



St. Ignatius
OF LOYOLA



The Fruit of Our Giving

Transformed Lives
2019



Message from the Pastor

Things were well underway in our preparation of this booklet in early March. The articles were written, most of the layout was finished, and we were thinking about presenting it to our parishioners on Palm Sunday, April 5. But the coronavirus had other plans... and the lockdown meant our goal of offering you a timely, printed annual report went out the window. But we still wanted you to have an overview of all the great things that happened at St. Ignatius in 2019.

I trust that as you look back over the last year, you will be as confident as I am that we have the team in place that will enable us to meet all the uncertainty that 2020 holds. I know that St. Ignatius will not only survive this pandemic crisis but will emerge stronger and more robust.

...

I am amazed at what we accomplished in 2019. In June we hosted a DR (Divine Renovation) Open House. This conference saw close to 50 people from a dozen parishes in Montreal and Ottawa join us to learn about how we've begun moving our parish from maintenance to mission. More impactful than anything that was said,

perhaps, were the dozens and dozens of volunteers who helped make the day such a welcoming and warm experience for all our guests.

At Pentecost, we saw 97 people come forward to say that they'd had a transformative encounter with Jesus Christ this past year. Whether through Alpha or in some other way, a profound experience of God and his Holy Spirit had made their lives more fulfilling, joyful, peaceful or they had found healing in Him. I was so moved by being able to bless them and have them offer us all a blessing as well.

I would say that at some point in 2019 St. Ignatius entered Phase 2 of the parish renewal process. This means that we have gained momentum and moved out of the old maintenance model of parish life, but have not yet become fully missional in focus. This phase of our renewal will again require people to move out of their comfort zones as we focus on learning how to make missionary disciples. Disciples follow Jesus; while missionary disciples go even further by bringing others to Jesus.

I think of the apostle Andrew as the first truly missionary disciple. He met Jesus and decided to follow him, but also went to get his brother and brought him to Jesus, too. His brother went on to become Peter, the leader of the apostles and the first leader of the Church. I would love to be able to bring hundreds of future leaders in our church to that initial transformational encounter with Jesus and help them grow as disciples and leaders. And I would love for us to become a parish of Andrews, so that we live out our mission to "Go and make disciples of all nations".

God Bless,

Fr. Mike

Remembering Cora Hackett

In February, with the passing of Cora Hackett, St. Ignatius lost one of its most steadfast and loyal supporters. Cora grew up in NDG and was involved with this parish for 25 years, during which time she was a warden and a member of the altar society. She brought communion to house-bound parishioners, and worked at L'Arche, the organization which supports people with developmental disabilities.

Cora was an avid traveler, writer, and a lifelong learner, she earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the age of 50, after 9 years of evening studies while working full-time for the federal government. In her retirement, she was an active senior who continued to travel, worked with stained glass, and enrolled in creative writing classes.

In her final years, she enjoyed visits from St. Ignatius parishioners who brought communion to her, and she received the Anointing of the Sick from Fr. Mike. Cora passed away on February 17, 2019. May she reap eternal rewards in heaven for having lived a faith-filled life.



Legacy Giving

We are so grateful that Cora Hackett chose to include a bequest to St. Ignatius in her last will and testament. We are proud to have added her name to the memorial plaque at the back of the church.

Your support helps us develop a community where we can discover and experience the joy and love of Jesus and develop authentic relationships with each other. You help us to keep our spiritual home a place where people encounter Jesus, choose to follow him, and become fully alive. With your help, we can continue to welcome new people into our home, and invite new families to discover Jesus' love.

Jesus said "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (MT 6:21) Making a gift to St. Ignatius in your will allows your heart to find its true place. If our parish life is an important part of your life today, please consider supporting our vision and helping us build a sustainable future. You can find information on Legacy Giving on our website at stig.ca, by clicking on the "Give" button, or by calling the office at 514 481 7768.

