

THE PILLARS TRUST FUND

50 Years Supporting Montreal's
English-Catholic
Community



YEARS 1972-2022



- LIVE-STREAMING MASSES
- PARISH VITALITY
- NEWMAN CENTRE; CAMP CARITAS
- SEMINARIANS
- NAZARETH — JOHN'S HOUSE
- IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTRE
- ADVOCACY — ESCC

**YOU DID THIS AND MUCH MORE
— THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTINUED SUPPORT**

**A Gift to Pillars —
A Gift to Your Community**

PLEASE

DONATE

The Pillars Trust Fund Inc.
2005 St. Marc, Montreal, QC H3H 2G8
giving@pillarstrust.org
ONLINE : www.pillarstrust.org

Tax Receipts - Donations \$10 or more
Registration Number: 11909 3326 RR001



YEARS 1972-2022

**Supporting our
English Catholic Community**

Board of Directors

President

Megan Marinos
St. Monica's Parish

Jean P. Beland

St. Edmund of Canterbury Parish

Deacon Richard Brisebois

Holy Family Parish

Mary Campbell

St. Patrick's Basilica

Rev. Robert Clark, Pastor

Annunciation Parish

Jeff Dulay

St. John Brébeuf Parish

Paul Gareau

St. Thomas à Becket Parish

Michael Kieran

St. Edmund of Canterbury Parish

Rev. Raymond Lafontaine, E.V.

*Director, Office for English
Pastoral Services*

Pastor, St. Monica Parish

Rev. Luc Lantagne

Director, Don Bosco, Mission Office

Lili Le Fevre

St. Léon

Jean Marier

St. Edmund of Canterbury Parish

Albert Pesce

Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Mark Shalhoub

Ascension of Our Lord Parish

Aaron Warnongbri

Newman Centre

Executive Director

Carol McCormick
St. Patrick's Basilica

Parish Vitality Facilitator

Terrel Joseph
St. Willibrord Parish

We are a Roman Catholic organization
supporting activities which promote the
spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

"Whom shall I send?... Send me, Lord."
(Isaiah 6:8)

ENTERING A NEW HALF CENTURY

September 2021

Dear Friend(s),

For 49 years, Pillars Trust has been the sole fundraiser supporting the English-speaking Catholic Community of Montreal. Your donations made our work possible for close to half a century. We ask for your continued support by donating to our Fall Fundraising Campaign.

During this pandemic, Pillars helped 9 parishes acquire the equipment necessary for live-streaming masses and church events while also assisting many others with parish renewal projects. In its commitment to the broader community, Pillars gave \$75,000 to the Nazareth Community for John's House - its new house for the homeless.

This newsletter has details on all the organizations we support, news on changes at the board level and on our plans for celebrating Pillars' 50th Anniversary. We hope you will join us in honoring the legacy of the past as we look with confidence to the future.

We ask God to bless all of you. Please pray for our parishes and community. Please donate to the Pillars Trust Campaign.

Thank you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Megan Marinos
President

Rev. Raymond Lafontaine E.V.
Director, Office of English Pastoral Services
Pastor, St. Monica Parish

2005 St. Marc Street, Montreal, QC, H3H 2G8
(514) 937-2301 #255 | giving@pillarstrust.org | www.pillarstrust.org

THANK YOU for 50 YEARS

The Fall is the start to a new 'work' year for many – back to school, back after summer vacation, back to organized activities; it's a great time to look forward to new projects and assess accomplishments. This past year, you contributed so much to our success and I am thrilled to share encouraging news from the work you've made possible in 2020 – 2021! The most exciting news is about the 9 parishes you've helped connect with their parishioners. With your generosity, Pillars Trust was able to donate to the technology upgrades needed for these parishes to stream mass, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and hold various meetings – which they continue to use.

Throughout the past year, you have helped Pillars Trust match up to \$75,000 in donations made to the Nazareth Community in November 2020. Nazareth Community opened John's House, for people who would otherwise be homeless or struggle with mental illness and addictions.

Whilst there is much for which to be thankful, with your help, we can meet our goals to help new beneficiaries, assist more parishes, connect with complementary organizations and support you and your family through initiatives taken by your parish or by other organizations working in the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I accepted the position of president of the board of the Pillars Trust Fund at a time when the world is re-adjusting to going back to work, our country is collectively grieving the discoveries of unmarked graves associated with residential schools of the past, and our city will be voting for a mayor. If you've watched my self-introduction video on the Pillars Trust website, you know how I feel about challenge (*spoiler alert: it's welcome*).

