

FEBRUARY 2021

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# Straight from the street

A newsletter for friends of Inner City Pastoral Ministry

*"WITH WHAT SHALL I COME BEFORE THE LORD?...HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MORTAL, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTICE, AND TO LOVE KINDNESS, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?"*

~ MICAH 6:6-8 ~

## REMEMBERING MARION ...

Sr. Marion Garneau passed away peacefully on December 5, 2020 in Saint John, NB at the age of 81. She would have been 82 on December 23, a birth date she shared with her mother. As it was so aptly put in the email that brought the news to me,

*... our sister, mentor, visionary leader, lover of those made poor, soul companion to many, friend to all, ... Marion passed into eternity peacefully, surrounded by Love ... at her home, Ruth Ross Residence, in Saint John, NB. We, the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception, invite you to join us ... in giving thanks for the gift she was, is and ever shall be, ... present to us now in Newness.*

I can't remember when I first met Marion, but I do know that she has been a companion on my journey for at least 20 years. We were both long-time members of the planning committee for the Good Friday Outdoor Way of the Cross. Then, when I joined Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) in 2005 as a Pastoral Associate, Marion was already working there as Pastoral Associate, and I was very blessed to share the next eight years with her as part of the pastoral team.

We partnered in a number of initiatives, and I was always aware, no matter what the circumstance, of the kindness she projected in her smile, in her words, and in the sparkle in her eyes. Marion radiated a gentle presence and acceptance to all who approached her. This was particularly evident on Sundays, when ICPM held a more formal faith gathering for the Community of Emmanuel, and provided a lunch brought by different churches every week. Ensuring that everything went smoothly took a lot of detailed work to which Marion brought oversight. Together we made sure everything was ready to welcome the church members who would bring food, as well as the community who would come to the service. During the service, Marion shared her



Sr. Marion Garneau

gift of music, playing the guitar and providing leadership in the singing. For many years she did this alone, until she was joined by Farley and Julie, who now carry on the music ministry. After the service, the guitar was put away and Marion became the guardian of the coffee station, along with the assortment of scarves, gloves, and emergency supplies that lived in bins under the table. In the organized chaos of most Sundays, there were inevitably surprises that upset our best laid plans, surprises that required quick solutions! Marion could always be counted on for a compassionate response that respected the dignity of each person with whom she engaged.

Beyond Sundays, Marion clearly believed that the presence of ICPM as “church” extended well beyond the Sunday service to include “church” as the People of God where they are—on the streets, in prisons, in shelters, drop-ins, support agencies—and in the many and varied celebrations of life and death. Marion understood ICPM as a “church without walls,” and she walked among the people in a non-judgmental way, always taking the time to listen, to affirm, to encourage, and to lift up the people she encountered. In return, she was blessed with friendships that enriched her own life.

Marion was the initiator of the Women’s Group at ICPM, and the Women’s Wellness Weekend at the Star of the North Retreat House. For the members of a small group of women who had been meeting regularly at ICPM for crafts, conversation and community building, this weekend retreat became something to which they looked forward all year long. They would never have been able to afford such an experience on their own, and this opportunity, envisioned and pursued by Marion, became an annual gift that nourished them, body and soul. Marion was always present to open the retreat

with a prayer, and she also provided a sharing circle on Saturday evening just prior to “movie night.” I was invited to participate in both the group and the retreat. I consider this to be a gift, one more amongst the many events and opportunities into which she invited my participation and presence, and for which I am grateful.

These are a few of the memories I have of Sr. Marion Garneau, a soul sister indeed. She was my strength in times of conflict, my reassurance in times of doubt, a companion and mentor on my spiritual journey. I am so very grateful to her for bringing me into the fold of “Association” with the SCICs (Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception), even before I was formally accepted. And I am so grateful to have had the gift of seeing her in Saint John in 2018—precious memories indeed of a beautiful soul who graced so many lives during her journey here on Mother Earth. I am grateful for her Spirit, which is now free to accompany us differently. May her Light continue to shine among the marginalized and most vulnerable in our midst, as we seek to build a world of justice and peace.

*Linda Winski  
Pastoral Associate, ICPM (May 2005 – May 2013)  
December 6, 2020*

#### Other Tributes to Sr. Marion Garneau

- Article by Jim Gurnett in *Boyle McCauley News*, on the retirement of Sr. Marion Garneau and Linda Winski: <https://bmcnews.org/story/community-service-honoured>
- Obituary in the *Edmonton Journal*: <https://edmontonjournal.remembering.ca/obituary/marion-garneau-1081134408>
- Tribute by Bob McKeon in *Grandin Media*: <https://grandinmedia.ca/mckeon-sr-marion-garneau-remembered-as-a-champion-of-social-justice/>



