

# VISION



## Catholic School of Evangelization

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MEET OUR NEW  
MISSIONARY FAMILY

# A LETTER FROM THE STERZER FAMILY



Photo credit: Carolina Hebert

**H**ello! Caleb and I (Lisa) and our daughter Rosalie are excited to be this year's missionary family here at the CSE. We are settling in quite well. It took a little bit of time to adjust to all of the extra space that we have now, but after realizing that we don't have to use it all, it has gotten easier.

St Malo is a peaceful little town that I have enjoyed exploring on my afternoon walks with Rosalie. The people are friendly and we are always greeted with a smile everywhere we go. Rosalie, being as cute as she is, probably has something to do with that.

The CSE has played a significant role in both my faith life and my husband, Caleb's, faith life. We are looking forward to sharing that with our daughter. Even though she is only 14 months old and doesn't really understand much, she is able to recognize every picture of Jesus she sees and makes sure to point them out to us. Given that the CSE has many of those

pictures floating around, Rosalie reminds me to be more aware of His presence here and in my life, which also helps me to share that with her as well. Caleb and I are looking forward to exploring and developing our family's faith life, what that means and how it will look.

Being such a young family, it has been nice to look and talk to the previous missionary families who have lived here, the Kirpluks and Kautzs. By looking to them, we are able to understand a little more of what our role is here and how we can fulfill that, as well as what the take away may be. Both Danielle (Kirpluk) and Dawn (Kautz) are seasoned in raising a family, being a mother, and a wife. I feel encouraged in my roles as a wife and mother when I talk with them and observe them in their roles.

The CSE has a beautiful way of bringing people together, even if they aren't in the same building. Being here, I feel connected to all those who have entered

these doors. It's wonderful to play a part in keeping the CSE filled with life.

Caleb and I talked about applying to be the missionary family for months. This has been on our hearts for quite some time. However, when it finally came down to filling out the application form, we started to waiver and rethink it. We actually almost bought a house, but the Lord works in mysterious ways, for the house fell through and we finally decided to muster up the courage and fill out the application. I am very glad that we did because this experience thus far has been wonderful. I couldn't imagine us anywhere else at the moment.

We are both excited for what the rest of this year has in store and are truly blessed for this opportunity.

God Bless,  
The Sterzers

**THE CSE HAS A BEAUTIFUL WAY OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, EVEN IF THEY AREN'T IN THE SAME BUILDING.**

# THANK YOU!

The Catholic School of Evangelization is overseen by a dedicated group of volunteers who give of their time and talent as members on our Board of Directors. This dedicated group of individuals is invested in the mission and vision of the CSE – to bring the Gospel to young people and be the leaders in the new evangelization. They ensure that all that we do brings glory to God and is focused on this shared vision. There are two long time Board members we would like to acknowledge and thank for all of their service to the CSE as their paths take them elsewhere.

**Rita Tully** has been on the Board for 10 plus years and has been instrumental in streamlining our bookkeeping

and accounting. As a parent whose children have attended our summer camps, she was invested in the CSE, helping it to grow in its ministerial life.

**George Gervais** served on the Board for 9 years, and as Board Chair for 7+ years. George has also been a "camper parent" and has not only served on the Board as Chair, but has also spent many hours painting, putting up drywall, and volunteering his time at the CSE.

**Thank you to Rita and George for your past and continued support of the CSE and its mission.**

# CAMPS THE ROAD TRIP EDITION: CAMPS DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC



**W**hen I first started in my position as Camp Director last fall (September 2019), I was drawn to the theme of finding Jesus in the storm, and being anchored in His love in difficult times. The bible verse I had chosen to use for the following summer camps was **"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."** (Hebrews 6:19). Little did I know that 7 months later this theme would become so important to us here at the CSE as we started to navigate through the pandemic, all the while attempting to plan for summer camps.

There were many roadblocks to planning and preparing for summer camps with new procedures coming out and health guidelines changing almost weekly. If we were to run camps, we wanted to ensure that we could do it safely, for the sake of our campers, families, and staff. We also wanted to continue to live out the mission of the CSE, which is to evangelize and to bring Jesus to the youth.

Due to new policies put in place for camps, there were many things we were not able to do this summer. However, it allowed us to think outside the box and to decide to take camps on the road. In total, we were able to have 115 campers participate in our six weeks of camps, which were located in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. It also allowed us to offer camps in the beautiful community of Sagkeeng First Nation!