Divine Renovation Open House

Joining the Divine Renovation Network over 3 years ago has been an incredible, sometimes difficult, but always fruitful experience for our church community. We have seen individuals who are far from Christ come closer, have their lives changed, and choose to follow him right here in our context at St. Ignatius! These are not isolated events, and we continue to see our church grow not only in numbers but also in depth of faith, service, and leadership. This amazing fruit of our new parish life cannot help but make us feel like we ought to give back to our Archdiocese of Montreal.



In June, we hosted our own Divine Renovation Open House. Twelve parishes were represented by 47 people in attendance, including 7 priests, and our Diocesan Episcopal Vicar, Fr. Ray Lafontaine. We were amazed at the turnout and honoured to host church leaders from Ottawa, Montreal and surrounding areas who wanted to make disciples in their communities.

The parish Senior Leadership Team each presented workshops at a variety of breakout sessions, touching on topics such as “Transforming the Sunday

Experience”, “Leadership is a Team Sport” and “20/20 Vision”. Parish staff and leaders were supported by close to 35 volunteers, including our 11am Mass band, serving in roles that saw our guests well-fed, well-served, welcomed, and prayed for throughout the conference. Volunteers also took roles leading worship and emceeding the breakout sessions. We are so grateful for these volunteers whose service exceeded our expectations and left a lasting and positive impression on our guests. Thank you, friends!

Since the Open House, St. Ignatius staff and leaders were pleased to learn that St. Bonaventure parish in Rosemont joined the Divine Renovation Network (the DR Network’s first Francophone parish!). The parish is being coached directly by Fr. Mike. Staff members Stephen Corsi and Adrian Rojo de la Vega have also been informally coaching and supporting leaders from Jesus Light of the World and St. John Fisher parishes to run their Alpha programs.

We continue to pray that God uses our parish to bring light and hope to our Diocese and our city of Montreal. We love our city, and we know that Jesus has called us to bring His Gospel to those living here.



DR Open House Feedback

We asked our guests to share their experience of the DR Open House...and they responded!

"Hospitality was fantastic. The greeter who met me set the tone with a welcome hug after we chatted!!"

"Fr. Mike's presentation for the priests provided a direction for me moving ahead in my parish, very helpful."



"I loved the experience and hope to have a parish like yours one day."

"St. Ignatius should be very proud of the DR Open House. It was very positive and hope filled."

"Thank you very much for your testimony and your determination ... It is really inspiring."



A Note from Father Matthew Keshwah, Pastor, Saint Isidore Parish, Kanata, Ontario

In June, I drove to Montreal with 8 parishioners and members of our church staff to attend St. Ignatius' DR Open House. Thank you to Fr. Michael and his team for putting on such an amazing day of talks, small group discussions, prayer, worship and warm hospitality. Since attending your Open House, our parish was inspired to host the Alpha Program three times, with a total of 130 participants.

Thanks to the ideas and inspiration we received at your Open House,

we are seeing first-hand how this type of parish renewal is not only possible, but very fruitful. We also recently joined the Divine Renovation Network. Not only are you transforming the lives of people in your parish community, but you are also inspiring other people, parishes, and pastors to do likewise. Thank you for having the courage, investing the resources, and for making the time to host your DR Open House last June. It made such a difference in my parish, and in the



lives of the people in our community who are returning to the faith. May God continue to bless the good work happening at St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish.

