



## Feast of the Most Precious Blood



The Quebec Life Coalition is hosting a day of prayer to honour the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ this coming Saturday, July 17, 2021.

Honouring the blood of Our Redeemer dates to 16<sup>th</sup> century Spain where it was designated as a feast.

Providence had it that this devotion be extended to the universal Church by Pope Pius IX (1846-1878).

A subsequent pontiff, Pope Pius X (1903-1914), had the feast added to the General Church Calendar, assigning the date 1 July to commemorate it.

*This is the greatest love a man can show that he should lay down his life for his friends. (John 15:13)*

Our Lord's shedding of his blood has inspired both men and women to form religious communities that today make up the Precious Blood Family.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood, a Society of Apostolic Life, were formed in 1815 to serve the marginalised.

*Christ's shedding his Blood was ... the sign of God's great love for all people. This spirituality of the Blood continues to impel us to build community through the inclusion of the marginalized, to walk in solidarity with those who suffer, and to seek reconciliation in a divided world. (extract from society's website)*

The Adorers of the Precious Blood, a women's Catholic religious institute founded in 1834, is yet another community inspired by Our Lord.

Their spirituality is rooted in "the belief that when Jesus died on the cross, the blood he spilled flowed into all of humanity."

On Saturday, July 17, 2021, we gather to give our own honour to the Precious Blood.

The venue for this event will be a local shrine; we are awaiting confirmation from the authorities at this shrine. The program will include an allocution, mass, the recitation of the rosary, and a shared meal. For further information, call (514) 344-2686.

## Aid to Women and Families

### A Tale of Five Families

Several years ago, the Quebec Life Coalition added to its tasks aimed at ending abortion in Quebec an important third activity.

In addition to its political activism and educational efforts, aid to women and families was recognized as an equally essential activity to be engaged in.

As a result, several new services were added:

- a crisis pregnancy toll-free phone line
- a website (pictured below)
- a residential shelter for pregnant women in difficulty (subsequently closed)
- a sidewalk counselling program outside abortion facilities



These services have borne fruit, particularly so the last two weeks of June in five distinct ways.

First, a grim call was recorded on the pregnancy phone line. A young woman left a voice message saying that she was 12-weeks pregnant and was seeking to abort her child. Three return calls went unanswered and our voice messages unreturned. Had we been able, we would have listened to this lady's story, and spoken to her about abortion alternatives and/or the consequences of procuring one. Sadly, her fate and that of her unborn child remain a mystery.

Fortunately, not all calls are as dire. The fate and well-being of a second caller and her child is cause for rejoicing. Adelle (fictitious name), 41 years old and mother of a twelve-year-old, is 6 weeks pregnant and determined to care for her unborn child.

We listened as she shared frustrations about her relationship with the father of her child, her living situation, and health concerns.

Afterwards, we made suggestions as to different professionals that may be able to help with her worries. Subsequently, we have done follow up calls.

Active listening, listening to understand is essential to welcoming women who contact us. Once done, we can then propose steps to deal with the worries they share about.

A third recent caller, Angèle, is a mother we are well familiar with. Several years ago, we had first met on the doorstep of an abortion facility where she was heading for an appointment to abort the child she was carrying. After speaking with two of us, she changed her mind. Today that child, a girl, is a 6-year-old cutie that enjoys dancing and is a joy (and a chore) to her mom.

Since that initial encounter, we have kept in contact, rejoicing with the anniversaries of her children and the birth of another child, and mourning with her over life's frustrations, including two miscarriages.

Recently she called to seek support re certain personal matters. The relationship with the father of her children is strained as he is often incarcerated and can become verbally abusive.

(continued on next page)

(Postscript – Angèle has shared a remarkable story. A relative came to her in distress. The woman shared how she was pregnant and was feeling pressured from family members to abort. Angèle encouraged the pregnant lady by sharing her own experience, strength, and hope. The pregnant woman was encouraged by this testimony and continue her pregnancy to term.)

Three plus years ago Elizabeth had also come by way of the pregnancy phonenumber. She had sought our support prior to the birth of her daughter. Her worries were not so much about carrying the child to term but the degree of involvement to have with the estranged father of her child. She wondered whether to have the father's name appear on the child's birth certificate.

Our aid to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy draws on a variety of supporters. There are those who help us out financially, earmarking their gift to help these women.

Other supporters share a particular skill. Those with vehicles ferry furniture, groceries, and the like to the women and their families, who have limited resources. Others we can call on have a more specialised skill such as in accounting, medicine, and law.

For Elizabeth, we arranged a meeting with a lawyer and accompanied her during this meeting. There she expressed her doubts and concerns and asked for advice.

This past June, Elizabeth expressed her desire to become one of our volunteers. Having received our aid, she now wanted to give back and become part of our team helping women in need.

She has begun on a part-time basis, doing follow up phone calls to the women who contact us.

#### **A fifth caller**

Finally, a fifth recent call was from a couple whom we had accompanied during a difficult pregnancy as not only health issues were a source of worries but also an uncertain immigration status and financial instability were causing strains.

This time around, the husband was asking for help in moving their home from one apartment to another. Despite having received their landed citizenships and both husband and wife were working, financial issues continued to haunt the young family who had accumulated much debt.

The landlord, though having turned a blind eye to many months of unpaid rent due to the couple's particular difficulties, was forcing them out.

We arranged the move – finding a vehicle and a driver, covering these expenses, and being present the evening of the move.

Though today the apartment is chaotic with bags and boxes needing to be sorted out, the couple and the two children have gained some respite.

Political activism, education, and aid to women and families is the three-prong approach that the Quebec Life Coalition is using to bring about an end to abortion in Quebec.

Consider joining us on the frontlines of the battle for fostering a culture of life. Calls us at 514.344.2686 to learn more.

QLC perennial

## Corn-on-the-Cob

A popular QLC summer event is upon us!



Set for **Sunday, August 15, 2021**, on the grounds outside our offices, the annual Corn-on-the-Cob event is both a return to the familiar along and a bit of something new.

Familiar is the traditional fare of sweet corn – two flavours, along with side dishes. Harvested a day or two prior to the event to ensure its freshness, the corn is reason enough to show up!

But there is more. There is the fellowship. As sanitary restrictions ease up, we anticipate a larger turnout this year than last year. In 2020, close to fifty were on hand; this year with the specter of the virus lifted, this number will surely be surpassed, reaching upwards of sixty and seventy.

There is the allocution. This year the speaker will be the Rev. Fr. J.-Réal Bleau, retired pastor (November 2015) at St. Irenaeus Mission. Fr. Bleau began as associate pastor at the Tridentine mission in 1985 and became its pastor in 2010.

And there is a second guest. This year's program has a novelty, historian in all matters of French-Canadian lore, Ms. Gaétane Breton will entertain and edify all present with lively tales and, possibly, a song or two.

Please let us know you are coming by calling the office at (514) 344-2686 or emailing at [infor@cqv.qc.ca](mailto:infor@cqv.qc.ca).

(Pictured below is the crowd, including Fr. Garrick Huang, that attended the 2014 corn-on-the-cob event.)



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