

Insights and Encounters

Catholic Charities' Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2 ~ Issue 3

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September 2024

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

Catholic Charities

2024 Scholarship & Awards

This year, Catholic Charities Week heralds the announcement of our 2024 Scholarship, Community Service Awards, and Family Bursary recipients. Building from our single scholarship offering just one year ago, Catholic Charities is proud to be presenting five scholarships, three community service awards, and four bursaries this year. This growth is a testament to our commitment to education and community service, filling us with pride and optimism for the future.

Our goal to grow our slate of scholarship and awards offerings was realized with the support of the Sisters of Service, who pledged to support refugees and new immigrants in our community. Inspired by their generosity, we were eager to establish the Cardinal Collins Palliative Care & Gerontology Studies Scholarship, the Indigenous Community Youth Leadership Scholarship, the Lifelong Learner Scholarship, and the Michael Fullan Community Service Awards.

With the generous patronage of yet another donor, we created the Pantaleo Family Bursary, to provide financial support for the educational pursuits of young families. This continued growth is welcome news to our Scholarship & Awards Committee.

Committee Chair Nicola Harris shared her perspective, "Scholarships are a great source of financial assistance for post-secondary students. Unlike loans, scholarship funds are free money. That means that individuals are able to stress less and focus more on their studies. We feel honored to be able to facilitate the support for these well-deserved individuals and contribute to building our leaders of tomorrow".

Selected from a vast pool of submissions, our recipients exemplify a strong commitment not only to their education but also to their communities. They demonstrate tenacity in pursuing their goals in the face of adversity, which we recognize as an achievement unto itself. We look forward to celebrating their accomplishments in a private reception with His Grace Archbishop Francis Leo.

HONOUR ROLL
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

 FELICIA KONTOPIDIS CARDINAL COLLINS PALLIATIVE CARE & GERONTOLOGY STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT	 CHRISTIAN CIMINO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT	 RABINA NYTKO DR. PAUL LANSAN PALLIATIVE CARE & GERONTOLOGY STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT	 LYNNA FRASER-MOORE DR. PAUL LANSAN PALLIATIVE CARE & GERONTOLOGY STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
 VICTORY OKELGO LIFELONG LEARNER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT	 FABIOLA CRUZ-LI LIFELONG LEARNER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT	 ARMITA SASANI LIFELONG LEARNER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT	

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto

HONOUR ROLL
MICHAEL FULLAN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

CATHERINE CLARKE

MEHMOOD MURAD

DR. GEORGINA WILCOCK

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto

HONOUR ROLL
PANTALEO FAMILY BURSARY FUND RECIPIENTS

ASHLEY MITCHELL

HAYLEE PALLISTER

LEAH SANDHU

ANIKI SINGH

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto

50th Annual Silent Voice Summer Camp



This past summer marked our 50th year running our Sign Language Summer Program (SLSP) day camp! Despite receiving funding cutbacks from government funders, we did not let this deter our goal of ensuring we provide an amazing summer to our Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, their siblings and children who have Deaf parents.

We ran two camp locations – one in Toronto and one in Milton. We were able to welcome 80 children to our camps. SLSP provided a fully immersive ASL environment where campers connected with peers and deepened their ASL skills. Our children enjoyed various activities like slime fights, tie-dyeing, carnival day, swimming, games, crafts, and sports. We went on fantastic trips to Legoland, Soccer Glow Kingdom, and Kortright Conservation Centre, and we did our traditional summer wrap-up at Canada's Wonderland!

Deaf and signing counsellors provide incredible role models and change the lives of campers who otherwise experience extreme isolation. We created a lifetime of memories with help from Catholic Charities supported by ShareLife. Deep gratitude for supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing kids and youth!

A Fresh Start for Rose of Sharon



As the needs of our families in York Region community continue to expand, so must we. The incredible achievements of our staff and clients in our previous space were remarkable, and now with nearly double the room, we are excited to see even greater possibilities. We are fortunate to have found a new location that allows us to grow and enhance our services.

In our new space, we will continue to run our high school, offer breakfasts and lunches, conduct cooking classes, provide counseling, and host educational workshops and programs for pregnant and parenting young women. Additionally, our child enrichment program for babies and children, along with our highly sought-after food pantry and Rosie's Closet, will flourish.

