



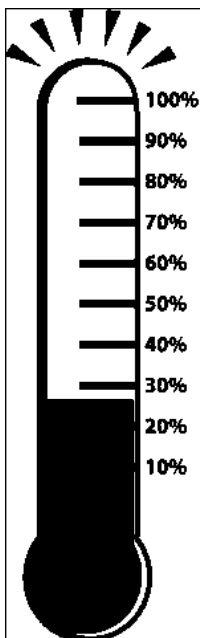
Choice of architects for Phase II

A call for tenders was issued in mid-November to a number of architectural firms in order to begin the second phase of the Cathedral's renewal. Four (4) firms have submitted their service proposals. Following a meeting with the building committee and the executive committee of the Renewal project to review the submissions, two (2) firms were asked to make a presentation to the team on December 11th.

The team wanted to obtain more information before making a decision on which firm should conduct the second phase of renovations. We expect to receive more details shortly in order to make the final decision before the New Year. The anticipated start date for the consultation phase with the parishioners and the community regarding Phase II renovations will take place in March or April 2013.

Parish Campaign Results

Fall 2012 Campaign Goal \$ 1,000,000



We are pleased to inform you that since the beginning of the official launch of the campaign this fall, we've received **\$ 278,985** in donations and commitments from parishioners, which accounts for **27%** of our goal.

Overall, the Renewal campaign has reached **48%** of its goal, with **\$ 2,867,972** of its \$ 6,000,000 goal.

Questions?

Would you like to meet a member of the committee to discuss donation options?

Do not hesitate to contact one of the following:

Normand Boisvert : (204) 221-6964
René Fontaine : (204) 231-3234
Carmen Laroche : (204) 233-6034
Philip Lavack : (204) 257-4040
Francis Labossière : (204) 237-1276
Raynald Labossière : (204) 233-4982
Denis Marion: (204) 237-6636
Agnès Rémillard : (204) 233-4173
Réal Sabourin : (204) 231-0592
Claudette Savard : (204) 233-6079

\$ 4,500 collected at Christmas Sing-a-long



Snowflakes continue to fall on the city, colored bulbs everywhere on the facades of houses, and Christmas trees in the living rooms. Christmas spirit is seen in all the streets of St. Boniface in December. This Christmas atmosphere was also particularly apparent at the St. Boniface Cathedral on December 7, when it hosted a large Christmas event entitled *Noël c'est l'amour Sing-a-long*. The event was open to all the families of the Christian community, as well as to people from other faiths.

Songs in eight languages

"Orchestrated by the master of ceremonies Robert Malo, 11 artists and Les Blés au Vent choir performed songs representing their own culture," said concert producer and designer, Leo Dufault. "The songs were performed in French, Hebrew, Latin, Ojibwe, and even in African languages. Between songs and music, the audience enjoyed the simplicity of Christmas within a joyful environment."



The birth of Christ



As stated by Father Marcel Carrière, the St. Boniface Cathedral event was primarily intended to honour Christmas songs as an important element of French Christmas tradition. The December 7th event also specifically marks Christmas, not just the end of year holidays: "Our Christmas concert celebrated the birth of Christ and his presence among us. Through song, an atmosphere of joy and peace suitable to welcome our Savior reigned throughout the Cathedral."

4 500 \$ collected for Renewal project

Although admission was free to the public, \$ 4,500 was collected by passing the hat during intermission, which was led by Father Robbie McDougall playing the piano. We would especially like to that the performers, the Knights of Columbus, the emcee, Danielle Dumesnil, Leo Dufault and other volunteers who ensured the success of this wonderful evening.



A Christmas gift for everyone

Whether you are ten, 30 or 60 years old, receiving a beautifully wrapped package of colored paper is always fun. And this gesture is all the more appreciated when the gift contains food or goods that you really need. For 15 years, the Franco-Manitoban Rachel Le Gal aims to brighten the hearts of the poor during Christmas. As Project Coordinator for the Cathedral's Christmas baskets, Rachel and her team are busy during a good part of the year gathering what might be of need for the families.

