



Since 1972

Newsletter 2015



THANK YOU TO OUR LOYAL SUPPORTERS

You made it happen!

For 43 years, through your generosity, **The Pillars Trust Fund** has provided financial support and leadership to our community. Our special focus is the education of seminarians, youth training, spiritual enrichment and support for good works. At present we support 23 beneficiaries. When possible, we also give a financial boost to launch a new project or to expand one already working well.

See page 4: *"I've got an idea for a project ... Can Pillars help fund it?"*



A Smooth Transition at **PILLARS TRUST**

Mr. John Murphy, LLB was elected as the new President of **The Pillars Trust Fund** at the June AGM. The Board warmly welcomes him to this new role to which he brings all the skills, expertise and commitment that he has already exercised as **Pillars** Vice President. Thank you, John, for assuming this responsibility.

The Board also welcomes two new Directors this year, **Meghan Brown** and **Jonathan Elkas**.



Our sincere thanks to **MICHAEL KIERAN** Past President

Mr. Michael Kieran steps down as President of **Pillars Trust** but will continue to serve as Past President. The Board wishes to express its enormous gratitude to Michael for his years of tireless dedication to advancing the mission of **The Pillars Trust Fund**. Michael's wise leadership, vision and positive response to emerging needs continues to benefit our Catholic Community and those helped by people doing God's work. Thank you, Michael.

See the complete list of Directors at www.pillarstrust.org

REFUGEE CRISIS:

In response to the enormity of this crisis, Pope Francis has called for immediate concrete action by the Catholic Church at all levels. As a Roman Catholic organization which promotes the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, **The Pillars Trust Fund** has responded at the local level by answering Archbishop Christian Lépine's letter of appeal, with a one time contribution of \$5,000 to his Refugee Aid Fund. Archbishop Lépine's letter can be found at: <http://diocesemontreal.org/en/news/latest-news---en/reader/items/refugees-message-from-the-archbishop.html>

**We are a Roman Catholic organization supporting activities
which promote the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ**



Since 1972

News

from this past fiscal year

Beneficiaries Breakfast - so much love in one room!

On April 8th **Pillars Trust** hosted a beneficiaries networking breakfast, some 39 people attended including 27 representatives from our beneficiaries, Caelestia Hu and Joyce Li who designed our new website, Correy Jolly, lay evangelist and 9 representatives from **Pillars**. The breakfast was immensely successful with an exchange of ideas as to how we can be of more help to our beneficiaries, and how they can help us raise the profile of **The Pillars Trust Fund** in their milieu.

Pillars Trust is counting on our beneficiaries to help us to help them!



From left to right – Karine Projean, Executive Director Benedict Labre House; Stan Vincelli, President of Benedict Labre's Board of Directors; John G. Murphy, President of Pillars; Michael Kieran, Past President of Pillars at a visit to Benedict Labre House in July, 2015.

Pillars Trust provides emergency help to BENEDICT LABRE HOUSE

“Last year was a difficult one for **Benedict Labre House**. We had to let go two of our employees because of financial difficulties. To add to our despair, the building itself was literally falling apart, the south side wall was crumbling, and pieces falling on our neighbours' cars, a Volkswagen dealership!

The Benedict Labre House is a day center for the homeless and under-housed individuals, it was founded in 1952! Our roots are deep in the Catholic community, we are named after St. Benedict, Patron Saint of the Homeless. We are one of the few day centers in Montreal and therefore we provide basic services such as meals (\$ 35,000 a year), clothing, showers, references, attentive ear. We also provide a sense of belonging somewhere to people who are disaffiliated from the society.

Pillars Trust directed \$ 50,000 to us for emergency repairs, the side wall and foundation have been solidified. **Pillars** is also providing stable operational funding which is a huge help. We are a small team, we are four employees at the House – myself, the program's coordinator, the cook and the dishwasher). *Your help means the world to us!*”

- Karine Projean - Executive Director

The Newman Centre - ongoing support from Pillars Trust



The Newman Centre is affiliated with McGill University as the Catholic chaplaincy of McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and as the headquarters of the Newman Institute of Catholic Studies, which supports research and teaching of

Catholicism, particularly through the Catholic Studies program at McGill. Over 1000 students and members of the wider community visit and use the Centre on a yearly basis or roughly 40 to 60 on a daily basis.

The Newman Centre is housed in a former mansion which was constructed in 1903 as per the design of renowned Montreal architects Maxwell Brothers. The Newman Association of Montreal took possession in 1954. It is presently in the midst of a financial campaign to raise funds for structural repairs and a new slate roof that is urgently required. **Pillars Trust** directed \$ 50,000 to the **Newman Centre** to kick-start its emergency roof repair fund. In addition, **The Newman Centre** is a regular beneficiary of **Pillars Trust** to help finance their operation.



From left to right – Michael Kieran, Past President Pillars Trust; Mario Paolucci, President, Newman Centre; Dr. Robert Di Pede, Director, Newman Centre.