My REVIVE Retreat Experience

Kathleen Ryan Watson

I had said no so many times and for too long... I have been going to St. Ignatius my whole life, but nothing really compelled me to participate outside of the mandatory hour for Mass every week. I hadn't been part of the youth group (IgNation) or volunteered in any capacity. I didn't know anyone in the parish by name – only which pew they sat in on Sundays. In the spring of 2019 I finally said yes to Alpha V, the rest of my family was already involved in the church. After Alpha I wanted more... and that chance came with Revive! Adrian Rojo had been asking every week after Mass if I was attending Revive – mid way through the summer I had yet to say yes. I didn't know if I could get the time off or even if I wanted to commit to a 4-day retreat with a bunch of people I hadn't met, but honestly I didn't know what was stopping me. Was it the fear of stepping out of my comfort zone or the fact that I was going to give time to developing and deepening my relationship with God? I don't know what I was expecting, although looking back now it was nothing like I expected. We completely disconnected from everything, we got to know one another and then got to know ourselves in order to understand our relationship with God. To recognize everything He has done for us, and that He would do anything for us – we simply have to trust in Him. Throughout the retreat we had discussions, we built relationships, we cried, we laughed, we worshipped, and we learned from one another as well as ourselves. I trusted in Him, to guide me on the path He has for



our relationship, and from the simple act of letting go I gained so much.

Revive has helped build my faith community. I have developed lasting friendships, places where I can discuss my faith journey, and life. The biggest thing I feel that I learned from Revive is the ease with which I have in saying yes to different aspects of the church. I have been part of the team for Alpha VI, and I am now a member of a Connect Group. In the last year my faith and my parish community have grown exponentially, for which I am so thankful.



Our Good Shepherd Atrium is growing!

Imagine a beautiful space, sort of like a retreat center, set aside for children to encounter Jesus. We call this space the "Atrium", with special hands-on yet meditative activities to help young children come closer to God.

The Good Shepherd Atrium is based on the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, a movement which began in Rome in 1954. Inspired by the work of Maria Montessori through careful observation of children, Sofia Cavalletti and Giana Gobbi carefully prepared materials and created a sacred space for children to discover and build a relationship with Jesus the Good Shepherd. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has atriums in countries around the world.

Here at St. Ignatius, we launched our Good Shepherd Atrium in September 2018, offering a single Level 1 class for children ages 3 to 6. Since then, a lot of hard work has gone into improving and expanding the program. As a result of the generous support of our parishioners, in 2019 we were delighted to be able to offer a second Level 1 class, as well as to introduce a Level 2 class for children ages 7 to 9.



In Level 2, the children continue to use beautiful materials, to further their knowledge of scripture, history and the Mass, and to deepen their relationship with Jesus.

The gifts of our parishioners also permitted two St. Ignatius staff members to travel to Calgary in September to attend the national Catechesis of the Good Shepherd conference. This winter, we joined with the Archdiocese of Montreal to host a multi-day workshop to train new catechists from several local parishes.

Thank you!

Our Alpha Experience

Carolina Agudelo Rios

I was raised in a Catholic family and as an adult I've been practicing my faith just by attending church every Sunday and private prayer at home. I came to Canada in August 2016 with my husband, and we continued going to Mass here as well. I found that Masses in Montreal are very traditional, and churches are not really friendly places. This woke up in me the need to find a place where I could practice my faith and where I could feel at home.

My husband and I used to pass by this modern building on West Broadway with attractive architecture, and I always wondered what could that place be? I remember it was winter of 2018 when we passed by and saw the sign that says this is a Catholic church, and I jumped with happiness in the seat of the car and asked my husband to give it a try and come on next Sunday. We did, and both fell in love from that very first visit. We found a young crowd that seemed happy to profess its faith, modern music easy to understand, screens that allowed us to follow the Mass really easily, a bunch of kids that ran to the front and lit up the whole venue, and most important, a priest who talks to his community with love, who understands the difficulties of today and teaches the scriptures through actual examples.

My husband and I became regulars at Sunday Mass here, and there is

where we heard about Alpha for the first time. Fr. Mike talked about this great experience where we could find answers and the opportunity to build and to be part of the St. Ignatius community. That attracted me immediately but I kept it to myself and didn't share it with my husband. After listening to Alpha testimonies at Mass, my husband asked me: "What do you think about that Alpha thing?" and I jumped with happiness again but I hid all my enthusiasm and answered him with indifference:



"Yeah... that sounds interesting... Would you like to give it a try?" As soon as I heard Yes for an answer, I signed up both of us.

