



# ST. JOHN THE COMPASSIONATE NEWSLETTER Summer 2015

## Summer Camps

This year we have expanded the camp program to 4 weeks! Last year, the camp was a huge success! Youth from rural and city cultures shared unforgettable moments at St. Mary of Egypt Refuge. The demand for such camps is overwhelming. So many of the youth who come to our camp see the value of this experience in their lives. Most of the campers cannot afford to pay. Please help sponsor a child this summer.

For Owl Camps information:

[stjohnsmission.org/owl-summer-camps-2015/](http://stjohnsmission.org/owl-summer-camps-2015/)

Contact: Aaron SanFilippo, [youthcamps@stmarysrefuge.org](mailto:youthcamps@stmarysrefuge.org)



Luc teaching one of the campers

## St Phocos Garden - Gardeners

### Pray, Work and Feast at St Mary of Egypt Garden

Laurentiu and Julio have begun the process of getting the ground ready for sowing. Come and help get the ground ready for the seeds that will die and take root (radice) and bear abundant fruit. Youth and families are invited May 15-16 & June 5-6 to come and help with the planting.

A donation of \$50 per adult participant is much needed to keep the garden alive. As in the previous years, all fruits of the garden are for the Mission.

Contact: Laurentiu Albu at [stjohnsmission@sympatico.ca](mailto:stjohnsmission@sympatico.ca)



Julio with beets grown in the garden

## Bakery—The Loaves are Rising!

The Bakery is getting ready for the big summer season where we will again be part of the City Summer Markets. Please pray that this year summer sales will be successful. The Bakery has recently hired a new manager, Heather. Shawn is now responsible for sales. Our hopes are rising for the Bakery as fast as the loaves are!

## You May Have Seen Us On TV

TV, Radio and Newspapers, the Mission and the Bakery have been in the news. There is a growing interest in the work of the Mission by the Media. (The media spots are on our website at [stjohnsmission.org/videosmedia/](http://stjohnsmission.org/videosmedia/)).

We are always reminded that, what is really important and essential is hidden, small. One needs to become like a little child to see it and it is in being humble and vulnerable with one another that matters.



BT Toronto Crew, Nick, Jennifer V., Sara & Heather

## St John the Compassionate Mission Community Council

As we look into the future, we at St John's Mission have been reflecting on the role and the necessary voice our community plays in the daily life of the Mission. As a result, we have established the Community Council. The Community Council is comprised of people from the community; for the people of the community; who represent the community. The mandate of the Council is to make St John's a welcoming place in the neighbourhood, where everyone in the community is accepted and has a voice. As a result, the council's first task, which was recently presented to, voted by, and unanimously agreed upon by the membership to changing the name of our building to St John the Compassionate Mission Neighbourhood House. This is not a legal change of the Mission name but rather of the physical structure we occupy.

The council meets once a month with the Director of Community and discusses and implements monthly initiatives in which the Council and the Mission can play a larger role in our South Riverdale neighbourhood. These initiatives are then presented to our membership for discussion and voting. We encourage everyone to come and join us on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30am for our monthly Community Membership meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

### St John the Compassionate Mission



Neighbourhood House

### Lourmel House & Xenia House

Lourmel House is full of people including refugees from Ethiopia. Even though it is full, we always have space for visitors. Recently, we welcomed a group of young people from Ottawa, Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church. They brought with them lots of energy, faith and love.

At Xenia House, a raccoon had dug a hole thru the roof and one night the rain almost washed away Gavin. The roof is being repaired while Gavin is resting in a nice nearby hotel. St Michael the Archangel must be watching over all of us.



### Town Meeting—Huge Success!

St John's hosted a Town Meeting for people in the neighbourhood who are affected by the "improvements" initiated by local developers. Over 100 people attended. The great majority of people who spoke were people who for the most part have no voice in our society. Many moving examples, spoken from the heart, spoke of what is de facto a "social aphaeretic" experienced by the poor in this city.

What was spoken at this meeting will be complied and shared to those in "power" to consider and reflect. The depth of the humanity of many of the so-called "poor" touched the hearts of those who came from around our neighbourhood.

### We Need Your Help

Summertime is a really busy time of year at the Mission. Many people go away on vacation. Please

remember we do not stop at St. J o h n ' s Mission - people still need to be f e d , welcomed a n d



supported. Please consider a donation towards the Mission this summer and volunteer with us.

### St John the Compassionate Mission

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