bank. Resources are shrinking while the demand increases. She spoke of a meeting with provincial representatives who refuse to believe that there are poor on the West Island and so offer no help. She also remarked that by and large seniors do not ask for help even when they need it. If this is true, there are more poor individuals and families on the West Island than we realize. If the problem itself is not new, it does seem that its growing dimensions is. Again, what does our faith say to that? What does it call us to do?

I might add one more thing that is changing—our understanding of our faith. Many of us have been brought up in a pre-Vatican II faith. Even though we have lived most of our lives after the Council, we are still largely influenced by an earlier understanding of our faith. That faith focused very much on heaven and personal salvation. Faith, hope and *charity* were the dominant virtues. Vatican II, however, has called upon us to be much more attentive to our

# An Ernest Reflection— A Christmas Message (Cont'd)

world. The fullness of God's reign might be in heaven, but it begins here on earth. Without denying the importance of faith, hope and *charity*, we now understanding the importance of *justice*. It is no longer enough to be charitable, we must be just in our relationships with God, our

brothers and sisters and even our environment.

So, a new year is upon us. It brings with it challenges, both old and new. May it also bring us the grace to face up to them. May we at St. Edward's not be found wanting.

**Father Ernie**



## Former Parishioner Gives of Her Talent For A Good Cause

Parishioners who have been with us since the 1980s will remember Cheryl Braganza (a former resident of the West Island, who now lives in Montreal City). She used to play the organ for our Sunday masses. You will recall that her talent also extended to oil painting. Some years ago, she initiated the collection of paintings from interested West Islanders to donate to our Palliative Centre (adjacent to the Lakeshore Hospital) and of course a large painting of hers also hangs in their foyer.

Cheryl has once again thrown her artistic talent into supporting a very good cause - a volunteer solidarity network, based in Calgary, called *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan*. She has worked closely with this organization for the past year to produce a 2008 Calendar with 12 of her paintings. She calls it "basically my story in pictures and captions." She sees the donation of all the paintings, digital photography and writings involved in the Calendar - as her contribution to the "much-needed education of

Afghan girls and women, whose plight is desperate."

This 9" x 12" Calendar full of Cheryl's vibrant colours is available from Margaret Lobo of our parish. Copies are also available directly from the organization who can be contacted at [www.W4WAfghan.ca](http://www.W4WAfghan.ca) (Tel: 403-244-5625). Remember, 100% of donated funds raised in Canada by the *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan* are directed to projects in Afghanistan such as salaries for teachers and other requirements for schooling of children.

*Story by Therese Pereira*

## St. Edward's and St. John's Seniors' Group

This is a joint activity with the congregation of St. John's United Church. It is a "*Bring Your Own Brown Bag*" lunch, with coffee and tea being served. It is usually held at noon on the third Wednesday of each month from October until May in the south wing of the church. Guest speakers address most meetings. A great opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners and neighbours. For more info contact Wilf Bates 514-697-2801

### Senior's Group Schedule

Date: January 16, 2008  
Topic: Telemarketing Fraud  
Speakers: Sgt. Antonio D'Angelo and Investigator Genevieve Laurin of the R.C.M.P.

Date: February 20, 2008  
Topic: Our Public Library facilities in Pointe-Claire  
Speaker: Mary Jane O'Neil, Pointe-Claire Public Library

Date: March 19, 2008  
Topic: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation  
Speaker: Julie Chevrier, Coordinator CPR, Culture, Leisure & Social Development, City of Pointe-Claire.

# St. Francis of Assisi-Grassroots Environmentalist for Our Time

My hero is St. Francis of Assisi because he understood the connection between spirituality and the environment. He understood the way God communicates to us most forcefully is through the fishes and the birds and the trees- and that it is a sin to destroy these things.” These words of Senator Robert Kennedy, Jr., taken from a best selling book on the life of St. Francis by the Senator, are a modern reflection of the significance and importance of the influence that St. Francis of Assisi has had and still has in our spiritual awareness of the beauty and splendor of God’s creation. Indeed in Francis’ embrace of the animate and inanimate creation, he even links mankind’s concern for each other: “If you have men who will exclude any of God’s creation from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellowmen.”