I look forward to working with a great Board of Directors and peers within our community. 2022 marks Pillars Trust Fund's 50th anniversary and there are plenty of celebrations planned which we hope you will enjoy. I look forward to connecting with you during our celebratory year.. Thank you so much for your support and confidence in the work of the Pillars Trust Fund.

Sincerely,



Megan Marinos

President



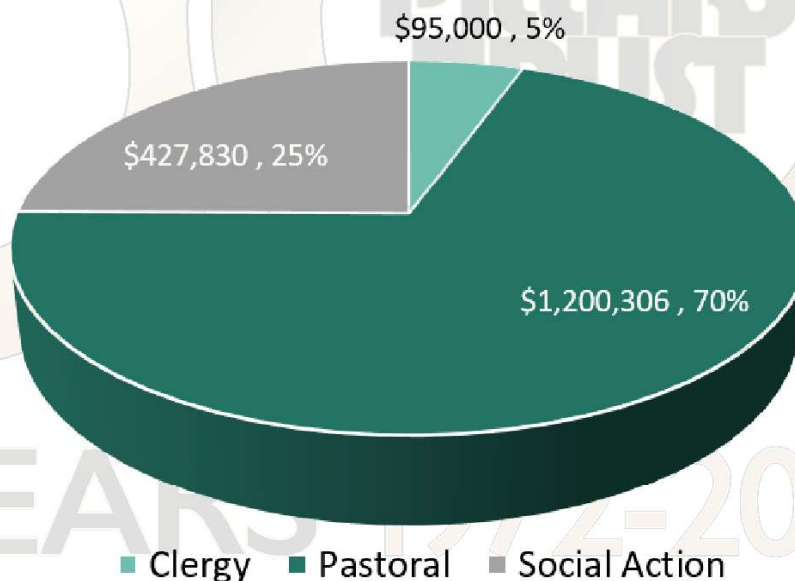
OUR BENEFICIARIES

Parishes • Newman Centre at McGill • Ignatian Spirituality Centre
Montreal Directed Retreats • Diocesan Priesthood Guild
Camp Caritas • Nazareth House • English Speaking Catholic Council

DONATIONS

Salt and Light Media • Oeuvre Pontificale • The Church in Need
The Irish Monument Park Foundation

Disbursements 2016-2021



GOAL for 50th ANNIVERSARY

\$350,000

A YEAR and a HALF to REMEMBER

By Terrel Joseph, Parish Vitality Consultant

We pray that this catastrophic pandemic, with its devastating impact worldwide, is never experienced again. Places of worship were not immune to its negative impact. Strict lockdowns, meant pastors were cut off from their congregations.



Pillars Trust heeded the call, rose to the occasion, and supported our parishes in the English Catholic Community, in new and bigger ways than ever before.

Between March 2020 and July 2021, Pillars gave financial grants to 16 parishes. We helped 9 parishes acquire the urgently needed equipment (cameras, laptops, etc.) to conduct services for their congregations. Live-streamed Masses, catechesis for children, and online rosary groups, were

just some of these essential ministries. Included are the following 9 parishes:

Holy Name of Jesus, St. Brendan's, St. Francis of Assisi, St. John Brebeuf, St. Monica, St. Thomas a Becket, St. Thomas More, St. Willibrord, St. John Bosco.

Many plan to continue doing hybrid church post pandemic: pastors have commented that the new technologies have enabled them to reach people who were not church-goers, pre-pandemic.

A few parishes took this opportunity to bring their websites into the 21st century with much-needed overhauls. Please check out holynameofjesus.ca for a good example of Pillars' money at work.

Despite uncertainty, 9 parishes also took the opportunity to prepare for a brighter future, with coaching and professional development help from Divine Renovation & Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO). In the last 6 years Divine Renovation has emerged as one of

the premier Catholic-based parish renewal ministries in the world. Pillars helped with the coaching bill for the following parishes:

Holy Name of Jesus, Jesus Light of the World, St. Kevin's, St. Luke's, St. Thomas a Becket, & St. Willibrord.

Two others, **St. Edward the Confessor & Maria Auxiliatrice** received books and resources. Pillars believes in doubling down where success is being achieved. With this in mind, we provided a grant to **St. Ignatius of Loyola** for a parish communications consultant. This professional assistance has allowed them to build a truly comprehensive communications strategy: it helps advance their growth as they continue to be leaders in the work of evangelization.

