



GRATITUDE

L'Arche Winnipeg Newsletter #70



Popular Christmas Pageant Moving to a Larger Hall

Last year, L'Arche Winnipeg's first public presentation of the **Christmas Pageant** attracted people from all over the city and filled the Christian Family Centre hall. Organizers of the event have decided to move the Pageant to a larger hall for this year's presentation, in order to accommodate more spectators, and to give the actors a more accessible stage area. There is also ample parking.

This year the Christmas Pageant will be held on Monday, December 5th, 2016 at **Covenant Christian Reformed Church**, located at 653 Knowles Avenue.

We hope many of you will join us for this joyful event, which begins at 7:00 pm.

The narration of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the events leading to the birth of Jesus will be acted out in tableaux by L'Arche members, accompanied by our own musicians and the singing of traditional Christmas songs. A highlight is the singing of Silent Night in various languages, reflecting the cultural diversity of our assistants who come from many different countries.

There is no admission cost for the pageant evening. A free-will offering will be collected, with the money donated to Winnipeg Harvest. There will be refreshments and food served in the adjoining hall after the Pageant. Hope to see you there!



L'Arche Winnipeg members at last year's Christmas Pageant

Funding Innovation Supports L'Arche Winnipeg

Funding Innovation's Easel Program has an agreement with L'Arche to display works of art or collectibles which are for sale, with a percentage of the proceeds given to L'Arche. The art is displayed on an easel set up at L'Arche Tova Café.

Funding Innovation sets up the easel and the artwork, and a sealed bid auction begins. If there is a successful bid (there is a set minimum bid), Funding Innovation will contact the bidder and make arrangements for payment and delivery. The artwork is on display for about two weeks, and then rotated to other locations - which means there will

be new works of art to be seen twice a month at the Café.

We are pleased to announce that our first display in September, this Gordie Howe collectible, had a successful bid and was sold!

If you would like to partner with L'Arche and have an easel set up in your place of business, please contact Diane Truderung at 204-237-0300 (ext. 1) or by email at: dianetruderung@larchewinnipeg.org



For more information on L'Arche, visit the L'Arche Winnipeg website at: www.larchewinnipeg.org or the L'Arche Tova Café website at: www.larchetovacafe.com



Christmas Baking

L'Arche Tova Café will be busy with Christmas baking for the next few weeks - and you can benefit by purchasing boxes of mixed dainties at the Café! Ask your server about other time-saving offerings such as frozen tourtières and frozen individual meals.

Pre-Ordered Baking

A variety of cakes, dainties, cinnamon buns, scones, and breads (Potato Dill, Hearty Multi-Grain, or Country Rye) can be pre-ordered. Call 204-421-9388 for more information.

Catering

The Café can cater your Company meeting or family gathering. See the Café website for catering menu items, pricing and conditions.

Café Monthly Email

The L'Arche Tova Café sends out a monthly email with Café news and monthly specials, as well as other information about L'Arche Winnipeg events. To receive it, please send your email address & request to:

larchetovacafe@larchewinnipeg.org
or visit the Café website and fill out the online form to subscribe to the monthly email:
www.larchetovacafe.com

You can also follow the Café on **Facebook** and **Instagram**.

With Appreciation for Years of Dedication



Nadine and Barbara, at a surprise retirement party at the L'Arche office.

A major change happened recently at the L'Arche Winnipeg office, with two people retiring this past July: **Nadine Kwiathowski** and **Barbara Pantel**.

Nadine was L'Arche Winnipeg's Administrative Secretary for the past 21 years. *"When I originally came, I thought 3 years at this place would be good",* said Nadine at a surprise retirement party at the office; *"and now here we are 21 years later! It's been nice to meet assistants coming from different countries and different cultures ... I think L'Arche is very lucky to have the staff that we have, a really great bunch of people I've worked with! I've enjoyed my time here, I will miss you all."*

Barbara is a long-term member of the community and has been involved with L'Arche Winnipeg since 1975. *"I have some mixed feelings about retirement: part of me is very happy, part of me is sad",* said Barbara at the retirement party. *"I know that I'm not leaving the community, which is great ... now I'll have more time to go for coffee with people!"*

Barbara held a number of roles in the community over the years, including House Leader, Apartment Support Person, Health Care Coordinator, Events Coordinator, Healthy Aging Coordinator, and, for the last five years, Homes Coordinator.

Words cannot fully express our appreciation for the dedication, work, and friendship of Nadine and Barbara over all these years. We wish them both a very happy retirement!

We are also pleased to welcome two new people at the office. **Kadian McAnuff**, previously House Leader at Day-spring, is now our new Homes Coordinator. **Leanne Gauthier**, our new Administrative Secretary, is discovering what L'Arche is all about: *"Everyone in the community has made me feel so welcomed as part of the L'Arche family. Sometimes it's just a simple hug from a core member that melts your heart! I am looking forward to learning more about what this wonderful community has to offer, and am thankful that they included me to join their 'family!'"*

Partners in the Mission

by **Jim Lapp**
Community Leader

The mission of L'Arche is to make known the gifts of people with developmental disabilities, meet the changing needs of our members, and build a more human, compassionate society. Here in Canada most people with developmental disabilities remain socially isolated and many people do not know their gifts.

