

# Insights and Encounters

Catholic Charities' Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 1 ~ Issue 1

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September 27, 2023

COMMUNITY/FAMILY SERVICES • PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS • SENIORS • CHILDREN AND YOUTH • YOUNG PARENTS

# Pilgrimage Trip to WYD 2023 in Portugal



*To go on pilgrimage is not simply to visit a place to admire its treasures of nature, art or history. To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.*

--- Pope Benedict XVI, The Apostolic Address to the Pilgrimage Site of Santiago de Compostela, Nov 6, 2010.

This past summer, staff from the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto (CCAS) and 12 young service recipients journeyed to Portugal for **World Youth Day**. Thanks to the generous funding from the Catholic Children's Aid Foundation (CCAF) and Catholic Charities, this trip was made possible.

We left Canada on July 25<sup>th</sup> and spent 15 days in Portugal. The first week of our trip was participating in the Days in the Diocese program and the intention of that program is to integrate pilgrims into the religious and cultural life of one parish in Portugal. Our assigned parish was Our Lady of Boavista, in the city of Porto. Their church community welcomed the youth with such warmth and hospitality. Our pilgrims lived in their homes, shared meals, and made lifetime friends with their host families. If one could put a label on the Portuguese national character, it would make mention of their inviting and welcoming spirit. The youth raved about their experience with the Days in the Diocese program, expressing opinions such as, "our host family was what you'd imagine the perfect family to be like".

We left Porto on July 31<sup>st</sup> and headed to Lisbon for the weeklong activities leading up to World Youth Day. In Lisbon, CCAS youth participated in concerts, prayer services, conference talks and generally expanded their knowledge about Catholic faith practices. It was busy and hectic everywhere we went, and at moments we were tired of the lineups, crowds, and the 40-degree weather. On the way to the vigil and final papal mass, we were fortunate to catch a glimpse of Pope Francis as he drove by us. We all pulled out our cameras and tried to capture the moment, and we did our best, but it went by so quickly. The vigil and papal mass were enduring as there were over 1.5 million people on site, and we had to find somewhere to sleep as our reserved site was already full. All the challenges made it feel like a true spiritual pilgrimage where we had to overcome the obstacles confronting us; but in the morning when the sun finally arose, we felt the real presence of God all around us.

The final leg of our trip was a stop at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. The youth were in awe at all those Catholic pilgrims making reparations by walking on their knees as they approached the apparition chapel where Our Blessed Mother appeared 126 years ago. We partook in the international prayer service and candlelit vigil, which was so moving that it left an indelible impression on our entire group. We wrapped up the trip with a final dinner and on August 9<sup>th</sup> we made our way back to Toronto. Like the quote from Pope Benedict above suggests, the true gifts of this WYD pilgrimage trip will only be known when we see the rich fruits of conversion and holiness among all those who attended.



# Summer Sign Language Program (SSLP)



Summer Sign Language Program (SSLP) day camp 2023 has started with a bang!

We are so thrilled to be able to offer our 49th year of SLSP camp in two locations this year: Toronto and Brampton! This has opened doors for many new children to experience camp for the first time! We are also excited to welcome some Deaf Ukrainian children to camp. SLSP offers all the children an opportunity to experience camp in American Sign Language (ASL), make new friends and peer connections, and meet Deaf role models. They will enjoy arts & crafts, sports, swimming, and field trips, such as to Ripley's Aquarium, Toronto Island, visiting a farm, going to Air Riderz (an indoor trampoline facility), and more!

We are looking forward to creating unforgettable memories at SLSP camp that will last a lifetime! Our deepest gratitude to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto and donors to ShareLife for making this possible! You change kids' lives!



## In Our Own Words

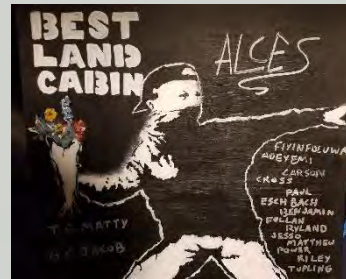
By: Benjamin Fullan



I went to **Camp Ozanam** last year for the first time and had a great time, so I came back again this year. I had a great time at Camp Ozanam because there are many things to do, including: swimming, biking, soccer, basketball, and lots more. I also like how nice and fun

the counsellors are. I had been looking forward to going all year! As soon as you get to camp and get off the bus, the counsellors sing songs and talk about why they like camp to make you feel comfortable and welcomed.

I had to wait 2 years through Covid-19 to finally experience camp. I was excited to see what Camp Ozanam was about because my dad had always talked about the magic of boys' camp. He had been a counsellor at Columbus Boys Camp and my grandpa had been a camper there as well. This summer, I was proud to win the best cabin plaque. I realized that my grandfather and my dad's best cabin plaques will hang on the wall with mine forever - 3 generations of Fullans at Boy's camp, 60 years apart. What a special place!



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto provides social services, leadership, and advocacy for its member agencies and the people they serve. At its core is Catholic Social Teaching that focuses on the poor and marginalized, urging us all to build a just society and safeguard the dignity of every person.