**Sr. Marion Garneau - Way of the Cross**



**Sr. Marion Garneau’s Retirement**

## SR. MARION MAKING CONNECTIONS

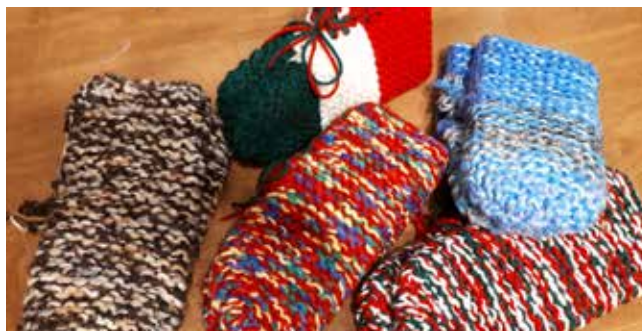
ICPM was in need. A congregation could not fulfill their commitment for a Sunday two weeks away. Sr. Marion asked whether my parish would be able to substitute: "Can you provide a lunch for 300 people in two weeks' time?" I asked. And I received a positive response! Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park has been a thrice-yearly Sunday lunch contributor ever since.

Sr. Marion ran the hospitality corner—coffee/tea, cream and sugar, juice—always served with a smile. I became a regular Sunday dishwasher, and developed a team of six who took turns once a month. Each week, once the final mugs and platters were cleaned and precariously manoeuvred into the cupboard, Sr. Marion was off to the women's prison—unlike me, who went home to rest! When Sr. Marion's health began to decline, she trained me to take over the coffee corner before returning to Saint John, NB, a service I offered happily until my own retirement in May 2020.

It was Sr. Marion who led me to Inner City Pastoral Ministry, which became a major focus in my life. My thanks to Marion for her invitation so many years ago!



*Coby Veeken*  
Board Member and Volunteer (retired), ICPM



**Coby has retired from weekly coffee service, but with her sister still sends warm slippers to share with the community**



**Sr. Marion Garneau's Retirement**

## REMEMBERING GORD HOLUB...



**Gord serving Sunday lunch at Bissell**

In December the ICPM community was shocked and saddened to hear that Gord Holub had suddenly died. Gord was the Community of Emmanuel's resident "Smudge Man," Sunday by Sunday offering the medicine for the community to Smudge as part of Sunday worship. Gord also worked tirelessly to build connections with people, help prepare and serve Sunday meals, and lead discussions for the monthly men's group. He had a tremendous way with people, a big generous heart, and a particular love for the culture and ways of his Indigenous people. He is greatly missed by the Community of Emmanuel, Norquest College where he studied, and Ambrose Place where he worked. May you rest in peace with the ancestors, Gord, and know how much you were loved by us all.

*Quinn Strikwerda +*  
Pastor, ICPM

## PASTOR QUINN'S LETTER

As the sap begins to flow in the trees again, and we feel the warmth of the sun promising that spring is just around the corner, we emerge from a long winter which, thanks to the pandemic, felt more like a hibernation than most winters. Nevertheless, just as the mother bear moves in her den during winter to ensure the cubs are well taken care of, so ICPM has continued to move amongst the people of Edmonton. We had to discontinue worship services at Bissell in mid-November after nearly two months of being back. This was truly disappointing for staff, volunteers, and guests alike. We have, however, been able to continue providing lunches and warm clothing on Sundays due to generous donations that continue to pour in from individuals and faith communities. I am so grateful for the giving hearts of the people in our network. Sundays are lovely when the people come to get food—we average close to 150 lunches on each Sunday—long underwear, toques, socks, gloves, blankets, and jackets. The smell of burning sage from the smudge station wafts through the crisp air, and the bundled-up people come and stand in the sunshine on the sidewalk and laugh over hot coffee before moving on to wherever they are staying. It's then my heart is glad. Christmas was a busy time for ICPM. Gift sacks for our community members were put together with love by Sue Pasker. They had Christmas treats, decorations, a card, and gift cards for Superstore or Walmart, and were greatly appreciated in this difficult year. Great job Sue! We also gave out 'street survival' bags for all the people who came for lunch on Sunday, December 20. These had warm clothes, Christmas treats, toiletry items, and a greeting card. All of the items for these bags were donated, some by local faith communities, others in a generous gift from Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Many thanks to all for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for folks on the streets and in shelters. You will perhaps never know the difference it makes when people realize they're loved and not forgotten.



**Smudge Station At Bissell Centre  
Sunday Morning**

Jim Gurnett and I continue to be present at the Edmonton Convention Centre temporary shelter during the week. We come to share badly needed winter clothing and personal hygiene items, and stay for conversation, listening, and connection. Beginning with a Christmas Eve service on the 24th, we began offering regular services on Sunday afternoons at the shelter. Not too many people attend, but those that do enjoy the music, the message, the medicine, and the prayers. In a little while, when the weather warms up, we will begin a regular Sunday service on the back patio of Bissell Centre West. So many in the community have expressed how much they miss worship, and how much they're looking forward to worship again. Let's pray for good weather!

