

Pastoral Home Care
Service

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Pastoral Home Care

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Dates to remember:

- World Day of the Sick :
February 11, 2009
- Parish Pastoral Home Care **statistics** for December, January and February are due on **March 10th. Thank You!**
- PHC Coordinator's Meeting on **Thursday March 19th** at 10:00 at 2000 Sherbrooke St.

Every happening, great and small, is a parable whereby God speaks to us, and the art of life is to get the message.

-Malcolm Muggeridge

Reaching Out

Welcome to the first edition of the Pastoral Home Care newsletter! The idea behind this initiative is to connect all of the pastors, coordinators and volunteers who are involved in the ministry of Pastoral Home Care throughout the English speaking parishes of the diocese of Montreal. Feel free to forward this along to members of your Pastoral Home Care team or other parishioners who may be interested.

It has been a pleasure to have had the chance to meet with many of you and to see the wonderful work going on in parishes across

the diocese. It has been encouraging to see the individual commitment of so many of you to bring a listening presence to those in our Eucharistic communities who are now homebound or ill.

This newsletter will be another way for us to connect a few times throughout the



year to share resources, ideas and news concerning Pastoral Home Care. If you have an idea, or something

that you would like to share with others, please feel free to contact me and I will include your event or resource in the next issue of the newsletter.

The ministry we share is a privilege we are called to share with one another as well as those that we visit.

As we celebrate World Day Of the Sick 2009, let us remember one another in prayer and in a special way all those who are sick in our parish communities and throughout the world.

- *Cathie Macaulay*

World Day of the Sick

The World Day of the Sick, February 11, 2009, is sponsored by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Health Pastoral Care and has been celebrated since 1992 on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. This celebration is

a reminder to pray for all those who are sick and to recognize the service of healthcare providers, pastoral home care visitors and caregivers. This year a liturgical resource booklet has been put together to help

plan liturgical celebrations in conjunction with World day of the Sick. These booklets have been sent to each parish. A digital version is available at: www.diocesemontreal.org

Ascending Life

Ascending Life is a lay movement in Church for seniors and persons over 55 years



Ascending Life is a lay movement in Church for seniors and persons over 55 years

based on the belief that retirement years should be years of activity and challenge.

It is a Christian movement that believes that as long as we live we should move for-

Making the most of your retirement years

ward and onward to new horizons, new experiences in growth of mind, heart and spirit. The essential elements and objectives of Ascending Life Canada are: Spirituality, Mission (loving service) and Friendship. Groups meet on a regular basis to pray with scripture and to discuss their experi-

ence of

Would members of your parish be interested in starting a group?

For more information contact: **Ronald Beaupré**, North American Coordinator, Ascending Life

450-655-0795

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When he went ashore he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

Mt 14:14

Sacred Space

It is an important part of our ministry as Pastoral Home Care volunteers to spend time and attention on our own spiritual growth in order to accompany others in theirs.

A practical resource in this area is Sacred Space www.sacredspace.ie which is a website put together by the

Irish Jesuits, that facilitates taking a few moments for prayer while at your computer screen.

Each day you are given a certain theme to focus on. You are led through a six stage selection of prayer and scripture and the screen fades in transition between these

steps in a gentle way. It is very user friendly, even with a "Need Inspiration?" link that you can click on should you become "stuck".

It is a good way to connect with God in the midst of everyday activity and may be a helpful resource to some of those we visit who are 'online'

Handbook for Ministers of Care

Genevieve Glen, OSB, Marliyn Kofler, SP, Kevin O'Connor

Liturgy Training Publications, 1997
ISBN:1-56854-102-3

This helpful resource emphasizes the role that ministers of

care have in bringing the "compassion and communion of the church to the sick and homebound." This book was written as a resource for those who seek to develop their gifts as ministers of care .

Topics include:

A theology of sickness and suffering

How the communion ritual works

Practical advice on making pastoral visits

How to take care of yourself while caring for others

A copy of this book is available on loan from the Pastoral Home Care Office.

It is also available for purchase through the CCCB website for \$10.00

"God wants you to come close"

