



**December 23, 2018**  
**Volume III Issue II**

# *News and Muse*

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## **Message from the President**

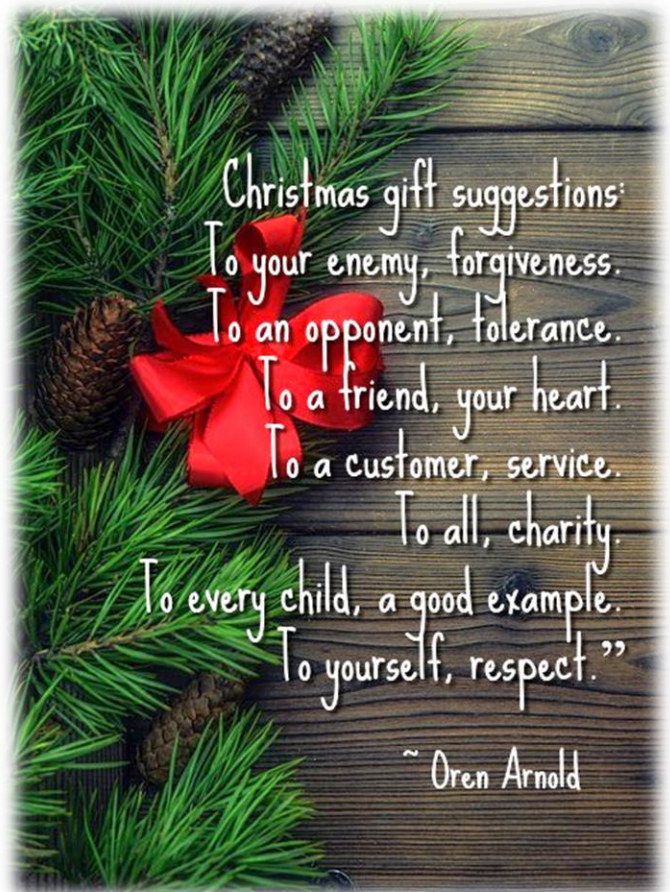


The Christmas holiday season is a most wonderful time of the year, a time of celebration, a time of renewed hope for what can be. Unfortunately, this time of year can be heart wrenching for those who don't have the means to provide for the basics of life, let alone extras for the holidays. It was this thought that acted as the impetus for ACRA donating \$3600 to a number of food banks in our community (details in *Briefs from the Board*). Our acts of kindness toward those less fortunate are nuggets of gold that reside in our souls.

*There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.* John Holmes

I wish each and every one of us the greatest joy and peace that this season can bring. I hope the New Year brings continued great health to us and our loved ones and provides us relief from physical burdens and all other difficulties.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!  
Maria



*Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.* Hamilton Wright Mabie

## Mario's Musings

*"You will never be poor nor alone if you have a few true friends."*

*Overheard in a bar, one guy to another, "I'm a pessimist and I don't think things can get any worse."  
The other fella says, "I'm an optimist and I think they can."*

*"All year long, but especially at Christmas time, the love of someone special brightens the darkest days,  
the loneliest nights, and makes everything much better!"*

### **Briefs from the Board**

- ◆ The Board held its meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2018.
- ◆ \$3600 of the available \$6000 earmarked for charitable donations this year was given to the following food banks:
  - St. Gabriel's Food Bank \$1500
  - St. Brendan's Food Bank \$750
  - St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen \$750
  - Holy Cross Food Bank \$600
- The remaining \$2400 will be distributed in the months to come.
- ◆ A donation of \$200 was sent to St. Jean Brebeuf Parish. This is the usual amount given to the church that hosts our Memorial Mass. The Board believed the donation should still be made regardless of the cancellation of the mass this year.
- ◆ It was decided to raffle two poinsettia plants at the Christmas lunch.
- ◆ Discussion began on possible venues for the St. Valentine and St. Patrick lunches. Several new locations will be explored.
- ◆ Next meeting: Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

November 27, 2018

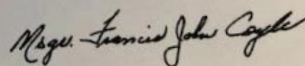
ACRA  
c/o Tony Di Lallo

On behalf of the volunteers at St. Patrick's Basilica Soup Kitchen, I wish to thank you for your generous donation of \$750.00.

As our Soup Kitchen relies entirely on donations from sponsors and parishioners, your generosity enables us to continue to serve those in our community that are in need.

Thank you, once again, for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Pastor,  
St. Patrick's Basilica



## *ACRA Christmas Luncheon*

On a cold and sunny December 13<sup>th</sup>, about 70 ACRA members and friends gathered for lunch at Casa Grecque in Brossard. ACRA covered the cost of lunch for the members and everyone present was asked to make a generous contribution to the St. Gabriel's Food Bank. Our president, Maria Di Perna, welcomed everyone and expressed wishes of health and happiness for our members, their friends, and loved ones. She then asked Anna Di Lallo to say grace before our meal. Two lovely poinsettias were then raffled off and the winners were Lydia Fitz and Larry deGruchy!

This year Santa Claus was unable to visit us, however, he did send a few choice messages. To Andy and Diane: may you be stuck under the mistletoe for the holidays! To Peter and Joanne: may Joanne find your putting stroke! To all ACRA members: be sure to be nice because Santa doesn't like naughty! After a fine meal, members left amidst wishes of "Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year"!



Mark your  
Calendar 

**\$4191**

The amount raised for St. Gabriel's Food Bank via "mail-ins" and at our Christmas Luncheon.

**Wow!**

## ACRA Calendar of Events

Thursday, February 14, 2019 11:30 am – St. Valentine Lunch  
Thursday, March 14, 2019 11:30 am - St. Patrick Lunch  
Late April/Early May (TBD) - Spring Activity  
Thursday, June 6, 2019 6:30 pm – ACRA Annual Dinner  
Wednesday, July 3, 2019 12:30 pm - ACRA Golf Tournament

## St. Gabe's Food Bank Christmas Baskets

"Many hands make heavy work light!"

How very true this was on December 22nd at St. Gabriel's where the annual Christmas Basket delivery took place! Once again approximately 300 food baskets were distributed to families in the south west sector of Montreal. The many volunteers were able to complete the work by 3:00 pm; truly amazing! ACRA's support on this day included about 15 members moving the boxes along the tables towards the delivery trucks as well as providing sandwiches for those present. Once again ACRA was involved in giving to others; the true spirit of Christmas!





# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

*The ACR Board of Directors wishes you and your loved ones a most blessed Christmas. May the New Year bring each and every one of you the greatest of health, happiness and peace.*

*Vicki Hoff*

*Thomas Lassalle*

*D. S. Pals*

*Al*

*Marion H. ...*

*John ...  
Marshall*