Our Common Ground continues under the leadership of Michelle Nieviadomy. We had a very successful online Advent book study of *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* by Bob Joseph. This included three amazing guest speakers, and a moving winter solstice ceremony led by local Elder Bernadette lahtail. We also had a sacred sharing circle led by Elder Russell Auger, focussing on winter, courage, and the bear. As we move into a new season, the steering group for Our Common Ground is continuing to discern the best events and studies to present, in order to move the work of dialogue and sharing forward most effectively.

Many blessings to our whole community in this reflective season of Lent, and may you have a blessed Easter!

*Quinn Strikwerda +  
Pastor, ICPM*



**Annie, Barb, And Michelle Handing Out  
"Street Survival" Bags**

## A GIVING TREE



The Giving Tree Gifts



Decorating The Tree With Gifts

Last December, my niece, Ruth King, and her family invited family members and friends to decorate a tree in their yard with socks, mitts, etc.—which were then donated for our use at ICPM. Ruth said, “I think people really enjoyed doing this, so I’m hoping I can get them to do it again at some point!”

*Jim Gurnett  
Pastoral Associate, ICPM*



The Giving Tree Filled With Gifts



## GOING DIGITAL!



If you are receiving this newsletter via Canada Post, and would like to save a tree—and reduce our postage bill—by receiving your copy by email, please send a message to [icpmpastor@gmail.com](mailto:icpmpastor@gmail.com). Include your name and email address. We will move you over to our email list. Thank you!

*Colleen Smith  
Member, Board of Directors, ICPM*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Friends and supporters of ICPM, our Board is grateful for all of the financial gifts you have continued to share during this Covid-19 pandemic. The work of our ministry team has been even more critical for anyone experiencing poverty or homelessness. During this time, the dire circumstances our brothers and sisters in Christ endure on a daily basis have been made visible, circumstances that those of us who have food, shelter, and clothing could never imagine. Homeward Trust data shows that, in December 2020, 1,897 people were without shelter, 47% of them female, 54% Indigenous, and 32% youth. With your donations, ICPM continues to shine a Light and be the light that gives our brothers and sisters hope. Your donations help us to combat food

insecurity, which results in malnutrition. And they make it possible for us to provide emergency gloves, hats, jackets, socks, and personal hygiene materials. These are life savers. Thank you for continuing to hold ICPM close to your heart and in your prayers, in a city where many are hungry, walking alone, and looking for hope.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

*Mary-Lou Cleveland  
Chair, Board of Directors, ICPM*



Annual Board Retreat In Pandemic Times

## COMING EVENTS

### ICPM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 25, 2021, 5pm

This will be a “virtual” meeting, using the teleconferencing software program Zoom:

Zoom link for the event:

<https://ualberta-ca.zoom.us/j/95225620366>

One tap mobile:

+15873281099,,95225620366# Canada

Dial by your location:

587 328 1099

Meeting ID:

952 2562 0366

## ICPM Mission Statement

Inner City Pastoral Ministry is an interdenominational Christian Ministry of Presence. In partnership with the community, and guided by the Spirit of God, we walk with the people of the inner city of Edmonton.



**You can donate to ICPM quickly and easily online! Go to [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org)  
Search for "Inner City Pastoral Ministry". All who donate \$10 or more receive a tax receipt.**

**ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT FOR INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/Town** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gift Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**ICPM Board Members**

- Mary-Lou Cleveland ..... Anglican - Board Chair
- Dr. Nancy Kerr ..... United - Past Board Chair
- Victoria Wynn ..... United - Secretary
- Cathy Armstrong ..... Anglican - Treasurer
- Sharon Webb ..... Anglican - Sunday Lunch Coordinator
- Ann Matheson ..... Anglican
- Rev. Linda Whittle ..... Anglican
- Sue Pasker ..... Lutheran
- Colleen Smith ..... Roman Catholic
- Lucas Stone ..... At Large
- Andrea Wilhelm ..... Lutheran
- Julie Lloyd ..... Roman Catholic
- Fred Matthews ..... Anglican

**ICPM Ministry Team**

- Rev. Quinn Strikwerda ..... Anglican - Pastor
- Jim Gurnett ..... Anglican - Pastoral Associate
- Michelle Nieviadomy ..... Indigenous Oskapewis-Iskwew
- Bruce Thompson ..... Anglican - Artist in Residence
- Farley Magee and Julie Lloyd ..... Musicians in Residence
- Linda Heywood ..... Food Coordinator
- Annie Johnson ..... Food Coordinator
- Nicole Wiebe ..... Evangelical Free - Graphic Design
- Jim Whittle ..... Anglican - Newsletter Copy Editor

## **INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY**

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