We support 120 to 150 families each month with shelf-stable and fresh foods, baby food, baby formula, proteins, clothing, and personal hygiene products. This move will enable us to better accommodate the generous contributions from our community, build a larger inventory, and meet the needs of hungry babies and young moms who struggle to afford nutritious food during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

This new space will facilitate the development of more partnerships and provide a hub for our community agencies, reducing transportation costs for our young moms and enhancing our support network. We are deeply thankful and truly blessed by the incredible support we've received from our community. From the generous donation of our kitchen and the new Rosie's Closet to the contributions of essential furniture—such as eight workstations, a reception desk, reception furniture, kitchen tables, boardroom tables, filing cabinets, chairs, and more—the list of support goes on. We are privileged to be part of such a caring and supportive community that values and shares our commitment of the work we do.

CCSYR's New Location



Did you know we moved to a new location this summer?

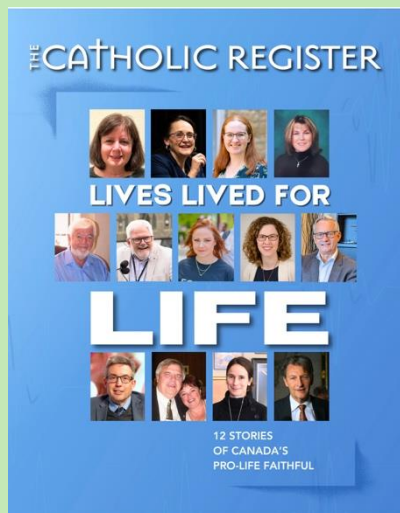
We hosted our Meet and Greet Pancake Breakfast at 50 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill – the new location, on August 13. We welcomed all our neighbours from the building and plaza for coffee, tea, pancakes, and fruits!

It was a delightful, casual morning as we got the chance to meet our neighbours and introduce ourselves. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and friendly smiles, making it a pleasure to reconnect with familiar faces and make new friends.

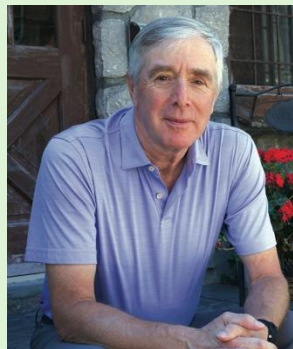
We look forward to sharing this space as we collaborate and serve the community together in the future.



THE CATHOLIC REGISTER SINCE 1893



In Our Own Words



Peter Stockland
Publisher-Editor
The Catholic Register

This October 6, [The Catholic Register](#) will publish the special full-colour magazine *Lives Lived for Life*, which features 12 stories of Canadians whose lives are dedicated to the cause of life as taught by the Church.

“Our intention is to celebrate the people we feature as a representative group of all those across Canada who champion life from birth to natural death as a key element of their Catholic faith,” says *Register* Publisher-Editor Peter Stockland. “From the outset of the project we’ve been intentional about focusing on their humanity, their personal motivations and challenges, not giving readers page after page of ideological polemic.”

The approach appeals to both the Daily TV Mass and the Salt and Light television network. Together, Canada’s largest Catholic media organizations have collaborated to spread the message of life.

From October 6 to October 12, Daily TV Mass will offer Masses for Prayers for Life and is asking for prayer intentions to be sent during the lead-up to the airing.

On October 16, Salt and Light will feature a 30-minute segment as part of its Behold series that will centre on interviews with four of those interviewed for the *Register’s Lives Lived for Life*.

“In my years of journalism, I’ve never been more proud of a project than I am of the magazine because of the humanity and hope it conveys,” Stockland says. “Equally gratifying is seeing the spirit of collaboration at work thanks to Salt and Light and Daily TV Mass. It’s apostolic journalism alive for life within the Church, and, boy, is that a sign of hope.”

More information on the magazine, Salt and Light’s program, and Daily Mass details are available at www.lives4life.org

Human Dignity and the Call of the Gospel

Dr. Agnes Thomas

From her experience living in a L'Arche community, she writes about human dignity and Christ's teaching on it.

