

# Brise de Communion



Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Circle

Winter 2014



Volume 11 Number 1

## A Winter Prayer

Come through the gloom of clouded skies,  
The slow dim rain and fog athwart;  
Through east winds keen with wrong and lies  
Come and lift up my hopeless heart.

Come through the sickness and the pain,  
The sore unrest that tosses still;  
Through the aching dark that hides the gain  
Come and arouse my fainting will.

Come through the prate of foolish words,  
The science with no God behind;  
Through all the pangs of untuned chords  
Speak wisdom to my shaken mind.

Through all the fears that spirits bow  
Of what hath been, or may befall,  
Come down and talk with me, for thou  
Canst tell me all about them all.

Hear, hear my sad lone heart entreat,  
Heart of all joy, below, above!  
Come near and let me kiss thy feet,  
And name the names of those I love!

On this winter day, O God, open the eyes of my heart and awaken my soul to the mystery of your presence in every corner of a winter day.



We take a moment of silence and contemplation before this splendid scenery. Let us be recreated by its beauty.

What comes up for me?

Let us share  
in our circle  
of  
communion.



What message winter holds for you?  
How does it make one with the above poem?  
How did Francis et Elizabeth Hayes see winter and the cold weather?



What could winter tell us about the Cosmic Christ?



## A word from Francine

*Greetings from Francine, our circle leader*

*I wish you a year of laughter,  
frequent bursts of laughter,  
small happiness to share  
with those you will meet.*



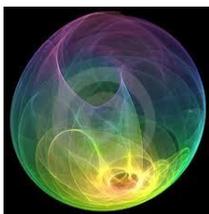
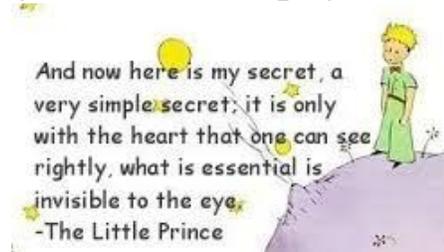
*A year of hope signed with patience,  
free of judgment, and of absent looks...*

*A year of interiority,  
of periods of prayer «not timed»  
of free time for the soul and the heart  
where we find again our childhood's ingenuousness*



*A year of solidarity with a world to pacify,  
so much unhealed suffering for which we all pray!*

*A year marked by love,  
in our daily gestures,  
free unforced gestures  
where the heart likes to unfurl!*



*And at last , the gift of serenity,  
of reconciliation, of forgotten words...  
where each day is a gift  
given to us from the Most High.*





## Cold cheeks



What is more delicious than to hug or to brush with one's own cheek a good cold cheek? It's like an aroma or a savour reminding us of our motherly kitchen, this sweet and fresh sensation bringing up instantly some happy winter memories from our childhood: snow fights and slides, outings to a sugar camp, rabble of kids coming home from school or simply from the yard with appetizing red cheeks just like an apple or some relatives dropping by.

Yes, brushing or hugging red cheeks is agreeable pleasure of winter. Moreover, not be stingy! Whenever time and get some fresh air, then let us give a good winter's end!



one of the most it is free. And so, let us health permit us, let us plenty of cuddles. Have

Louise Lévesque, for Green Church Committee from Mercier-East. Pastoral team.

### Who is Louise Lévesque?

She's a good friend who, since her return to the Church, has engaged in many pastoral activities. Being an author, she has a facility to produce different reports, summaries of conferences which are always agreeable to read.

She often prepares an echo-capsule for Green Church which appears in our parish bulletin.

Green Church is a program which sustains the Christian community for the improvement of our ecological practices and the training of a life style that is respectful of the environment.

This program is in line with our Pope Francis' thought, which according to him, « is a vocation to safeguard all of creation, the beauty of creation as it is said in Genesis and as St Francis has shown us: the fact of having respect for all of God's creatures and for the environment in which we live.»

