

What's Up

June 2022 ♦ IBVM CANADA



Circle the Cities With Love ©Mary Southard, CSJ www.ministryofhearts.org.

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It is spring!

We find joy each spring in cultivating the earth and watching the plants flourish into summer.



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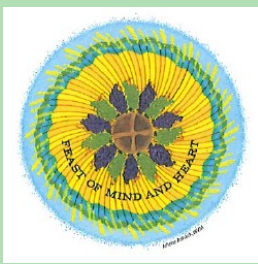
Loretto Schools



Birthdays Pizza lunch at Loretto College: L-R are Pushpa, Solomon, Alice, Sr Carmen, Daryl, Sr Petite, Marcella & Eva

Do you remember?

Evanne Hunter



At the Feast of Mind and Heart in Monroe, Michigan the presider at a beautiful lit-

urgy was Philip Chircop, a young Jesuit who, as one retreatant puts it, “he shone with wisdom and exuberance”. He was born on the island of Malta, was ordained to the priesthood in 1988 and then joined the Jesuit Novitiate in Malta. He has become an internationally renowned Retreat Director, living in a Jesuit community in Toronto but often on the road nourishing peoples’ faith.

He is also an accomplished writer and photographer who wrote this poem for the feast of Pentecost:

WINDS BLOWING

A Pentecostal strong wind blows deep within and through our fears.

Not a gentle breeze, but a wind that kindles fire,
A wind strong enough to awaken us from our slumber requiring attention and respect.

It comes to dent our complacency and glossy exteriors

marking us as surely as the baptismal oil of our beginning.

A wind violent and furious at times,
wild enough to dry our moisture
that we may thirst again for Living Waters.
We don't need another Pentecost –
we just need to deploy the one we have!

Front cover photos: Clockwise from top left are Associate Melinda, Sr Jeanne & Alice at Loretto College, Sr Helen's nasturtiums at Presentation Manor, white daffodils in full bloom at Loretto Maryholme, Chris & Risa planting new trees at Loretto Maryholme

Presentation Manor

It's spring at Presentation Manor! Time to get outside to prune shrubs and clean up the garden in preparation for annual planting.



Cabrini Fahlman in the garden

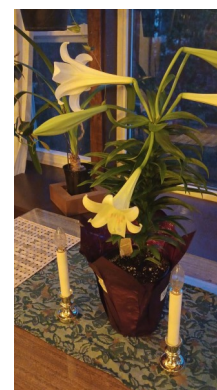
Loretto House

Mary Mallany

Rejoice in the Lord Always: Our Easter celebration included a special dinner with some regular friends of Loretto House and some new young friends who were participants in the Lenten series of conversations around Reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of Canada. We began with a blessing that invited us to share what were our hopes and/or dreams for the coming year. One of our guests had been confirmed at the Vigil! We were nine all together and for COVID sake we spread out into two rooms. That made it easier to get to know one another. At my table we shared about the various Triduum services we had attended. With stories, laughter and good food, the evening was a highlight for each of us. We will repeat this next Easter for sure and in the meantime we're planning to keep in touch. Next event: a tour of the cherry blossoms in High Park.



Easter table and lily in celebration



Mary Ward Centre (MWC)

Sarah Rudolph

In April, the Mary Ward Centre team celebrated the accomplishments of our intern, **Zindzi Malanca**, as she finished the academic year and her internship at the Centre. We are grateful for the many ways Zindzi contributed her skills across our program areas, especially her graphic design and social media skills. We wish her a restful summer and look forward to seeing her again in the fall. The team also wished **Petite** a bon voyage as she spends the next few months in the Philippines caring for her mother. Petite will remain connected with us keeping us up-to-date on Indigenous issues while she is away.

Sarah is working with the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children (CCRC) to advocate for better accountability for children in federal legislative, policy and program development. Together, with two other members of the CCRC, she met with MPs Leah Gazan (NDP), Jenica Atwin (Lib), and Laila Goodridge (Con), as well as Senator Rosemarie Moody to talk about Canada's obligations to children and to explore opportunities for collaboration. The Canadian government was reviewed by the United Nations on its obligations to children May 17-18 and follow up actions will begin in the fall. Sarah continues to work with the IBVM/CJ UN NGO to facilitate youth engagement in UN processes. She is working with Janet Palafox to establish a program for girl advocates from CJ/IBVM schools to be involved in UN initiatives through the Working Group on Girls.

Eva continues to develop her school-based educational program to prevent trafficking and exploitation of youth. She has met with representatives of both the public and Catholic school systems and aims to pilot the program in the fall.