If your parish was not mentioned above, do not despair! Pillars is more committed than ever to helping more parishes as we move into 2022 and beyond. So don't be shy to ask! In Pillars, you can trust!

Irish Monument Park Foundation

In 1847, famine was ravaging the population of Ireland - 5 years later 1,000 000 people were dead and another 1,000 000 had emigrated, packed into the holds of "coffin ships", where Typhus was rampant. Those who made it to Montreal in 1847 began to perish in such large numbers that 6000 were buried in mass graves. In 1859, men building the Victoria Bridge discovered one such grave and placed a large boulder to mark the site: a site now standing on a median surrounded by traffic. The dream of a memorial park to encompass all the graves is close to being realized. It will honor:



the 6000 Irish victims; the citizens of every background who tended to them -some of whom died as a result -and The Indigenous People who once inhabited that area.

June 11th, President Megan Marinos, on behalf of the Pillars Trust Board, presented a \$5,000.00 cheque to Scott Phelan of the Monument Park Foundation. The photo, (L to R) includes: Lynn Doyle, Scott Phelan (Park Foundation); President Megan Marinos, Mary Campbell (Pillars Trust Fund); Fergus Keyes, (Park Foundation) and Karim Charef Urban Planner & Architect for the City of Montreal.

Montreal Directed Retreats

Montreal Directed Retreats started a Zoom program called "Praying with Scripture". A very unique online program offering: teaching, prayer with scripture, silence and sharing. It can be used by parish groups or students of Ignatian Spirituality in the English Montreal Community.

In the photo you see, Carol McCormick, Executive Director of Pillars Trust, handing Mrs. Catherine Cherry representing the Praying with Scripture Zoom Team, a check in the amount of \$2000.00 to help in their new endeavor to reach out more and more to the community.



John Murphy



We extend our best wishes to John Murphy with gratitude for his contribution to the Pillars Trust Board over a span of eight years, including four years as our president (2015 – 2019) and most recently as Past-president. He leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments and faithful service. It was John who drove our current strategic plan that has resulted in our central focus on needs of parishes and pastors, supported by continuing assurance of support for seminarians and social action. Also, his legal eminence guided us through some aspects of the changes during the past four years. We salute a good and faithful servant while praying for his future success, good health and happiness.

The Board of the Pillars Trust Fund wishes to convey its sincerest gratitude to Michael Kieran, for his 19 years of dedicated service: 9 of which he served as President of the Board (2008-2015) and (2019-2021). He continues to serve Pillars as our Past President. With faith and vision, Michael helped Pillars meet the many challenges of societal change during his transformative Presidency.

Michael Kieran



He brought new excellent people on board; strengthened our connection to parishes; made power-point presentations at the clergy Deanery meetings; engaged with beneficiaries and leaders of organizations; supported aid for social action, including Nazareth; revamped our technology system and fully backed the work of our Parish Vitality Consultant, Terrel Joseph. As lockdowns began, Terrel was in position to hear the pastors' concerns and relay them to Michael. The result: ... (To read the rest of this article please visit our website www.pillarstrust.org)

Deacon Richard Brisebois



After 30 years of devoted service, Richard Brisebois has retired from his position as Executive Director of The Pillars Trust Fund. With immense gratitude for those 30 years, we are delighted that he continues to serve in a new position as a truly valued director of the board.

Since joining Pillars in 1990, his role quickly evolved to the position of Executive Director, spanning the term of 10 presidents and 60% of Pillars' lifetime. Not only was he an enduring face of Pillars Trust but also the bedrock of reliable knowledge and support as Pillars transitioned from decade to decade: his institutional memory, community connections and keen judgement were invaluable. His work on behalf of the board and Pillars' mission was always ... (To read the rest of this article please visit our website www.pillarstrust.org)

In June, 2021, Megan Marinos was unanimously elected as the new President of the Board of Pillars Trust. The board is grateful and indeed fortunate that Megan has accepted this new role with all its time-consuming responsibilities.

