

## A Wonderful Summer!



**T**his summer has been a time of new activities and new friendships. When most take the summer off, the Mission found itself engaged in some new exciting outreach. St John's Academy ran its first summer student program which included study as well recreational daily activities. The Academy also ran for the first time two summer camps at St Mary of Egypt Refuge for boys and girls. The youth cooked and served a Wednesday Family meal inviting also their own families to join in. These are important events that help to break down the fear or suspicion that sometimes lies between the families and the homeless of our neighbourhood. Daniel a Roman Catholic Oblate of St Francis de Sales seminarian from the USA was very involved with Sharon in developing the Summer Programs.

We welcomed in July, through Romero House, at LTS a family of refugees fresh off the boat that had no place to stay. The father's, visible scars showed the ordeal he and his family had to leave. We plan to always have a space available at our Lived Theology School for such emergencies.

Several Community Members initiated and ran a BBQ. There was not only great food thanks to the Duma Family but also thanks to Ernest cultural celebrations of local musical talent. Almost, a little "Woodstock" right on Broadview!

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# The Escape from Broadview and Dundas

Two years ago I moved from a Condo, my late partner and I were sharing. To what some people might consider one's personal hell, sharing with other people. Take my neighbour; he shares his hell with everyone. He is a grown man with a ten year old boy. The mother is dead.

Strike 1: The father is an alcoholic and a drug user who takes care of his child by means of ODSP.

Strike 2: I guess, he drinks and partakes of drugs in front of his boy.

Strike 3: Happened on Monday morning, his girlfriend was tasered and taken away by ATF Officers because she was high on crack cocaine. The father was caught with it too and the boy taken away. Is there a....

Strike 4: Yes! The boy still has sixty or more years of life to live.

May Christ our Lord find a way into this boy's life? Christ has already found me; I've been drug free for two years. Let the escape from Broadview and Dundas begin.



Treva Sophia Bondarenko  
Sister in Christ



## How St John the Compassionate Mission Helped Me

“They fed me when I was hungry. When I came to the Mission they made me feel welcome and helped me through a really hard time – the transition from a shelter to one their community houses is a godsend. Edmund showed me the house and I was so happy I cried. Fr Roberto was very warm and compassionate. The Mission literally saved my life. I don't know what I would do without this wonderful place.”

Judy D.



“When I came to St John's Mission I was in recovery from alcoholism. The social system had left me unsure as to how I could return to the world out there. I had no confidence or self-esteem. Fr Roberto's belief in me gave me renewed hope that I could achieve my goal of becoming a productive member of society. He gave me a chance to prove myself as a volunteer. I'm hoping soon to work in the bakery\* and learn a skilled trade. Because of the Mission the future doesn't seem so scary.”

David J.

\* St John's Bakery is part of the Mission

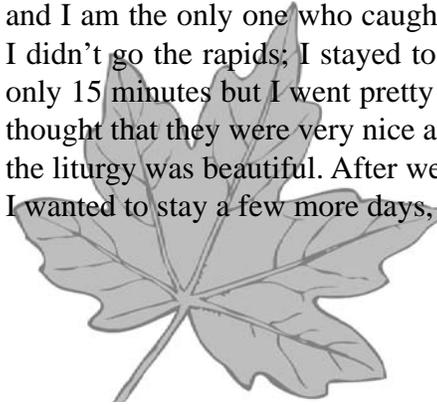
# Youth Retreat-Pilgrimage 2009

I felt very happy about going to the pilgrimage, because we were all going to do activities, and be there altogether. We also learned a lot of new stuff about God, since we asked questions. Some of them were – “Why did God make dangerous animals?” Mine was, “If God knows everything, why does he still look at us to see what we do? But of course you already know my question. So about the activities. We went to the rapids, we went fishing, swimming, and we played games. When we went fishing, I caught 6 fish, and I am the only one who caught fish. (Except for Audrey, he caught 1.) I didn’t go the rapids; I stayed to fish all the time. I went swimming, for only 15 minutes but I went pretty deep. We went to visit the monks, and I thought that they were very nice and happy all the time. I also thought that the liturgy was beautiful. After we left the monks, we arrived home. I said I wanted to stay a few more days, but I also was happy to get home.

Sofia Chirila



Monk Pierre , right



## The Story of the Summer of 2009

This has been a very busy summer for St. John’s Academy, our first time tutoring through the summer! We had 13 dedicated students take part of the summer tutoring sessions, working hard at improving their English and Math skills over their summer break. Most Wednesdays we had extracurricular activities available for our students. We held a scavenger hunt, games day, and discovered some hidden artistic talent at our printmaking and painting workshops. Our kids enjoyed preparing (and eating) a feast shared at a cooking workshop. The students helped to cook and serve one of the meals shared at Family night in late July; many of their parents joined us to enjoy the fruits of their efforts!

The highlight of the summer was definitely our boy’s and girl’s camps, held up at St. Mary of Egypt Refuge. Many of our students have not experienced much of life outside Toronto and relished the opportunity to catch frogs, swim in a river, go canoeing, fish and sleep under the stars. En route to boy’s camp, Justis panicked when he heard we’d be without cable TV for the duration of camp. But, after just an afternoon of swimming and frog catching on the edge of the river, Justis balked at having to come into the house to watch a film! “Why can’t we just stay outside? I don’t want to watch a movie!” was his complaint. Both camps were a terrific chance for these kids to enjoy time in nature, with each other, the animals and God, and to be reflective in a way that is easier away from the busy pace of Toronto life.



Sharon Helleman

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We lived the trauma of a couple we have known for 23 years, as they came to Toronto to have an abortion on their 5 month old child. We were not able to support the couple into changing their minds but at least the child did not leave this world unwept or unloved or unwanted. She is remembered in our Chapel under the name the parents gave her – Marie.

We also had several groups of Youth from the USA, coming up to help us in special maintenance projects. In particular our own Diocese sent up a group of youth, along with Fr Peter and Fr Miles. They not only helped us paint but also sang in the inspirational Carpatho-Russian chant during Liturgy and other services. Peter Hasiakos paid his 3rd visit to the Mission with 3 other members of the Agape Group from Chicago.

We now look forward to the Autumn as we open our First Community House on Grant Street. This house will provide a place to live for 5 homeless people.

It has been a wonderful summer; our garden is beautiful and lush and the fall promises a full crop of more blessings!  
F.R.



## Urgent Need for Our

New Community House for Homeless Individuals

- 3 single beds with new mattress
- 1 double bed with new mattress
- 4 small desks and chairs
- 4 lamps (lights)
- 5 kitchen chairs
- Plates, forks, knives
- Bookcase
- Volunteers to clean, paint and garden



### St John the Compassionate Mission

155 Broadview Ave. Toronto ON M4M 2E9 Tel: 416-466-1357 Fax: 416-466-3517 Charitable #89328 1832 RR0001  
stjohnsmmission@sympatico.ca www.stjohnsmmission.org