I began to understand and explore the concept of human dignity as a core value when I started living in the community of [L'Arche](#). Understanding what it means to uphold your dignity, dignified behaviours, etc., was commonplace in terms of growing up. However, I later realised that the notion of dignity was often intertwined with social constructs like class, caste, gender, occupation, and abilities. It was not seen as an inherent quality possessed by all humans but rather as something earned or inherited, placing individuals in a hierarchical or social order. L'Arche offers a different worldview by organising community life where people with and without disabilities live together, sharing everyday life and work. This inclusive design removes barriers to participation, ensuring that everyone has a role to play. At L'Arche, upholding the value of human dignity is not just an aspiration but a way of life. While I am not seeking to idealise L'Arche, as I acknowledge that the community has its drawbacks, I do want to share a few characteristics of community life that are transformational for people who are open to taking a long look at themselves and dare to ask how we treat the world and people who are not like us.

Reflecting on my experiences a couple of decades later, various themes emerged as I began to critically examine the notion of human dignity from the lens of a believer, social scientist, and social justice advocate. In this article, I will share some of the themes and experiences that influenced me over the years. I will also address the questions that I am challenged with and that still influence my choices and leadership practices, that involve humans from all walks of life, particularly people facing disparities and living on the margins of our societies. The key questions we will reflect on are: What do we mean by human dignity, and can we find examples in the teachings of Christ? How does a community like L'Arche provide us with tools to assess our own views and assumptions of human dignity? What can we learn from the L'Arche example, and how do we apply our learning in our everyday lives?



Read the full article here: <https://ccat.ca/23september2024/>

The most important lesson here for me was that the gift of people is revealed to us when we accept them for who they are and for their capacity to help us transform into better humans. These experiences led me to understand the Beatitudes (Matthew, 5:1-12) and the Gospel's core teachings, which challenge us and offer clear guidance for a life of righteousness, grace, and compassion.



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published by Jesus Youth, an International Catholic
Movement approved by the Holy See

On the Horizon...

CATHOLIC CHARITIES WEEK

  **INSIGHTS & ENCOUNTERS
THE PODCAST**

THE COMPASSION SERIES: SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 1, 2024

EPISODE 1:
Honouring Uniqueness and Collective Growth:
Nicholas Herd & John Guido's Journey in L'Arche
September 24, 2024

EPISODE 2:
Understanding Refugees: From Sponsorship to Friendship
with Brian Joel and Bob & Nancy McElhinney
September 25, 2024

EPISODE 3:
From Service to Hospice through Trust and Dignity
with Felicia Kontopidis
September 26, 2024

EPISODE 4:
Where is the Church? A Deacon's Walk Among Toronto's
Most Vulnerable with Deacon Robert Kinghorn
September 27, 2024

EPISODE 5:
Bridging Past and Present:
Graydon Nicholas on Indigenous Healing and Dialogue
September 30, 2024

EPISODE 6:
Understanding Compassion as a Threat to
Transformation and Manifestation of Love
with Dr. Agnes Thomas
October 1, 2024


Scan Me!

2024

HER
Empowering Against Gender-Based Violence
fundraising event




MC TARA MYSHRALL
WOMENTECH NETWORK
SPEAKER OF THE YEAR


ANDREA MACLEOD
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Thursday November 14 | Newmarket Old Town Hall | 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



Call To Find Out More: 289-317-3786 | Visit: ccsy.org/her2024 | Email: mdiaz@ccsy.org

Accredited by Canadian Centre for Accreditation | Agréé par Centre canadien de l'agrément

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto provides leadership, supports social services, and facilitates 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.

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 of 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 DISABILITIES

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.caheritage.org

LA Centre for Active Seniors
416-452-4875
www.lacentreforseniors.ca

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

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

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Catholic Children's 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

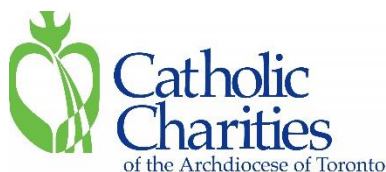
Birthright International
1-800-550-4900
www.birthright.org

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

Natural Family Planning Association
437-600-9333
www.toronto.naturalfamilyplanning.ca

To learn more about
Catholic Charities go to:

www.ccat.ca



Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Toronto

1155 Yonge Street, Suite #400
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1W2

Executive Director: Agnes Thomas
T: 416-934-3401 F: 416-934-3402

E: info@ccat.ca
www.ccat.ca

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