"The goal is to give everyone a chance to experience the magic of the holiday season," she expresses. "Christmas is a celebration of family and sharing. Everyone deserves to feel the happiness that surrounds this special celebration."



82 families



As of September, Rachel Le Gal must undertake a wide range of strategies in order to fulfill the mission: "We are asking schools in St. Boniface to provide a list of families in need," says the coordinator. "After identifying the families, we give our list to the Christmas Cheer Board, which also distributes Christmas baskets to the poor, in order to avoid duplication."

At this stage, it is then essential to find the necessary funds for the contents of the Christmas baskets. "This year, we will be helping 82 families, which represents over 400 people," says Rachel Le Gal. "We have never had so many." The amount of aid per person is approximately \$ 50. "We ask families what they would like to receive for Christmas," says the coordinator. "Because not all girls want dolls and not all boys want trucks.

Parents mostly let their children choose. Or they request clothes for the family."

In the end, the baskets contain clothes, books or games, but also food, so that the family can enjoy a real Christmas dinner. "We make sure that the household has food for Christmas, but also for the rest of the week," says the coordinator.

Widespread assistance

Along with fundraising, Rachel Le Gal also seeks help from organizations and businesses from St. Boniface in early November. "I also ask local organizations to join our cause," she says. "Most of the time, they offer to support some families. This includes buying gifts and delivering them. This sponsorship is invaluable to us financially but also in terms of purchasing, sorting, packaging and delivering baskets."

Organizations, however, are not the only sponsor of underprivileged families. In fact, individuals are also likely to offer help. "Even if this is the St. Boniface Cathedral's initiative, you do not need to be a Christian to take part in it," says Rachel Le Gal. "The entire community as a whole can contribute to the cause, according to its capacities."

Touching generosity

The community shows its support for underprivileged families in several ways. In November, many women brought handmade knitwear: "Vests, scarves, pajamas for newborns are absolutely adorable!", expressed the coordinator.

Volunteers responsible for purchasing and sorting gifts are also a great help. Not to mention their help at the time of delivery. "Every year, about sixty people come lend a hand," explains Rachel Le Gal. "Among the participants, three-quarters of them are young people aged 14 to 25 years old. It warms the heart to see them helping out for such a cause."

Finally, the support of businesses is essential and they help out by granting discounts, offering delivery services when ordering abundant quantities and serving free meals to volunteers on the day when gifts are delivered to the families.

Without the help and generosity of everyone, underprivileged families would not receive their basket on December 22nd. "The expression on the family members' faces is well worth all the efforts," exclaimed Rachel Le Gal. "This is also the reason why I want to ensure that the gifts are packaged in a beautiful wrapping paper. Regardless of what people say, the wrapping paper is important. Because of it, the young and the young at heart begin to dream."

Many ways to donate

The fundraising campaign for the Renewal project continues to grow week by week, with the parish and heritage committees being responsible for contacting potential donors. Since the launch, we've received specific questions on how to make certain types of gifts.

Here are the answers to some questions:

Automatic debit:

An automatic withdrawal can be done every week or month from your savings or checking account at your financial institution. Please stop by at the parish office to fill out a form, sign it and give us a void check. We take care of the rest.

Credit Card:

By going directly to our website www.cathedralesboniface.ca, you can donate online with your PayPal account. Otherwise, the Cathedral has an agreement with the 233-allô in regards to credit card donations. Transactions are made monthly, with 2.07% charge per transaction.

Stocks and other securities traded on the Market

The donation of high value stocks are a way to make an important contribution, while receiving a reduced tax rate. Federal taxation laws allow the donor to receive a charitable tax receipt on the day of donation, for full market value of these shares, free of all taxation on capital gain. The Cathedral Parish is working closely with the Archdiocese and a National Bank broker to complete these transactions. If you are interested, please let us know and we work with you to finalize the transaction.

Estates gifts

To make an estate gift to the St. Boniface Cathedral Parish in your will, please consult with your lawyer.

Note: *If you find that there is not enough space on the entry form to enter your information, please attach a separate sheet. We will contact you if certain details are required.*