## Special Announcements

### The 2023 Fr. Paul Lennon/Doreen Cullen Social Work Scholarship Winners

In 2013, the Fr. Paul Lennon/Doreen Cullen Social Work Scholarship was established, on the occasion of CCAT's 100th anniversary to, honour Fr. Lennon and Ms. Cullen, two social workers and former executive directors of Catholic Charities whose wisdom and vision helped shape CCAT today.

Two dedicated young people with a demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of people on the margins are the recipients of this year's scholarship.

Recipient Ronald Perinpanayagam is entering his second year of the online Master of Social Work program at the University of Windsor, while Carmen Underwood is entering the first year of the same program. Each is well acquainted with the Catholic Charities community, as Mr. Perinpanayagam is a Clinical Resource Coordinator with the Adult Day Program at Providence Healthcare in Toronto, and Ms. Underwood works for the North Simcoe Youth Wellness Hub-Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County in Midland.

We look forward to presenting them with their awards during our Catholic Charities Week celebrations.

### New Scholarships & Awards from Catholic Charities!

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto is delighted to announce the creation of new scholarships designed to support learners from diverse backgrounds and capacities, including newcomers and people seeking refuge in Canada, outstanding and dedicated youth, and adults seeking to gain a degree or diploma or augment their skills in the services sector education such as in social work, community development, disability studies, and social services.

Beginning in 2024, five new scholarships, in the amounts of up to \$5,000 each, will be granted annually to recipients living, studying, or working within the Archdiocese of Toronto.

In addition, the Michael Fullan Community Service Awards of \$1,000, will be given annually to recognize achievement in the human services sector and meaningful service to a local community within the Archdiocese of Toronto.

More information about the prizes and scholarships, including the application criteria, will be posted on the Catholic Charities' website soon.

# *On the Horizon...*

## Catholic Charities Week

September 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Check out our week-long Blog series at [www.ccat.ca](http://www.ccat.ca)

Monday, September 25 – Our History – A Story of Humble Beginnings

Tuesday, September 26 – The Transformative Work of our Volunteers

Wednesday, September 27 – The Model of St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday, September 28 – CCAT & ShareLife – Working & Serving Together

Friday, September 29 – Inspired and Guided by the Great St. Michael

## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardinal's Dinner

Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Metro Toronto Convention Centre,  
255 Front St W



Archdiocese  
of Toronto

For more information go to [www.archtoronto.org/cardinals-dinner](http://www.archtoronto.org/cardinals-dinner)

# Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto

How you can contact member agencies of Catholic Charities

## MEMBER AGENCIES

### COMMUNITY/FAMILY SERVICES

**Catholic Community Services of York Region**  
1-800-263-2075  
www.ccsyr.org

**Catholic Crosscultural Services**  
416-757-7010  
www.cathcrosscultural.org

**Catholic Family Services Durham**  
1-877-282-8932  
www.cfsdurham.com

**Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin**  
905-450-1608  
www.cfspd.com

**Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County**  
1-800-726-2503  
www.cfssc.ca

**Catholic Family Services of Toronto**  
416-921-1163  
www.cfstoronto.com

### PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

**Mary Centre**  
416-630-5533  
www.marycentre.com

**Saint Elizabeth Health Care**  
905-940-9655  
www.sehc.com

**St. Bernadette 's Family Resource Centre**  
416-654-9810  
www.stbernadettesfrc.org

**St. Michael's Homes**  
**Our Place Community of Hope**  
416-926-8267  
www.stmichaelshomes.org

**Silent Voice Canada**  
416-463-1104 TTY  
416-463-3928  
www.silentvoice.ca

### SENIORS

**Centres d'Accueil Héritage (CAH)**  
416-365-3350  
www.lacentreforseniors.ca

**LA Centre for Active Living**  
416-452-4875  
www.loyolaarrupecentre.com

**Providence (Unity Health Toronto)**  
416-285-3666  
www.providence.on.ca

**Society of Sharing**  
416-413-0380  
www.societyofsharing.org

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Catholic Childrens Aid Society of Toronto**  
416-395-1500  
www.torontoccas.ca

**Covenant House of Toronto**  
1-800-435-7308  
www.covenanthousetoronto.com

### YOUNG PARENTS

**Rosalie Hall**  
416-438-6880  
www.rosaliehall.com

**Rose of Durham**  
**(Young Parents Division of CFS Durham)**  
905-432-3622  
www.roseofdurham.com

**Rose of Sharon**  
905-853-5514  
www.roseofsharon.com

**Vita Centre**  
905-502-7933  
www.vitacentre.org

## AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

**Camp Ozanam**  
**(Society of ST. Vincent de Paul)**  
416-364-5577  
info@ssvptoronto.ca

**Good Shepherd Ministries**  
416-869-3619  
www.goodshepherd.ca

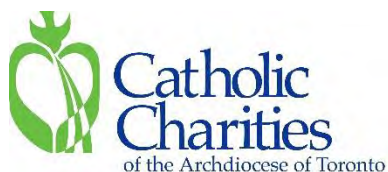
**Birthright International**  
1-800-550-4900  
www.birthright.org

**St. Marguerite Bourgeoys**  
**FertilityCare Toronto**  
416-465-2868  
www.fertilitycare.ca

**Natural Family Planning Association**  
416-481-5465  
www.toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca

To learn more about  
Catholic Charities go to:

[www.ccat.ca](http://www.ccat.ca)



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