Bringing camps and ministering to churches, schools and communities in the St Boniface and Winnipeg Dioceses was an incredible opportunity, and also reminded us of the greater community we are a part of as a church.

Our summer was far from perfect, and definitely not what any of us expected, but by the grace of God, we were still able to do something beautiful. We had two incredible teams (French and English) of counselors who rose to the task, and although fewer in numbers, were still able to overcome many challenges. We had a very intense week of training, where we also had to add Covid guidelines to ensure that the teams were all on the same page on how to keep everyone safe this summer. Many games were changed and adapted to ensure a no-contact environment, and physical distancing was encouraged with the help of some 3-foot wide hula hoops, among other new camp guidelines.

Despite the many new rules implemented, the kids still had a lot of fun, and many glory stories were shared with us. Something that parents shared with us was that even though the kids missed out on many of the usual camp activities, the most important part of camps were the friendships and the faith-filled

environment among those friends. As a relational ministry, and as one of our core values, we strive to offer and build up healthy, positive Catholic role models and relationships, and in order to accomplish this, being in each other's presence was very important to us this summer. We had an incredible summer filled with beautiful testimonies, friendships, happy memories, and a hope in Christ that kept us going through it all, all the while being safe and healthy.

Although we were not able to minister to everyone and our numbers were smaller, we hope that in the future we can continue to invite you and your families to come to camp, and still experience meaningful friendships, faith, and Jesus's love.

We would not have been able to do any of this without the help of all of our donors, supporters and prayer warriors, and so I thank you for your sacrifices, gifts, and prayers, whether big or small, and know that the CSE is always grateful for your generosity and kindness.

God bless,  
Gabrielle Champagne

*\* Gabrielle has been involved with summer camps ever since she was old enough to attend camp. Her love of camp and her experience were a great asset in navigating through the added challenges of the pandemic. We wish Gabrielle well as she moves on to continue her studies. "Well done, good and faithful servant" (MT 25:23)\**



2019-20

# ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW



**Discernment Retreat**  
January 2020



**Family Advent Retreat**  
November 2019

## VIRTUAL LENTEN RETREAT

4868 views from 20 different countries

## SUMMER CAMP

8 counsellors, 2 Caravans, 6 Weeks, 11 camps, 64 road trips, 115 campers, 240 hours with campers, 1152 hours staff together, 1 amazing team life

## WINTER CAMP

5 weekends of camp – 15 counsellors – 90 campers

## DISCERNMENT RETREAT

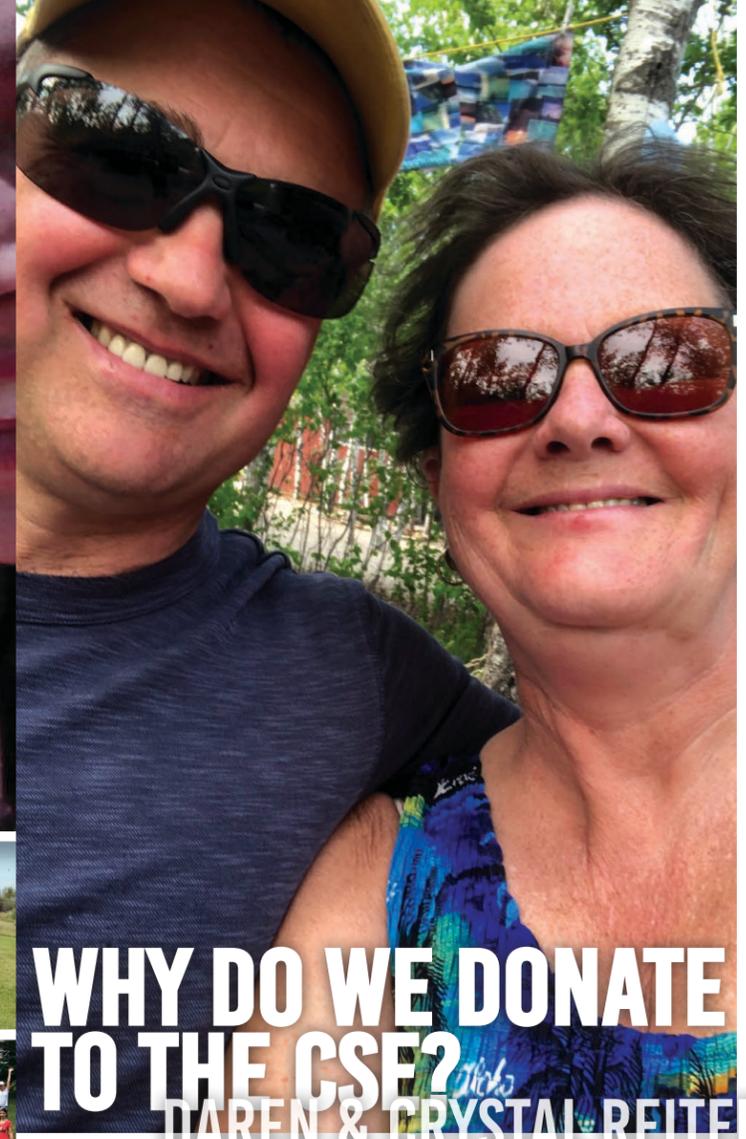
23 participants (7 men, 16 women)

