

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, June 7

Widow and Widower Support
Group, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.
For more info., contact Anne
Parsons at 514-457-2183

Friday, June 11

SASMAD prayer time at 3 p.m.
(bilingual) with images and
prayers by Francine Baudelet.
Contact
sasmad@diocesemontreal.org
to register for the Zoom link.

Sunday, June 20

Father's Day

SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, September 24

**(Online) Pastoral Home Care
Retreat (details to follow)**

We continue to follow health
protocols which prohibit in-
person visiting but are hopeful
that this may change in the
coming weeks. Look for
updated information via e-mail
over the summer months.

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As is the custom, *The Bridge*
will take a hiatus for the
months of July and August.



Our 100th edition!

In January 2011, a few years into my role as co-ordinator of the English sector of Pastoral Home Care/SASMAD, I sensed a need to connect on a regular basis with our volunteers. The idea of a newsletter was born, and I am forever grateful for our secretary at the time, Roberta Crout, for talking me into making it a single-page newsletter rather than the three-pager I had in mind! Here we are more than ten years and 100 editions later!

The idea behind the name *Bridge* was for the newsletter to offer visitors a bridge connected to resources and information. In many ways, as visitors you provide those you visit with a bridge to community, compassion and care. As all who live on an island know (as we do), bridges are something we cannot do without. I have always appreciated your feedback, your suggestions, and your insights along the way.

The ministry of volunteers visiting the sick and homebound in the English sector of the diocese began in a new way in the 1980s when Fr. Norm Dodge, s.j., with support from the Pillars Trust Fund, undertook to co-ordinate this ministry and to train volunteers as pastoral visitors for their neighbourhood. Some of those who were part of this initial group are still visiting these many years later. In 2004, Deacon Bob Zankoski was hired to continue this work as part of the Office for English Pastoral Services, again supported by Pillars. Later SASMAD, an organization only a few years old at the time and founded by Sr. Madeleine St-Michel, r.h.s.j., assumed funding for this ministry. In 2008, I came on board. We currently have close to 200 English-speaking visitors in the English sector doing wonderful work each and every day.

Our foundation has not changed over all the years with its twists and turns: ***"When I was sick you visited me"*** - Matthew 25:36. Christ's desire to be close to those who are sick, lonely, and isolated is our mission. We are his hands and feet: to visit, listen and bring his love to all. In this mission and ministry, we encounter him. Thanks to all our volunteers for the faithful gift of yourself in this mission, over many years! To view the very first copy of *The Bridge* from January 2011, please click here:



Bridges Vol.1.pdf

Pastoral Home Care – SASMAD English sector

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