



Communiqué

**They each have a name: Remembering Montreal's Unclaimed Dead  
at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral  
Wednesday, September 16, at 2 p.m.**

MONTREAL, September 10, 2020 -- Archbishop Christian Lépine will celebrate a Mass to remember the unclaimed dead. The annual celebration will take place September 16, 2020, 2 p.m. at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral, with Fr. Claude Paradis concelebrating. Fr. Paradis is the founder of an outreach ministry to the homeless, known as [Notre-Dame-de-la-rue](#). The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal extends an open invitation to the public to join in remembering the departed members of our homeless community. Due to COVID restrictions, the cathedral can welcome up to 250 persons for this event.

For 30 years, Claude Paradis had been ministering to Montreal's homeless, providing assistance and a caring presence, offering practical support, such as food, clothing and a listening ear. For the last five years, an annual Mass has been celebrated to remember those who have died during the course of the previous year, and for whom no family member came forward or could be found to claim his/her remains.

Montreal's homeless have felt the acute impact of the current pandemic, with diminished assistance and reduced volunteer support in shelters, resulting from mandatory health-and-safety measures put in place. In addition, the already vulnerable community experienced an increase in deaths this past summer, due to substance abuse. The September 16 Mass will be an opportunity to come together to understand better the challenges and risks facing our homeless community, and to raise awareness of the avenues through which we can make a difference in the lives of these disadvantaged individuals.

We would particularly like to thank two organizations, assisting with this celebration:

1- The [Repos Saint-François d'Assise](#), which offers free cremation and other services for the unclaimed deceased.

2- The [Fleuriste Dames d'Alcantara Montreal](#), who, for the celebration, is donating a white rose, for each deceased person.

Mass will also be broadcast on our [Youtube channel](#).

**For Information or to request an interview with Archbishop Lépine or father Paradis,  
please contact:**

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