

"The Church must breathe with her two lungs!" by Robert Assaly, Stagiaire

So wrote Pope Saint John Paul II 22 years ago in "*Ut Unum Sint*". These lungs to which he refers are the Western (Roman Catholic) and Eastern (Orthodox) churches, known as "Sister Churches" since the lifting of their nearly millennium old mutual excommunications. One Body, two lungs — of which the Holy Father asserted must become a "unity bestowed by the Holy Spirit." This is the same Spirit of today's Gospel reading which Jesus, on the night before he died, promised the apostles His Father would send. No doubt, in using the "lungs" metaphor, the Pope had in mind that the biblical word for breath and Spirit are the same, and that the Eastern churches emphasize the Holy Spirit.

Even within our own Catholic communion, there are 24 "churches or rites." You are likely most familiar with the one western rite: the Latin or Roman Catholic; and less familiar with the 23 Eastern Catholic rites such as the Maronite Catholic, Greek (Melkite) Catholic, and Coptic Catholic--Not so with me. My short couple of years as a Latin Catholic at St. Monica's has hardly allowed me to catch up to my historical experience of the Eastern 'lung'. Much of my spirituality is grounded in the Eastern expression of Christianity handed on through my family from southern Lebanon. That faith might well have been handed on to my ancestors by St. Paul when he evangelized the area. Indeed, it is not impossible that they met Jesus Himself!

Some parishioners have commented on my style of crossing myself, and other unfamiliar liturgical mannerisms. Like most Eastern rite Catholics, I cross myself from right to left. And with a particular devotion to the Holy Trinity as the core dogma of Christianity, we touch the tips of the first two fingers to the thumb to symbolize this. The other two fingers are held together against the palm, symbolizing the next important dogma, the two natures of Christ — human and divine. Likewise, I bless in this manner, as apparently did St. Peter, at least as depicted in the famous ancient statue of him in his Vatican basilica. He was, after all, an immigrant to the West, to Rome, from the Eastern Jerusalem Church!

The same Holy Father, 33 years ago, allowed under "the Pastoral Provision" that married Anglican priests could become Roman Catholic priests to a maximum of two per diocese. As I prepare, God willing, to be ordained one of several married Catholic priests in Montreal, albeit the first Roman Catholic one in this Archdiocese, yet also among several "Pastoral Provision" priests in Canada, I have the unique privilege at St. Monica's of importing some spirituality from the Eastern lung of the Church, not least through a particular devotion to God the Holy Spirit.

With Pope Saint John Paul II, let us pray for the manifestation of the Holy Breath of both lungs of the Church that: the Holy Spirit is able to grant us clear-sightedness,
strength and courage to take whatever steps are necessary toward unity in diversity,
and that our commitment may be ever more authentic. Amen.

(P.S. As a full-time stagiaire, I will be around St. Monica's most every day except Mondays.)

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL NETWORKING AT ST. MONICA'S

This Wine and Cheese Event continues the networking initiative introduced at St. Monica's Church. There will be time to mingle and enjoy light refreshments. It will be sponsored by Arnel Javier, founder and Director of CLC Montreal Language School on Monkland (www.clcmontreal.com). It will be **held on Thursday, May 25, 2017 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Rectory**. Limited to 20 people. A voluntary donation of \$20 is suggested as a cover charge. Please confirm your presence by contacting Patricia Tuck at pa.tuck@hotmail.com no later than **May 19, 2017**. The Networking Team (Theresa Murphy, Ken Saldanha, Patricia Tuck, Arnel Javier).

MENTORSHIP MINISTRY A CALL FOR MENTEES

The Mentorship Ministry is a group of Catholic friends journeying with God and each other. We are seeking MENTEES, young adults (18–35 years of age) who are embarking on or have begun on their career path and would benefit from contact with a Mentor, Mentors are available to guide you on your career path with their experience and friendship. To sign up as a Mentee or for further info on the Ministry email Patricia Tuck at mentorship@gmail.com or telephone 438-399-4088 by May 29th, 2017.