Read more at www.pillarstrust.org



Start-up funding for Ville Marie On-Line

Ville Marie Online, the online hub for news of the English Catholic community in Montreal established in 2014 has seen continued growth in the past year. **VMO** has been at the forefront of the news cycle on a number of stories affecting our community including Loyola High School's victory at the Supreme Court of Canada, the death and funeral of Cardinal Turcotte, as well as

important changes to several English Catholic institutions including the closure of Queen of Angels Academy and the change of name from 'Catholic Community Services' to Collective Community Services at CCS. Readership has continued to grow: between January 2015 and mid-August there have been 16,342 unique visitors and a total of close to 30,000 number of visits. Social media has become a way for VMO to reach a more diverse audience and during the summer of 2015 **VMO** launched a summer intern program. As a result, **VMO** has benefited from the youth perspective of students Kathleen Rose Kennedy and Brian Kirk Vidal in their coverage of the Arts and many youth events.

ONLINE and on board with New Technology

The Pillars Trust Fund has redesigned its **website** and reorganized its methods on how it receives donations and processes receipts. In the fall of this year many supporters will still be receiving campaign letter requests from **Pillars Trust** by mail, while many others - who have provided an email address to us will receive a funding request by email. As well, donors who prefer to donate using their credit cards will be able to do so directly at our website and they will receive a receipt for that donation immediately. Donors and friends who prefer information by email will be updated on a regular basis on current events and happenings supported and sponsored by **The Pillars Trust Fund**.

Pillars provides bus transportation for the 2015 Lenten Mission



Bishop Tom Dowd welcomed many of the faithful from a number of parishes across the diocese of Montreal to his first annual 'Lenten Retreat' which was held at Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in March of this year. Close to eight hundred people attended over the three nights and **The Pillars Trust Fund** provided free bus transportation service for parishioners who came from St. John Brébeuf Parish in LaSalle and parishioners from St. Edmund of Canterbury parish in Beaconsfield.

Pillars Trust sponsoring Bishop Tom Dowd's Late Sunday Mass

Weekend scheduling for some people can be quite hectic and getting to Mass either late Saturday afternoon or early Sunday morning may be problematic.

If getting to a Sunday service is important and meaningful to you, there is still an opportunity to complete your weekend with the Lord.

Come join **Bishop Thomas Dowd** at **Our Lady of Fatima Church** (875 Marcel-Laurin in Saint-Laurent, metro Côte-Vertu) at 8:00 p.m. every Sunday for Mass!





Since 1972

A Personal Witness to how **The Pillars Trust Fund** helps our Diocesan Youth

Holly-Kirsten Eugenio has been working with the Mission Jeunesse-Youth Ministry team of the Archdiocese of Montreal for the past five years. "Thanks to **The Pillars Trust Fund**, I am privileged to work among an amazing team of young people who love Jesus Christ and are passionate for the Mission".



All diocesan events, projects and pastoral responses of the Mission Jeunesse - Youth Ministry Office are organized with and for teens / young adults and youth ministers and their teams from the network.

Among these projects are:

- Diocesan World Youth Day
- International World Youth Day
- Apostles' Cup Ball Hockey Tournament
- Parish visits to support local Youth Ministry initiatives
- YOUCAT sessions
- Gathering of Youth Ministers

Continuous support to our English-speaking Catholic community

Counting on the grace of God, I look forward to continue serving the young people of the Archdiocese of Montreal thanks in part to help from **The Pillars Trust Fund**.

Pillars Trust sends 25 delegates to 'Forming Intentional Disciples' Conference, May 2015.

One delegate wrote a letter of thanks. Here is a brief excerpt...

"I extend my sincere thanks to **The Pillars Trust Fund** for sponsoring me to attend the **Forming Intentional Disciples** workshop which was held on Saturday, May 30, 2015 in Ogdensburg, New York. The fact that **Pillars** was prepared to sponsor people to attend the workshop is, for me, a sign that the Holy Spirit is indeed at work. Therefore I say again thank you for your support."

Deacon Gerry Turpin, St. - Veronica's Parish, Dorval.



"I've got an idea for a project ... Can Pillars help fund it?"

Pillars Trust could be of help if your project:

- Promotes the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ e.g. stimulates priestly vocations, helps youth grow in faith, hope and love or helps adults and seniors in need
- Can be scalable to the diocese even if initial focus is narrow (e.g. one parish)
- Could in future self-sustain or raise funds from other sources, reducing dependency on **Pillars**
- Has a strong leader accountable for the project and reports back to **Pillars** on deliverables upon request
- Has a sound plan with concrete steps to achieve objectives

Please donate NOW to our FALL CAMPAIGN

Donations to **The Pillars Trust Fund** are welcome at any time. When you donate to **Pillars Trust**, you are making an investment in sustaining good deeds by our English-speaking Catholic Community. Your support is essential. **Pillars Trust** is a Roman Catholic charitable organization campaigning in the Diocese of Montreal and through the generosity of its donors, **The Pillars Trust Fund** is supporting charitable activities which promote the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Read more at www.pillarstrust.org

Please contact today:

THE PILLARS TRUST FUND

2005, St-Marc St., Montreal, QC, H3H 2G8

Tel: 514-937-2301 ext. 255 Fax: 514-934-0453 ptf@catholiccentre.ca

www.pillarstrust.org

Charitable Registration No.: 11909 3326 RR0001

We are a Roman Catholic organization supporting activities which promote the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