Kathy began leading a group of pilgrims on a journey through the Imperial Cities of Europe which concludes with the renowned Passion Play in Oberammergau. The inhabitants of the Bavarian town of Oberammergau promised God in 1634 that if God would spare them from the bubonic plague, they would enact the Passion of Jesus every ten years. With very few exceptions, (during WW1 and WW2 and most recently due to COVID in 2020) the people have remained faithful to their promise.



The Mary Ward Centre will soon have the privilege of opening its doors to “real” students onsite for retreat. St. Joseph’s High School has booked the Centre for its special Grade 12 retreat on June 7th. The graduating students are really looking forward to some inspiring and nurturing in-person community time together. Later that week we will be facilitating two Grade 11 Retreats for Senator O’Connor High School.

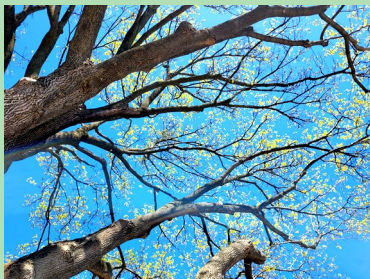


To the left are images of Gr. 11 students on a Retreat that Kathy facilitated at Manresa, Pickering on May 12.

Loretto Maryholme

Carol Ivens

Loretto Maryholme is busy as a beehive as we get ready for the season ahead with our various Guided and Silent retreats. Our Women Spirituality circles have resumed gathering onsite, the 3-day Silent retreats have had full attendance, many individuals have made private retreats, and plans for the summer solstice are being considered. With COVID seemingly less prevalent, more groups (Caritas, Cronos, SOS, Buddhist, Loretto College, etc) are making bookings and we look forward to their presence.



The trees are budding, the flowers are blooming, and 5 fox kits are scampering across the lawn.



Gardens and paths are being refreshed with new signs and maintenance on a roof and bedroom ceiling will soon be finished. The hyacinths and lilacs with their heady fragrances have us pause and drink in Mother Nature's gift to us. We are blessed!



Loretto College

Emily VanBerkum

The 2021-2022 academic year has come to a successful completion! The Loretto College Dean's Office would like to extend a big, heartfelt thank you to the College's hardworking and dedicated Dons, House Council members, house staff, Mary Ward Centre/Finance/Leadership Office/Kitchen staff, guards, and Facilities Manager for ensuring that we could keep our residence community safe, happy, and healthy! It takes a community of care to navigate the pandemic - and we did so with grace, humour, prayer, and patience.

The summer session has already started and it's going to be a busy one. Nearly a dozen former students will revisit their old stomping grounds by staying overnight in Loretto once again for Spring Reunion at the end of May. There will be undergraduate students staying on throughout the summer months, and the English School of Canada will resume its summer programming at the College in June.



To the left is a photo of the 2021-2022 Don team (Claire, Thandi, and Nishitha). They participated in a "Loretto College

photo shoot" so that we'd have updated photos for promotional materials, the website, and social media outlets advertising the vibrancy of the residence ministry.

Now over the summer months, the work of preparing for a new academic year begins. The admissions cycle and preparation for campus welcome days, residence orientation, as well as Don and House Council leadership training is in full swing. For the 2022-23 school year, we look forward to increasing the College's overall occupancy along with a gradual return of the pre-pandemic resident experience. Residents will once again be assigned to double rooms, we've elected House Council members, and hired a complement of four Dons to help lead our resident programming and community building! Onwards and upwards!

Doing More Together Than We Can Alone

Evanne Hunter & Jane McDonell

Ignatian Spirituality Project: With a group of Religious Congregations of men and women, we are forming a new “collaborative” on the model of Becoming Neighbours. The US Jesuits began this initiative 25 years ago. The Canadian Jesuits initiated it in Montreal and then in Toronto, in 2016 through Regis College. With the new collaborators, the plan is to expand it across Canada.

The programme is offered to men and women who are recovering from homelessness and addiction. They may have access to social supports like housing, food banks, counselling and psychological services to help them on their road to recovery. What they lack, and what the ISP Team offers, is spiritual care and accompaniment. Results have been heartwarming.

Retreat, Spirituality and Ecology Centres: Both the Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada and ourselves are contemplating ways to ensure the continuation of our spirituality/ecology centres, Villa St Joseph and Loretto Maryholme. We value the work of these centres and wish to explore together the challenges and opportunities facing us as we plan for the future.