While it is common knowledge that St. Francis was a lover of both the Creator and His Creation, yet his role as a grassroots environmentalist is often surprisingly underplayed in most biographies which have tended to center on his profound journey of faith. Decreed in 1990 as the Patron Saint of the Environment/Ecology and of Animals by Pope John Paul II, Francis in his later life was not only an unblemished model of religious devotion but he also was very much an exemplary paragon of harmonious exist-

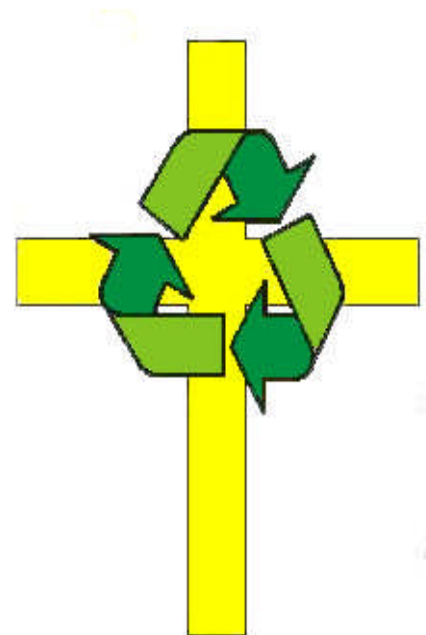
tence on earth. He was in every sense a friend to man and beast, and a great admirer of the sun and all nature-and a profound peacemaker! In this period of critical environmental sensitivity and awareness, especially for us as Christians, Francis is our model par excellence! For Francis was not just at peace with his fellow man, he was at peace with all living things-everything beautiful that his eyes could behold. To celebrate God’s wondrous creation, Francis wrote celebrated hymns of praise to his God for all the created beauty that he felt blessed to have. Indeed he felt so much at one with Creation that he considered the Sun his brother, the Moon his sister, and all men his siblings!

Above all, St Francis of Assisi was no shallow observer but was deeply committed to the well being of the environment and of all creation in as grassroots a fashion as has ever been seen. He lived with animals; he rejoiced among nature. In a celebrated example, he even preached to the birds in order to remind them to praise their Creator for His Blessings. Everything around him he saw as good and hence should be treated with courtesy, kindness, and generosity. To put it simply, Francis was a heartfelt friend to everything and everyone around him. Over 800 years ago, St. Francis of Assisi lived out in practice the following admonition about the environment from

our Catholic Catechism: “The seventh commandment enjoins respect for the integrity of creation. Animals, like plants and inanimate beings, are by nature destined for the common good of past, present, and future humanity. Use of the mineral, vegetable, and animal resources of the universe can not be divorced from respect for moral imperatives. Man’s dominion over inanimate and other living beings granted by the Creator is not absolute; it is limited by concern for the quality of life of his neighbour, including generations to come; it requires and demands a religious respect for the integrity of the entire creation.”

Deacon Gerry

*“Above all, St Francis of Assisi was no shallow observer but was deeply committed to the well being of the environment and of all creation in as grassroots a fashion as has ever been seen.”*



Environment and Ecology

boxes, cookies, and lunch snacks for school children. The C.A.C pantry can also use personal hygiene items: toilet paper, hand soap, shower soap, toothpaste and brushes, shampoo, conditioner, detergent to wash clothing, and dishwashing detergent.

The C.A.C would like to thank all the parishioners of St. Edward's for their generous contributions, whether it has been monetary, food supplies, or by delivering.

We invite you to bring your food donations with you to Mass and leave them at the back of the church.

Remember on the first weekend of each month we ask that you bring in specific non-perishable food items that the C.A.C pantry is in short supply of. It will be announced a week in advance what items are needed

*Story material supplied by Dianne Sitholé*

## Christmas Basket Campaign in Full Swing

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This years Annual Tea, Bake Sale and Bazaar was a huge success having raised close to \$6000 for the St. Edward's Christmas Basket Fund. Again this year Annette Tan and her daughter Daniele Bercovici have volunteered to coordinate this project. Once the financial results of the Bazaar were known Annette then contacted the West Island Assistance Fund. This organization provides the names of West Island families requiring

assistance. This year we will be able to help between 45 - 50 families depending upon their size. Each basket provided has a value of \$85 - \$250 depending upon the size of the family.

Annette and Daniele are currently seeking parishioners to sign up to take names of families to receive baskets. When you sign up to help with the Christmas Basket campaign you will receive the name of the family, and within a week or so FundScrip gift cards for your

preferred food supplier be it the Loblaw, Metro, or IGA will be issued so you can start your shopping. You will receive detailed instructions as to how to proceed.

It is important to note that the family should be contacted before purchasing food supplies to inquire if there are any dietary restrictions due to diabetes, food allergies or other health issues or religious restrictions.

If you would like to volunteer see Annette and Daniele before or after Mass on the weekend.

## St. Edward's & St. John's Annual Veterans Dinner Held on Nov.17

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For the past five years Louise Matulis and her team of volunteers from St. Edward's and St. John's have organized a sit down dinner to honour our war veteran's who served in the Second World War and the Korean conflict.