FAIR TRADE THIS WEEKEND (LOONIES ALSO COLLECTION FOR ZAMORAN)

MASS INTENTIONS MAY 20 TO MAY 28, 2017

Saturday, May 20: St. Bernardine of Siena

4:00 In Loving Memory: Angelo Caucci, Leonard & Terry Winslade, Alessandro Palladini, Pietro Di Meglio, Mario Stemberga.

Sunday, May 21: Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:30 Antonio & Annunziata By Piccolino Family

11:00 Nadia Di Onesi By Ida & Family

Monday, May 22: St. Rita of Cascia

8:00 Diana DiVincenzo By Olga Matta Santini

Lilian McTurk By the Family

Tuesday, May 23: St. Dedication of St. Teresa of Avila Cathedral

8:00 Lina & Armando Turini By Pietrini Turini

Wednesday, May 24: World Day of Prayer for the Church in China

8:00 Deceased members of the By Maria & Raffaele Cinelli
Petosa Family

Thursday, May 25: St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi

8:00 Gabriele, Claudio, & Giacomina Pedicelli By Ernesta Ciampini

Friday, May 26: St. Philip Neri

8:00 Pasquale & Rosa Ferrara By Michele & Vincenzina Ferrara

Saturday, May 27: St. Augustine of Canterbury

4:00 Vincenzo & Antonietta La Posta By Concetta La Posta

Antonio Bei By Gabriella Bei & Family

Ignazio Buscemi By wife Graziella & Family

Sunday, May 28: The Ascension of the Lord

8:30 In Loving Memory: Alba & Luigi Paliotti, Emma & Colombo
Salvati, Pietro Di Meglio, Deceased members Galanate Family,
Jean Riti.

11:00 Fioravante Rotiroti By Rotiroti Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of May 13/14, 2017 totalled \$3,801.17. Confirmation celebration totalled \$576.55.

FAITH FIRST REGISTRATION: Registration forms for 2017-18 Season are now available at the entrances of the church, church hall, & rectory. **PLEASE NOTE: All new, as well as, returning students must fill out a form before August 14 (to know how many books to order) & return it to the rectory to guarantee a spot.** Cost of program is \$80 for one child, \$105 for 2 children, and \$125 for 3 or more if you register by Sunday, June 25. **(After that date, \$20 will added on: \$80-\$100, \$105-\$125, \$125-\$145).** Please note that your child will not be denied access to the program if you are unable to pay the fee. For further info or an electronic copy of the registration form, please contact Jennie Parsons-Armstrong at (514) 481-0267 or by email at jennie.armstrong@bell.net.

Film Fundraiser "St Ignatius of Loyola"

Don't miss this opportunity!

The only screenings in Montreal! Friday, June 2, at 7 pm and Saturday, June 3, at 3 pm at the Eric Maclean Centre, 2477 West Broadway (Loyola High School). Tickets: \$10 each. A modern adaptation of the life of the founder of the Jesuits as soldier, sinner, and saint. To see a trailer, or for info on the cast, please visit www.ignatiusmovie.com. To purchase tickets, please contact the Ignatian Centre, 514-481-1064 or centre@ignatiancentremtl.ca.

SPECIAL COLLECTION -

**This Weekend May 20/21
Annual Collection of the
Catholic Church of
Montreal**

Adult Faith Enrichment Video Divina

Fr. Raymond will present the movie, **Best Exotic Marigold Hotel**, on **Friday, June 2 at 7 p.m.**, in the parish rectory. As this is the last movie of the "Stories of



Transformation: Looking at Life Through

the Lens of The Spirit" series, you are invited to bring refreshments of your choice to share with the group. Popcorn will be provided. All are welcome!

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional info. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or call Anna at the office.

SPRING SALE AND BBQ

"Montreal West Presbyterian Church, located at 160 Ballantyne Avenue North, in Montreal West, will be holding their annual Spring Sale and BBQ on Saturday, May 27, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be lots of treasures, books, and baked goods available. The sale will take place indoors and outdoors (indoors only, in the event of rain). If you would like to be a part of our annual event only \$35 to rent a table. For more information or to reserve a table, please contact Mildred at [514-484-7913](tel:514-484-7913) between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Monday to Friday."