## FAMILY ADVENT RETREAT

7 families (38 people, including helpers)

## VOCATIONS

- 1 camp alum **ordained**,
- 1 camp alum **promises at Madonna House**,
- 1 student alum **second vows**,
- 1 student alum discerning **religious life** with a community,
- 1 camp alum in **seminary**, lots of **families** and **babies**
- 5 camp alumni** at St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission
- 3 camp/retreat alum** on NET



## WHY DO WE DONATE TO THE CSE? DAREN & CRYSTAL REITER

**W**e have always considered that if Catholics are not supporting Catholic programs, why would anyone else support them? We firmly believe we are called to support our

seek opportunities for our Catholic children and grandchildren, the ability to provide financial support is just one way to help to keep this opportunity available. Further, we have also found in this a way to acknowledge a job well done and a method for us to do our part in sustaining this as an option for our Manitoba village.

**WE HAVE BOTH WITNESSED AND OBSERVED MANY EXAMPLES OF THIS INCREDIBLE SUPPORT NETWORK AND BELIEVE THE CSE IS RESPONSIBLE.**

**Manitoba Catholic programs and the CSE is definitely one of these fine programs, which is so much more than just a program.**

As parents with children and grandchildren we plant the seeds of our faith, role model the desired behaviours, hopefully provide inspiration and attempt to guide them in their respective faith formation. We gain an extra reinforcement of our common foundation when we partner our parenting with the CSE and its ministries that lead to active and passionate Catholic citizens.

In our opinion, our youth are our future and our youth rely on support networks of other like-minded individuals; so programs that offer support networks are critical to sustaining our faith into the next generation. The CSE ministries, whether formally or informally, do create one of these support networks that we feel are important to nurture the faith journey of our youth. We have both witnessed and observed many examples of this incredible support network and believe the CSE is responsible. This has provided a place for our young adults to grow comfortably and confidently while facing the challenges of our secular society. We have proudly witnessed the transformation of many children journeying through the stages of their faith to become adult Catholic citizens, an objective supported greatly by the works of the CSE ministries.

As a past member of the Board of Directors and the Camp Advisory Committee, we have come to understand the many challenges of operating and maintaining this amazing part of our Catholic community. The importance of having a consistent monthly cash flow projection for managing the expenditures incurred by the CSE operations was a concept we learned years ago, and how as a supporter we should do our best to do our part monthly and help the CSE do what they do best – evangelize and not fundraise. Every year when we review our personal budget, we are reminded that this work is a priority and we need to continue to do our part. We are forever grateful that we sought out the Manitoba village, the CSE, to help raise our children and we expect them to be around for our grandchildren. 🙏

## 2019-20 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

\*All figures are rounded to the nearest dollar. Detailed report can be found at catholicway.net

### DONATION TRENDS

Total Number of **Donations** (2019-2020) .....823  
 Total Number of **Donors** (2019-2020).....144  
 Total Number of **Monthly Donors** (as of Aug 2020).....60  
 Average **Donation Amount** per Donor ..... \$ 215  
 Average **Monthly Donation** Amount ..... \$ 62

### TOTAL REVENUE

Donations and Gifts ..... \$ 177,622  
 Activity-Generated Revenue..... \$ 36,378  
 Grants ..... \$ 43,531  
 Fundraising..... \$ 4,471  
 COVID Relief..... \$ 50,018  
**Total Revenue..... \$ 312,020**

### TOTAL EXPENSES

Fundraising & Advertisement ..... \$ 6,056  
 Building Maintenance, Utilities..... \$ 25,484  
 Ministry Expenses..... \$ 1,416  
 Camp Expenses ..... \$ 83,579  
 Admin Expenses ..... \$ 119,037  
**Total Expenses.....\$ 235,572**

## WISH LIST

The CSE is in need of the following gently used items! If you are interested in donating any of these, please email anita@catholicway.net. Tax receipts may be issued for in-kind donations.

