Adventures in Montreal: —Sr. Nancy Kaczmarek

Many of you have been to Montreal, especially the old city, so I won’t describe all the specific places I visited on my trip this past summer. Instead I’ll focus on two that struck me and are most closely related to us.

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts has a wonderful pavilion devoted to Canadian art. Of course I was most interested in the hall called “Founding Identities 1700-1880,” the era of Marguerite. A sparkling display of Canadian silver caught my eye. Imagine my shock when in the middle of a display case I saw our Grey Nun crucifix! It was the original one, not the smaller one we received later.

A visit to Notre Dame Basilica on a rainy morning found me in the gift shop, browsing souvenirs after my tour of the basilica. It’s a small space but full of medals, rosaries, holy cards, statues—the usual trappings of a church gift shop. Remembering that the day before, at the much larger shop at St. Joseph Oratory, I saw nothing of St. Marguerite, I made a point to look around for a holy card, a statue, a medal — something, anything. I saw nothing, so I asked the clerk if they had anything of Marguerite d’Youville. When she said no, I expressed my surprise.

“She’s from Montreal,” I said. “I thought you would have something.”

For half a second, she looked confused. Then her face cleared, and she said in triumph,

“She’s not a saint.”

“She is,” I replied. “She was canonized in 1990.”

“No, she isn’t.”

“She is. I was there.”

“No, she isn’t.”

How do you respond to something like that?

I asked if her supervisor was there, or who I should contact. She referred me to an address that I think was the rectory, but I decided to let it go.

The gift shop is so small that, even though we were talking in conversational tones, everyone heard us. Now everyone who was there knows that Marguerite D’Youville is a canonized saint—that is, if they believe me.

One of the things we talked about at Chapter was spreading the word about St. Marguerite and her charism. I guess we still have a lot of work to do.
GNSHappenings...

Using Her Expertise to Bring Compassion

Addiction is a big issue, one that our Sister Ellie Martinez meets head-on in her ministry. Whether it’s counseling one-on-one or giving retreats, Ellie’s expertise is sought…and found! Yet another focus for her ministry is the wisdom of Tony de Mello. In Syracuse recently, 40+ retreatants were treated to her humor and sound advice along with Tony de Mello’s wisdom. She challenges participants’ understanding of the joy and freedom of spiritual maturity. Pretty good work for an 80-year old religious; and Sister Ellie has four more retreats scheduled in the months ahead!

Earth Committee

The Earth Committee is ‘refreshing’ (a story we’ll be sharing in NewsNotes later this year). Meanwhile, they have initiated a few activities and one has to do with sharing an Earth Charter-based quote each month. We encourage you to share these quotes in creative ways, and each time, please cite the Earth Charter.

For October:

We are one human family and one Earth Community with a common destiny.

Holy Redeemer Lafayette

A reflection and discussion on different topics will be held on Saturday, Sept 29 for the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart who reside there. Leaders and topics are as follows:

Sr. Marian Adrian: “Come Together” from an article in Give Us This Day 5/18
Sr. Kathleen Hannan: “Confessions of a Noisy Contemplative” by Steven Dougherty
Sr. Maureen Quigley: “We are Them” on diversity
Sr. Mary Salvadore: “The Long View” a poem by Archbishop Oscar Romero

90th Birthday Celebration

Sister Roseanne Walker celebrated her 90th Birthday on September 18! A party with cake and ice cream honored this special Sister on her special day. Oh, and there were lots of balloons!

Foundation Day – Philadelphia

Grey Nuns living at the Plaza in Philadelphia celebrated with a prayer service and social gathering hosted by Sr. Anne Marie Beirne on August 23. Prayer focused on the mission and charism of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart. All enjoyed coming together to share prayer and stories of summer happenings. Members of the Leadership Council visited sisters at Magnificat Center on Foundation Day. In a small-group gathering, sisters shared how they initially met the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart and came to enter the congregation. Memories of our sisters who have gone before us were affectionately shared.

Pictured below: Srs. St. Catherine Curley, Barbara Schiavoni and Katie McGady visit over lunch at Magnificat Center.
Sock Drive

Our Sock Drive for the Homeless will begin October 1, through the feast day of St. Marguerite, October 16. We will be collecting NEW, preferably WHITE tube socks (they fit the majority of people). The distribution of the socks will be coordinated with The Joy of Sox, a non-profit which distributes socks to shelters in the Philadelphia area and beyond. As the cold weather approaches, warm, dry socks are a blessing. Socks worn 24/7 last only about 6 months, so the need is great.

Two reasons we ask that the socks be new:
1) the homeless rarely get anything that is new and
2) there are no facilities to wash and dry the socks and we cannot assume that used socks have been properly disinfected. Foot disease is a significant problem for the homeless.

Grey Nun Academy and Re/Max Associates are joining in the collection. Other businesses or organizations are also welcome to help! We ask that donations be limited to adult socks at this time.

Here is a link to our previous effort: Click Here

Season of Creation and Feast of St. Francis

We have been posting throughout the Season of Creation (Sept. 1) and will continue through the Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4). Daily posts have been available on our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages. All posts have been archived to our Flickr Page in the album Season of Creation. Example at right...

Currently, there are resources available on our website from Global Catholic Climate Movement, the Season of Creation site and Catholic Climate Covenant. Click here

Thank you to those who shared resources.

Earth Charter Quote

We are one human family and one Earth Community with a common destiny.
Pray for an end to the death penalty,
for those scheduled for execution,
for the victims of these crimes and
all whose lives have been impacted by violence.

Scheduled Executions for October 2018
10: Juan Segundo, TX
11: Edmund Zagorski, TN
24: Kwame Rockwell, TX

Death Penalty Information
National Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty
“All Christians and people of good will are thus called today to
fight not only for the abolition of the death penalty, whether
legal or illegal, and in all its forms, but also in order to improve
prison conditions, with respect for the human dignity of the
people deprived of their freedom” - Pope Francis
#Pledge4Mercy

Catholic Mobilizing Network wants YOU to take action and ask
for clemency for those scheduled to die by the death penalty.
They have recently updated their website with more
opportunities for advocacy. Be sure to take a look!
Current Death Penalty information is also available HERE