Megan Marinos



With law degrees from London and Montreal, her vast experience in legal and risk management and having redesigned the corporate structure of several international businesses, she is an invaluable asset to our organization. She is a strategic thinker, thoughtful, calm and good-humored, with total dedication to Pillars' mission. Contributing to the community is a major part of who Megan is. Recently her non-profit company, KIGI AGENCY, which helps seniors find part-time work, held a fundraiser for FOOD BANKS of QUEBEC. She also loves ... (To read the rest of this article please visit our website www.pillarstrust.org)

Aaron Warnongbri

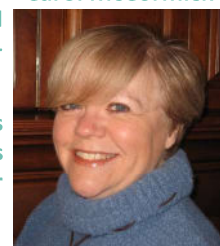


Aaron Warnongbri was appointed to the role of Vice President of the Pillars Trust Fund in 2021. With over 7 years of experience in various different roles, he brings a broad understanding of the mission and vision of the organisation.

Aaron's passion for building community within the Church is an outgrowth of his past involvement in various Catholic youth movements and parish initiatives. His experience in finance and investments, as well as senior management, will be advantageous to Pillars Trust in its capital preservation and allocation efforts. Aaron is dedicated to using his professional background to help support local charitable and community organizations, having also served on the finance committee of the Habilitas Foundation board since 2013-14. In his new role within Pillars Trust, he is excited to... (To read the rest of this article please visit our website www.pillarstrust.org)

Carol McCormick became the new Executive Director of the Pillars Trust Fund in October, 2020. She is well known in the community, having spent 5 years as Chairperson of the Montreal Saint Patrick's Society Luncheon and many years as Liturgical Singer in our parishes, most notably at St. Patrick's Basilica.

Carol McCormick



Her background in Communication Arts and Public Relations is already proving invaluable to Pillars. She has visited over 15 pastors, organized a Comedy Night Fundraiser and Fall Campaign, held regular team meetings and attended her many office duties. With contagious enthusiasm, she is now planning various events for 2022 to mark Pillars' 50th anniversary... (To read the rest of this article please visit our website www.pillarstrust.org)

COMEDY NIGHT

What a Night!

May 20th launched Pillars Trust into virtual laughter! Our first venture into a virtual fundraising event. Over 169 people registered for the event and though we competed with the first Habs Playoff game, over 75 people attended the event. Our celebrities were: Well known Montreal comedian, Joe Cacchione and a slick magician, Stephen McHarg. They not only had their audience in stitches they also had them participate!

Price was reasonable: \$25.00 per "household". Corporate tables purchased received income tax receipt for a portion of the cost. We were also very appreciative of our sponsors:

BLG, Claret Investment Management, Jim Rowen & Assoc. and St. Patrick's Society for their support as a Sister Society.

More importantly, we were grateful for everyone that registered for the show. Their donation to this event helped us to make \$7,000.00 that evening going towards many of our requests from parishes and social organizations that we also help.

After the event, I met with several people in parishes telling me how much they enjoyed the evening. That's proof of success!

Please fill out this reply card, if you wish to donate



Yes, I wish to contribute to The Pillars Trust Fund.

Please accept my gift of :

☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 Other: \$ _____

☐ Pledge _____ x \$ _____ = _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

My Parish Community is: _____

Method of payment

☐ Cheque (payable to The Pillars Trust Fund)

☐ Visa ☐ Master Card

Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Thank You

Charitable Registration No.: 11909 3326 RR0001

If you have already sent in your annual donation,
thank you very much.

MOVING FORWARD

Pillars Trust begins its next chapter, built on a strong 50-year foundation of support for Montreal's English Catholic Community. Here at Pillars, we are enthusiastic about the future and ready to move forward in providing even greater support to that community, than ever before. Be a part of the vision:

Volunteer

Join the Communication/Marketing Committee

Donate

Include Pillars in your Planned Giving

Next Newsletter is planned for February 2022. To advertise in the Newsletter or sponsor one or more events, please contact Carol McCormick, Executive Director at 514 386 8082

Calendar of Events 2022

February	The Heart of Giving Campaign – Silent Auction and Raffle
March	Walk in the St. Patrick's Parade
April	Easter Food Basket
May	Cocktail – Tribute to Past Presidents of Pillars Trust
August	Golf Tournament & Raffle
September	Bishop Dowd's Dinner Roast
October	Fall Campaign, Virtual/Hybrid Presentation of the Board with Q&A
November	Gala Event
December	Video of Year's events

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



☐ I wish to know about the Pillars Planned Giving Program.

☐ My company has a matching gift program.

Name of company: _____

Contact person: _____

Supporting our
English-language
Catholic community

☐ I wish to do volunteer work for Pillars Trust.

☐ I have included Pillars Trust in my will.

THANK YOU

Can you think of any family members or friends who would want to find out more about the Pillars Trust Fund? With your permission, we would like to get in touch with them.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Parish: _____