At a Regional Board workshop in Calgary this last February we discussed the new L'Arche International Board manual under the heading "Partners in the Mission." Unlike most other Board of Directors of non-profit agencies, which are usually very directive in setting policy and plans, the Board of Directors of a L'Arche community is a partner in the mission with the local community and L'Arche Canada. We discussed the tension between business and mission within L'Arche but in the end our Mission must drive the business and not the other way around.

Since then I have been thinking about how many other partners in the mission we have besides community members, board members and the staff at L'Arche Canada. Our 40 volunteers who are friends with our members in the Café and in our homes immediately come to mind. We have had many touching stories in this newsletter about their friendships with our members.

I know many people in Winnipeg not directly connected to L'Arche Winnipeg who do recognize the gifts of people with developmental disabilities. Many have close friends who have a developmental disability. Four people with no connection to L'Arche, along with me, volunteered to support Margo, a former student of mine with a developmental disability, to live in her own apartment. For her it was a dream that came true. For us it was supporting a beloved friend.

Another prominent group of partners in the mission is the many reg-



the mission of L'Arche and without their support we would not have a community or a Café. Many of them are regulars at the Café and have been friends with our members for many years.



Another important place where members with a developmental disability share their gifts is in the many churches that welcome them. Leanne recently did a reading for mass at St. Bernadette's parish, where she is also a member of the Catholic Women's League. In this newsletter, there is the story of Ross and his role as a host at Blessed Sacrament Church.

If you are reading this newsletter, you are already a partner in the mission. On behalf of the community of L'Arche Winnipeg, I want to thank you for that. And please encourage your family and friends who are not yet partners with us to come to the Café or the Christmas Pageant.

ular customers we have at the Café. Many of them not only come to the Café for the good food but also to visit with Albert, Hazel, Dorothy, Stacey, Clive and Ross. They come for the always warm greeting they receive at the Café. It is also helpful to our mission when they bring their friends to share in the warm welcome and great food.

Our many many donors are also partners in the mission. They believe in

Nourishment for Others

When we feel loved and appreciated for who we are, when we feel trusted and loved, we are nourished in the depths of our hearts. And to be nourished by the love of others is a call to become a nourishment for those who suffer and are alone in distress. We should not be afraid of loving people and telling them that we love them. This is the greatest nourishment of all.

- Jean Vanier



*L'Arche Community Leader **Jim Lapp** (left) receiving donation cheque from **Henry Slaa** of **SS Plumbing and Heating**. L'Arche is very grateful for this \$1,000.00 donation which is designated towards the purchase of a new wheelchair van.*

Quilts For L'Arche Received With Gratitude

Our monthly community gathering, **L'Arche Night**, was particularly festive on September 14th. This is an evening when all L'Arche members (and friends who would like to come) get together for an evening of fellowship and celebration.

As usual, we began by celebrating those who have a birthday in September. Two assistants were leaving our community, so we thanked them for their time in our community, and wished them farewell. It was also a time to joyfully welcome three new assistants to our community.

The highlight of the evening was the unfolding and distribution of 26 quilts custom made for our members by the Fairholme Hutterite Colony in Portage la Prairie, which operates a quilting business. Dora and Anna Maendel from Fairholme Hutterite Colony came to L'Arche Night to be a part of this special moment.

The project began when Anna Maendel met L'Arche member Russell, through mutual friends. Anna, a teacher and quilter, wanted to make a custom quilt for Russell. As she learned more about L'Arche, she decided to make a custom quilt for each member, and enlisted a number of people, quilters and seamstresses, to help her complete the project. Each L'Arche member was asked about their interests and favourite colors, and the ladies went shopping at many stores to find just the right fabrics, colors and designs to match peoples' interests.

Faces lit up and beamed with joy as each person was called up to receive his or her quilt, a unique and beautiful creation, a labor of love which took six months to complete. Anna and Dora seemed equally pleased with the joy and gratitude expressed by everyone.

- by Hubert Pantel



(top) Russell looking over his quilt; (above) Ross gives a thumbs up appreciation of his Scottish-themed quilt.



Anna, receiving thanks from L'Arche member Linda



Kevin and Ross coming to thank Anna and Dora for their quilts

Greetings With Heart

"It's really nice to start the day with a hug!" I was sitting near the back of the church before the start of mass, when I heard that exclamation from a woman who had just come in. Curious, I looked back to see what was happening.

Ross, a L'Arche member, was the official "greeter" for this mass, along with an assistant, at the church entrance. Traditionally, most greeters use three words: "Good morning - welcome". Not so with Ross. He knows a lot of people and, with genuine excitement, he calls them by name when he recognizes them entering the church:

"John! Hi John, how are you?" A hug is sure to follow. And Ross likes to make connections: "John, this is Barbara (the assistant), Barbara, this is my friend John."

A lot of what "church" should be is happening at the entrance when Ross is the greeter: recognition, appreciation, relationship, and the joy of belonging found in the communion of hearts.

Yes, it's really nice to start the day with a hug, a reminder that God loves us now, just as we are!

- by Hubert Pantel

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FROM WINNIPEG

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