*(The inaugural Mass of his pontificate, Rome, Tuesday March 12, 2013)*



## Reflections on the Nativity 2013

*Every end of the year brings us the beautiful feast of Christmas or the Nativity and we elaborate celebration programs, decorations, menus for our family or community gatherings.*

*There is mostly the crib to put in an honoured place. The Crib! We know that Francis of Assisi wanted to reproduce the Mystery of Incarnation but we also realize that history has added greatly to Greccio and the Gospel. These days we will see the Christmas crib figures leave till next year: the shepherds, the sheep, the angels who will not sing anymore. Even Joseph will lead Mary and the Child on a journey bringing the precious gifts. Where did these gifts come from? What meaning, what use for poor people!*

*And the caravan? Tradition has so much embellish this visit of these men from the East. Scholars who followed the course of the stars. They made me dream these guys who set out to follow a twinkling star which attracted them. It is said that these strangers knew through the Scriptures of Israel that a new king would be born in the vicinity of Jerusalem. It's a long way, it would be preferable to join with other searchers. Without the Web, without Google, the caravan gets organised, they are white, yellow, black, they have but one aim, follow this star and discover the new king of Israel. Some intrigued authors gave them names, they were three leaders: Melchior, Casper and Balthazar...*



*They decided to leave, to walk. How long, how many weeks months? As long as the star guides them, they go forward, they to go to the end, to go as far as their GPS leads them. An ordeal! They go and ask for directions. Will they have translators? A king, in the palace receives them, asks them questions on the purpose of their research. Astonished, this young king knows nothing of the recent birth of a King, a Saviour, a Messiah. He sends them forward while making fun of these visionaries.*

*Out of Jerusalem, what joy the star is there calling them. They don't hesitate to follow and so come to the little village of Bethlehem. Is it really the place where a king is born? The caravan comes to a stop. They have found. No questions, this child, this little one whom his mother cuddles, he is really the one whom they came to adore, he is the one to whom they have brought gifts. Mystery!*

*Yes, Mystery! Gold, frankincense, a king, like for a god, like for a could really make fun of these gifts who seems to lack everything. The mention if the women of the group baby bottles, of fine swaddling clothes, of some sweets for the mother and her husband. We cannot doubt about it.*



*myrrh like for human. We for someone story does not had thought of*

*The visit over, the exchange of wishes well written in the bottom of their hearts, they went by another road. Where did they go to bring the Good News? Mystery! No dream in this story. The dreams of this passage bring me to reflect on the power of the Spirit in Mary, in Joseph, in the shepherds, the wise men and why not in me?*

*Madeleine Lamy*

### *An astonishing story*



*While a man was polishing his new car, his 6 yr old son picked up a stone and scratched lines on the side of the car. In anger, the man took the child's hand and hit it many times; not realizing he was using a wrench.*

*At the hospital, the child lost all his fingers due to multiple fractures. When the child saw his father.....with eyes he asked, when will my fingers grow back?' The man was so and*



*painful  
'Dad  
hurt*



*speechless; he went back to his car and kicked it many times.*

*Devastated by his own actions.....sitting in front of that car he*

*looked at the scratches; the child had written I 'LOVE YOU DAD'. The next*

*day that man committed suicide. . Anger and Love have no limits; choose*

*the latter to have a beautiful, lovely life..... Things are to be used and people are to be loved. But the problem in today's world is that, People are used and things are loved.... This year, let's be careful to keep this thought in mind: Things are to be used, but People are to be loved. Watch your thoughts; they become words.*

*Watch your words; they become actions.*

*Watch your actions; they become habits.*

*Watch your habits they become character; Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.*

*I'm glad a friend forwarded this to me as a reminder. God bless you.*

*Send it to someone if you do, you might change someone's life.*

*Do u know the relationship between your two eyes? They blink together, move together, cry together, see things together & sleep together. Even though they never see each other. Friendship should be just like that! Life is vanity without FRIENDS. Who is your best friend? Send this to all your good friends.*

*Thanks.*

*From one of Annette's friend*

Thomas Campion,

Now winter nights enlarge  
This number of their hours;  
And clouds their storms discharge  
Upon the airy towers.  
Let now the chimneys blaze  
And cups o'erflow with wine,  
Let well-tuned words amaze  
With harmony divine...

This time doth well dispense  
With lovers' long discourse;  
Much speech hath some defense,  
Though beauty no remorse.  
All do not all things well:  
Some measures comely tread,  
Some knotted riddles tell,  
Some poems smoothly read.  
The summer hath his joys,  
And winter his delights;  
Though love and all his pleasures are but toys,  
They shorter than his nights.

*Winter, one of the sacred seasons*

*On this winter day O God, open the eyes of my heart + awaken my soul to the mystery of your presence in every corner of this day.*

And now here is my secret, a  
very simple secret: it is only  
with the heart that one can see  
rightly, what is essential is  
invisible to the eye.  
-The Little Prince