This year approximately 90 Veterans and their spouses joined in



**Lest We Forget**

the occasion. The Veterans paraded into the church and participated in the 5 pm Eucharistic Celebration. They offered prayers and readings in honour of their fallen comrades. After Mass they moved to the South wing which was appropriately draped with flags and banners

They enjoyed a home cooked meal and home made desserts

all prepared by the ladies of St. Edward's and St. Johns.

Deacon Gerry Foley acted as MC for the evening and went around the hall asking the honored guest to introduce themselves giving their name, rank and branch of the armed service they served with and share a story about their experience.

The evening progressed with a sing along with Brenda Neeson on piano and Rev Frank Giffen from St. John's leading them in songs such as The White Cliffs of Dover. Lili Marlene and many other nostalgic songs of the era.



# Be Safe in Your Home — Safety Tips

Fire Prevention Officers from the Montreal Fire Department addressed a lively group of St Edward's and St. John's Seniors at their monthly *Bring Your Own Brown Bag Lunch* meeting on Nov, 22, 2007.

Several very important points were brought up and it was felt that it should be passed on to all members of our congregations. Additional facts were obtained from the Quebec Government Web site **Securité publique Québec** their web address is listed under the tips section.

**Note:** There is a lot of discussion on how frequently the battery should be changed in a smoke detector. The Quebec Government Web site **Securité publique Québec** recommends changing the battery twice a year, in the spring and again in the fall. Why take a chance!

*Story concept by Wilf Bates*

## The Messenger

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## Safety Tips

### Smoke Alarms

- Did you know that a smoke alarm is good for only 10 years? New smoke alarms can be purchased for just over \$10.00.
- And that you have to replace the battery twice a year: when you set your clocks ahead in the spring and again when you set them back in the fall.
- There should be one smoke detector on each floor of your house and don't forget the basement and workshop.
- If for some reason you are not able to change the battery, the Fire Department will come to your home or apartment and do it for you. There is no charge for the service and the battery is free. Telephone 514-280-3500 and give the receptionist your name, address etc.

### Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Did you know that oil and wood stoves can produce carbon monoxide gas, a poisonous gas that you can't see, smell or taste but that can kill you,
- In addition to the above mentioned items; all devices that burn wood, coal, propane, natural gas, fuel oil and gas need to be checked and their burners cleaned regularly.
- There are detectors for this poisonous gas. It's also important to have one of these detectors. The detector should be installed near the bedrooms in a house and also on each floor and in the room where the heating unit is located.
- You can install it on a wall at any height because carbon monoxide spreads evenly throughout the air. You just have to read the manufacturer's instructions to find out how to install it.

### Emergency Evacuation

- Have an Emergency evacuation plan for your home and make sure all family members are aware of it.
- If you live in an apartment or residence know the buildings evacuation plan.
- If you feel that you cannot get out of your house or apartment in the event a fire you may register your name and address with the Fire Department. Then the first thing the firemen will do is to make every effort to evacuate you. You may register for this service by telephoning the fire department at 514-872-3775. If you prefer forms are available and could be sent to you by mail, dropped in your mailbox or picked up at the fire department offices.

For additional info visit the **Securité publique Québec** Web site [http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca/incendie/index\\_en.asp](http://www.msp.gouv.qc.ca/incendie/index_en.asp)



# St. Edward the Confessor Advent - Christmas - 2007 Liturgical Celebrations



## ***December 1/2 – First Sunday of Advent –***

Masses at 5 pm Saturday and 9 am Sunday.

## ***December 8/9 – Second Sunday of Advent -***

Masses at 5 pm Saturday and 9 am Sunday.

## ***December 11***

Celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation for the children at 7 pm .

## ***December 15/16 – Third Sunday of Advent –***

Masses at 5 pm Saturday and 9 am Sunday.  
Fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate for sale after each Mass.

## ***December 18***

Celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation for adults at 7:30 pm.

## ***December 22/23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent –***

Mass at 5 pm

## ***December 24 Christmas Eve***

5 pm – Family Christmas Mass preceded by children's choir and carols at 4:30 pm  
10 pm – Christmas Mass preceded by adult choir and carols at 9:30 pm

## ***December 25 Christmas Day***

9 am – Christmas morning Mass

## ***December 29/30 – Feast of the Holy Family –***

Masses at 5 pm Saturday and 9 am Sunday

## ***December 31 New Years Eve***

Mass at 5 pm

## ***January 1 – Feast of Mary, the Mother of God –***

10 am - New Years morning Mass

## ***January 5/6 – Feast of the Epiphany -***

Masses at 5 pm Saturday and 9 am Sunday