My experience of Alpha has been a success, and I say "has been" because it is not finished yet and I am sure it has more to come. At the beginning, it was a little uncomfortable sharing personal experiences with other guests, but that awkwardness went away very soon and I found myself sharing weekly meals and those personal experiences with friends.

I found a community full of values that I share, a community where I feel I belong. I have been making new and genuinely good friendships which has a lot of value for me since my husband and I do not have close family near. Alpha has been a safe space to share my beliefs and to grow in my faith with the best guide and company. Alpha has changed in a very positive way our experience of living in a foreign country. It has changed our weekly visits to church where we can't wait to say hello to our friends at the end of Mass. Alpha has changed even my day-to-day life where I find myself thinking and praying for all of those that I have met at Alpha.

Frank Franco

The second or third time we attended mass at St. Ignatius, Fr. Mike announced the next Alpha course for spring, and although at that moment I felt the need to participate, it was only after a week that I asked my wife and she told me that she felt the same, but she hadn't told me.

It was a little bit scary at the beginning because my English fluency is not that accurate, but, I did feel in a safe place...awkward but safe; I pushed myself to be open, able to express my feelings, thoughts and all the deep doubts that I used to have.

It was during the weekend away that I felt something very special. That night I slept so deeply and I rested so much. I haven't rested like that

in many years. While I was there, I prayed to God asking him for his mercy and forgiveness and how I could forgive myself. It wasn't easy to ask for it, I hesitated a lot; but, through my host, my wife, the Alpha team members and Fr. Mike, I realized that our Lord was already speaking to me, letting me know how important I am for Him, reminding me that He is

in charge of everything. To be honest I started feeling very safe and loved, so light even, that I could feel healed at that specific moment.

After the weekend away, the anger, anxiety, doubts, bad feelings and toxic thoughts started turning into self-love, peace, mercy and confidence. My mind was just finding positive

things inside me and around me. I realized that it was the starting point: as I said at the last meeting of my first course "Alpha" in Greek is the first letter of that alphabet; Alpha, as well the son of God, is the beginning of a new journey with and through Him.

Why and how I got involved in a Connect Group

Souky N'Diaye



At St. Ignatius parish, we dream that all our parishioners encounter Jesus in a meaningful way, choose to follow Him, and become fully alive. A large part of living life to the fullest is the ongoing experience of a transformative community with other Christians. Connect Groups is where we hope this happens.

A few months ago, some friends from St. Ignatius asked me to join a Connect Group for young adults and to be one of the leaders. To be honest, I was really hesitating at first since I was not sure what to expect from it. ...but I figured... Well, what is there to lose? I will at least give it a try!

So, I went to a few meetings where I could hear more about the purposes of the different Connect Groups, and I was able to meet other people who have been involved before and who were sharing about their own experiences. I wanted to have this community in my parish where we would have the chance to talk about our faith and share our experiences and challenges as young adults. But I also felt like committing as a leader was going to be too much for me to handle. However, as the weeks went by and the time to launch the Connect Group for young adults was approaching, I realized something... I am not alone in this!

Indeed, other people were also desiring to build genuine connections with one another where they could talk about their faith and challenges; in fact, other young adults just like me also wanted to build authentic friendships where they could be themselves and share openly, and

there were at least 5 other young adults who accepted to lead the Connect Group!

It has only been a few weeks since we launched the Young Adults Connect Group and I am beyond grateful for being a part of it! The group not only provides us a safe place to have meaningful conversations, it is also a great way to grow in leadership whether you participate as a member or as a leader. Each one of us matters for the wellbeing of the group! It is amazing to see how friendships are developing so easily and how joyful everyone is about being together. We get to laugh together and to be vulnerable as well, which has been helping us to grow in trust towards each other! Being a foodie, I should also mention that it is a pleasure to get to share some good food, snacks, drinks and desserts with great people... I truly hope you give yourself the chance to experience it, too!