From a shared leadership conversation, we decided to invite people who are connected to educational institutions (e.g. U of T, USMC, U St P, Trent U) and faith-based groups (e.g. Faith and the Common Good) that are involved in eco-spirituality initiatives and programs. Several individuals have shown interest in a Zoom meeting in which the conversation will centre on what connections can be made between and among us that could lead to collaborative efforts.

Healing Forest Initiative: In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission a Healing Forest Initiative was begun to create green spaces “to honour residential school victims, survivors, and their families, as well as murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls, and children who have been removed from their families and are now caught in the welfare system”.

For many years Loretto Maryholme has had a Sisters in Spirit cairn in memory of murdered and missing Indigenous women, a Peace Pole, and a labyrinth in the woods

for the public to visit and use for reflection. To further awareness and education an existing spring garden will become the New Beginnings garden whose focus will be on reconciliation, healing, shared understanding and respect. Working with the Initiative project the Centre hopes to have this area designated as a Healing Forest.

Collaborative Housing Initiative: The “Gathering Place”: With Becoming Neighbours (BN) we are part of an initiative begun by Catholic Cross Cultural Services (CCCS), an agency of Catholic Charities. In June of 2019, some Religious Congregation members of BN formed a Sub-Committee on Affordable Housing and secured funds to undertake a feasibility study along with CCCS. Since that time, Sonjia Nerad of SN Management has been working to create a consortium of partners and find financial resources to move forward with the project.

The vision for the “Gathering Place” is to have affordable housing within a facility that, under one roof, houses providers of a range of services and makes space available for community engagement and inter-generational community building for immigrants and refugees.

Sonjia reports regularly to an Advisory Committee where Evanne and Peter McKenna represent the Collaborative Housing Ad Hoc Group and Carmen is one representative of the CCCS Board.

Archives



Srs Evanne, Jane and Mary

Jane, Mary, and Evanne along with Michelle and Robert attended the official opening of the new Archdiocese Centre for Archives et al. Cardinal Collins presided

at a liturgy in St Peter’s Church and proceeded to the new centre to bless the various offices. When he came to ours and saw the portrait of Mary Ward, he began to sing the Maxims of Mary Ward and we all joined in. A lovely luncheon followed.

The Loretto Associated Schools and the TCDSB

Evanne Hunter

Four things have happened in the last few months that demonstrate how the Loretto / Mary Ward charism is still alive in the Toronto Catholic School Board and the three Loretto Associated Schools.

1. John Yan, Director launched an appeal to TCDSB staff and others to raise funds to enable the Loretto Fund in the Angel Foundation to help meet the needs of Ukrainian Refugee children who are expected to enter the schools. The goal of \$50,000.00 was met within three weeks.
2. A joint effort of Loretto Abbey and Mary Ward CSS begun in 2019 took over two years to complete because of school interruptions due to COVID. It was finally completed in December 2021. A total of \$24,491.00 was sent to the IBVM Eastern Africa Province to fund the drilling of a borehole for water for the Loretto School in Buswelu, Tanzania.



L to R: TCDSB Director & Chaplaincy team, cooking up burgers, Santa & Sr Evanne (in brown) at the Xmas market

3. A tremendous effort at Loretto College School in March/April resulted in a contribution to humanitarian relief for the victims of the war in Ukraine. Grade 9 students brought articles for babies; grade 10 brought toiletries; grade 11 brought food; grade 12 brought household items and clothing. The local Trustee, Frank D'Amico, arranged for a TCDSB truck to deliver the goods to St Demetrius Ukrainian Church where volunteers re-packed it all. With the help of Loretto College School Alumnae of the class of 1965, the organization "Fourth Wave" agreed to handle the logistics and pay the cost of shipping the goods to the Ukraine.
4. Mary Ward CSS students collected a variety of goods for Street Haven at the Crossroads, a shelter for women founded in 1965 by Loretto Abbey Graduate Peggy Ann Walpole. The Drop In provides meals, clothing, art therapy and counselling. The Haven provides housing and shelter for about 60 women. The Learning Centre helps women develop basic skills in literacy, numeracy and computers as well as job search techniques.



Students with goods collected for Ukraine



The Lead the Convo team preparing care packages

When we handed over the schools to the School Board we made a leap of faith in their assurance that the ethos and history of Loretto would be honoured. So far, that trust has proved to be well placed.

Thanks to Michael Swan, the Catholic Register covered three of these endeavours:

[Angel Foundation steps up for war refugees](#)

[Loretto College Ukraine donation aims to make a difference](#)

[Students take the lead on social justice](#)

Photos top to bottom courtesy: Loretto Abbey,
Michael Swan, Lead the Convo