- Barbeque
- Shop Vac
- Gas cards
- Office Supplies (paper, etc.)
- Weed Whacker
- Large foldable plastic tables
- Limestone, soil, grass seed
- LCD projector
- Dehumidifiers
- Knife sharpening stone
- Whisks
- Corelle plates & bowls
- Laptop
- Flat screen TV
- Craft supplies
- Altar candles



# PRAYER IN PANDEMIC

O God,

We gather together separated by life-saving distancing, but united more than ever in spirit; We know we are in a war against COVID - 19 together, and the more together we are, the better and stronger we will emerge:

We know the challenges are enormous, yet so are the opportunities;

That whether we are in isolation with loved ones, or alone, we will have abundance of time;

We commit to using that time to the max, to help those in greater need in whatever way we can;

We know we all have the opportunity, and time, to be life savers and life enhancers;

We give thanks for those who are on the front line taking care of those who are not well;

We give thanks for the researchers who are working at breakneck speed to find cure and vaccine;

We give thanks for our leaders, federal, provincial and local, for their dedication to all of us;

We give thanks for the providers of our daily needs who go to work in spite of the risk;

We give thanks for those who have ramped up their ability to produce life-saving supplies.

We pray for the well-being of all our life savers; For those who are not well, that they recover fully;

For those enduring difficulty, that they may overcome their challenges.

We pray that a cure and vaccine will soon be available, And that we all – family, friends, all Canadians, the entire world may be healed in body and spirit.

We ask you, O God, to bless our leaders, our front line care givers, our life savers and life enhancers.

We ask you, O God, to bless Canada, to bless the world, to bless everyone.

Amen.

Prayer created by Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka and Ottawa Archbishop Terrence Prendergast

*"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."*

*(Hebrews 6:19)*



# WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

ANITA VANDER AA

**We live in precarious times. With the pandemic changing directions daily, causing the world to pivot and change, it can remind us of being on ship in the middle of a storm – being tossed about, struggling to navigate to our destination. It is a time where, more than ever, we need the lighthouse of hope to guide us through these stormy seas. It is a time where we can bring the light of hope, the light of Christ into the world in bold new ways.**

We can focus on the fear, destruction, chaos of what is happening around us, and get sucked into despair or we can hunker down and look at all of this as a challenge, an adventure that will give us an opportunity to grow. Here at the CSE, we have decided to look at everything that is happening in the world as a challenge – an opportunity to be creative in our mission to build relationship and bring Jesus to others – to reflect His light in the dark stormy night.

As a ministry that is relationship based, we have been facing the challenges that being asked to physically and socially distance brings. We have been inspired to look at new ways to evangelize, to support families, youth and young adults, and the church in a time when this kind of ministry is needed most. It started with our modified version of summer camps and will continue with any retreats we offer, the winter camps coming up, as well as any other ways we can support you – catechists, youth ministry leaders, parents, campers, grandparents, the church as a whole. We want you all to know that we are here for you as a resource. We want all of you to know that we are interceding for you. We will weather this storm together.

# YES! I WOULD LIKE TO PARTNER IN THE CSE'S IMPORTANT WORK!

**STEP 1** I'd like to make a ONE TIME gift of:  
 \$50    \$100    \$200    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(please enclose a cheque payable to "CSE" or fill in your credit card information below)

I'd like to make a MONTHLY gift of:  
 \$15    \$25    \$50    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 2** I would like to donate from my:  
 My bank account (please include a void cheque)  
 My credit card:  Visa    Mastercard  
Card#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. date: \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_   Sec. number (3 digits): \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 3** I hereby authorize the Catholic School of Evangelization to deduct the amount indicated above, from my bank account or credit card, on a one-time or monthly basis, as per indicated above, on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month.  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 4**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I give the CSE permission to contact me by email.

Please make cheques payable to the Catholic School of Evangelization. Donations may be mailed to: PO BOX 570, St. Malo, MB, R0A 1T0.

Donations are tax-deductible (reg # 13441 2998 RR0001). Receipts are issued at year-end. Your bank or credit card statement will indicate the CSE's receipt of your donation on a monthly basis.