Working at St. Ignatius

Shawna Rose



This past October, I was given the opportunity to join the St. Ignatius team as Director of Operations. It's been wonderful thus far working alongside such incredible colleagues and volunteers, and I'm grateful to be applying my background in operations and project management towards a cause that I hold so close to my heart. It truly is a blessing to wake up in the morning and know that my primary goal each day is to work on creating an irresistible environment here at St. Ignatius that can help parishioners and guests alike come into a relationship with Jesus.

My husband and I joined this parish about three years ago following a transformational experience during Alpha. This experience greatly enriched our spiritual lives, and ultimately is what brought us back to church. As I started coming to Mass every Sunday, I found myself increasingly drawn to Fr. Mike's vision to renew our parish as well as Catholic churches across Montreal. Truthfully, I was wowed by his vision, passion, and sheer conviction. This ignited a spark in me to want to get more involved, so I pursued opportunities to volunteer on numerous Alphas, as well as become a Connect Group leader.

With each passing Alpha and Connect Group gathering, I felt myself further connecting to our community at St. Ignatius, and especially, to God. Although I didn't have any intention at the time of doing anything more at our parish than volunteering, when I heard about the Director of Operations position, I felt God's calling to apply. Looking back, I can now see that God has been guiding me every step of the way; from the initial invitation we received to try out Alpha, to the people He has put on my path at the parish, to now working here and sharing an office with Fr. Mike and his assistant Arlene (who would have thought?!), I now know that God truly does have a plan for us all.

As St. Ignatius continues to grow and greater demands are placed on our church's building and processes, there's no doubt there's much work to be done from an operations standpoint. However, God and His Holy Spirit have been hard at work here, and I couldn't be more excited about where we're headed!

Message from the Wardens

The year 2019 saw St Ignatius experience continued growth and parish renewal and we are pleased to report that our parishioners continued to support that growth. Not only has the number of regular attendees grown, but parishioners have also responded enthusiastically to the appeal to become more intentional in their giving.

Total weekly Sunday offerings again increased by more than 19% and parishioners continued to switch to regular online giving, which increased by more than 13% and represents one-third of regular church attendees.

While regular expenses remained constant, a major investment was made in the leadership team to develop and support the growing activities of the parish. St. Ignatius added another full-time member to its evangelization leadership team as well as a full-time operations manager to assume administration of day-to-day activities and free up the pastoral team.

More than 250 people have now experienced the Alpha course and the parish has established four Connect groups while also expanding children's ministry and youth ministry. All these activities take time, volunteers and resources. Your ongoing participation in these programs is essential to ensure their continued growth and success. In addition to your gifts, talents and prayers, St. Ignatius also needs your continued financial support.

If you have not done so, we ask that you take some time to reflect on how you can become more consistent and intentional in your giving. In particular, consider regular online giving as an easy way to simplify your financial participation and allow us greater ability to forecast revenues.

| ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA PARISH INCOME & EXPENSES BY YEAR | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 |
| REVENUES | | | |
| Offerings | | | |
| Weekend collections | 308,310 | 255,835 | 220,411 |
| Maintenance offerings | 30,918 | 29,124 | 32,483 |
| Other special offerings | 100,000 | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Subtotal Offerings | 439,228 | 334,959 | 302,894 |
| Other income | 147,096 | 134,870 | 205,306 |
| TOTAL REPORTED REVENUES | 586,324 | 469,829 | 508,200 |
| Total non-recurring revenues | (48,215) | (39,312) | (112,407) |
| CORE RECURRING REVENUES | 538,109 | 430,517 | 395,793 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| Salaries | 259,911 | 196,795 | 154,805 |
| Employer taxes & benefits | 37,620 | 28,390 | 23,952 |
| Ministry/other stipends | 55,947 | 50,794 | 53,755 |
| Faith education expenses | 19,497 | 8,669 | 10,993 |
| General pastoral expenses | 10,901 | 4,504 | 4,182 |
| Leadership training | 18,954 | 27,781 | 10,481 |
| New sound system & organ | 130 | 6,360 | 54,358 |
| GST & QST taxes | 17,777 | 15,089 | 21,662 |
| Office expenses | 11,522 | 12,031 | 9,488 |
| Rectory expenses | 2,458 | 11,634 | 8,636 |
| Maintenance & repairs | 30,684 | 12,774 | 25,300 |
| Insurance, taxes & utilities | 38,678 | 36,988 | 37,669 |
| Diocesan support tax (9%) | 42,505 | 32,745 | 43,886 |
| Clergy room & board | 13,742 | 13,435 | 16,431 |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 13,774 | 12,472 | 4,343 |
| Special collection payments | 12,051 | 15,326 | 27,135 |
| Total expenses | 586,151 | 485,787 | 507,076 |
| NET INCOME INCLUDING ALL ITEMS | 173 | (15,958) | 1,124 |
| LESS NON-RECURRING EXPENSES | | | |
| New sound system & organ | (130) | (6,360) | (54,358) |
| Diocesan tax on bequest | - | - | (14,488) |
| Special collection payments | (12,051) | (15,326) | (27,135) |
| Miscellaneous special expenses | - | (8,282) | (5,565) |
| Total non-recurring expenses | (12,181) | (29,968) | (101,546) |
| CORE RECURRING EXPENSES | 573,970 | 455,819 | 405,530 |
| SUMMARY | | | |
| CORE RECURRING REVENUE | 538,109 | 430,517 | 395,793 |
| CORE RECURRING EXPENSES | 573,970 | 455,819 | 405,530 |
| DEFICIT EXCLUDING NON-RECURRING ITEMS | (35,861) | (25,302) | (9,737) |

To access online giving,
please go to our website STIG.CA
and click on the "Give" button.

Our Interns: Jean-Romain and Kevin

In May, Fr. Mike received an email from the Rector of the Seminaire Saint-Yves de Rennes in France asking if St. Ignatius would be open to hosting a young seminarian, permitting him to witness evangelization in a Divine Renovation parish, while living in an English-speaking environment. Fr. Mike said yes! And on a sweltering day in late July, Jean-Romain Aubrée landed in Montreal, setting foot outside Europe for the first time. He undertook a 4-week intensive English course before beginning his internship here in September.

Soon thereafter, Fr. Mike was contacted again; this time by the Archbishop of Ottawa. One of their seminarians, Kevin Burgess, of Cornwall, Ontario, was keen to do an internship in a Divine Renovation parish, and so Kevin was invited to come on board, too.

Fr. Mike shifted some furniture around and quickly created a workspace to be shared by our two enthusiastic new arrivals.



▶ Kevin's story

Nearly four years ago I left my career as a chemist in order to further discern whether or not God was calling me to be a priest. At that time, I had a deep love for the Church and I can remember wanting to be a priest since I was a teenager. As part of the seminary formation, every seminarian spends his third year of theology in a parish for an internship. If someone had told me at the start of my seminary studies that I would be in Montreal this year, I would have probably laughed out loud! I didn't see it coming! But sometimes that's how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. In June 2018, I attended a conference entitled Divine Renovation 2018 at St. Benedict Parish in Halifax. That conference got me really energized about this movement in the Church in Canada and around the world,

and I wanted to experience this for my internship year.

Working at St. Ignatius has been such a fulfilling and rewarding experience for me (and for JR)! It has actually been a transformative year for me. Through the many areas of ministry I've been taking part in (i.e., Alpha, Lectors Ministry, Connect Groups, Sacramental Preparation, Café Découverte, IgNation), I've met so many wonderful people that have a hunger to bring others into a personal relationship with Jesus. What makes this parish unique for me is that all that we do has a focus on evangelization. The past few months at St. Ignatius have given me tremendous hope for the future of not only our parish, but for all our parishes in the future. Most importantly, though, I've learned to rely more and more on the Holy Spirit as the one who transforms parishes and the people in them! If God is calling me to the priesthood, I know that my time at St. Ignatius will allow me to hit the ground running and to be the priest that God wants me to be!

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