

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**Strawberry Tea**

SASMAD Team Coordinators  
Thursday, May 9  
10 a.m.-12 p.m. followed by  
our regular meeting

**Basic Formation**  
**(in English)**

Tuesday evenings  
May 14 through June 18  
6:30-9 p.m.  
St. Thomas à Becket Parish

*Registration required at*  
*514-925-4300 ext. 354*

And two sessions in **French**

May 4, 11, 18, 25 at  
St-Isaac-Jogues Parish

**OR**

May 11, 12, 25, 26 at  
Notre-Dame-des-Sept  
Douleurs in Verdun  
Call 514-272-4441

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Do you know someone who  
is unable to visit but would  
like to support SASMAD in  
prayer? Why not ask them to  
join the **Friends of Mercy?**

For more info contact  
Arlene Provoteaux at  
[arlene2155@videotron.ca](mailto:arlene2155@videotron.ca)

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Don't forget to fill out your  
VISIT REPORTS on a regular  
basis. You can log in at:

<https://www.bishopdowd.net/sasmad/>

## Where we are...

*A Word from our Director:*

The year 2018-2019 was marked by the move and centralization of resources to a new workplace. Thanks to the welcome of the Saint-Isaac-Jogues parish team: Fr. Nicolas, parish priest; his assistant Fr. Philippus; Lyne, the secretary; and team member Richard, our transition went very smoothly. In addition, we welcomed new staff to the SASMAD management team: Ms. Maria-Regina Melo as part-time coordinator, Ms. Bérénice Acosta Samano as administrative assistant, as well as Francis, who gives us a hand in keeping the database up-to-date. We've learned however, that the need for a full-time coordinator for the Laval-Repentigny region has since become critical. Overall, our network continues to grow through the connections and partnerships we've developed with those involved in the "missionary shift", namely, our pastors and parish communities, deaneries and the diocesan team of Offices and Services.

We also lived moments of grace, with you, our SASMAD volunteers, through retreats, a pilgrimage, World Day of the Sick, ongoing formation, and more. All these are intended to help nourish the sacred fire that lives in you, and to help care for and support you, without whom this pastoral service would not exist.

We should also mention all the efforts made in the recruitment and training of new volunteers, the promotion of our ministry, the development of SASMAD in other dioceses, the setting up of our Prayer Association "The Friends of Mercy", and the collaborations with social services, and health and community organizations. All this work, for the sole purpose of meeting the spiritual or religious needs of sick or elderly people at home, allows us to say that SASMAD has become an important player in home care. The 300+ annual requests for spiritual accompaniment bear witness to this. In short, the 2018-2019 pastoral year has progressed fruitfully, and this vitality is well echoed in the words: "Yes, there is life in the Catholic Church in Montreal, yes, there is life in this diocese. Alleluia."

Thanks to all who attended our recent formation sessions.

About 50 people attended the session on *Grief* given by **Bill Curran** on April 11 and we had a wonderful morning (in French) with **Alessandra Santopadre** who spoke about her work with asylum seekers and refugees and the connections between our ministries. Thanks to all!



## Pastoral Home Care – SASMAD English sector

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