

# VISION



newsletter

Fall  
2019

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# TWO GENERATIONS OF CAMPS COUNSELLORS

**The St. Malo Catholic Camps have been running for twenty-six years. We are starting to see the second generation of families come to camps, both as campers and as counselors. Christine Sevi (nee Jeanson) and her fourteen year old daughter Kafui are one such pairing.**

“My first time at the CSE was in 1994,when I was a thirteen year old camper,” Christine told us when we sat down with her and her daughter. “When I was about fifteen, the director Gilbert asked me if I would want to be a counselor. So I said OK. Well, actually, I said no, that I’d try to find another job and if I couldn’t then I’d come. And I couldn’t find anything else. So I went, and I loved it. And then I just kept going every summer. I became head women’s counselor, and then head counselor, and finally camp coordinator. I loved the camp ministry. I loved it better than being a camper. After I graduated from high school, I became a student at the CSE.”

She loved the friendships she made during her time working at camps, especially because at high school she was an “undercover Christian” and found it hard to share her faith openly. Those camp friends are still her good friends today. She also found that being put on the spot to give her testimony as a camp leader helped her to refine her understanding of who God is in her life. “My faith had to become real, because I had to be real with the campers.”

Christine recalls one young camper, from the 8-10 year old group, who was having a difficult time

the whole week. His behaviour had escalated to a point where, as camp coordinator, she needed to intervene. With some gentle coaxing, he opened up to her, sharing some struggles he was having at home. Her influence outside of camp was limited, but she was able to connect with the boy’s father and inform him of the problems, which vastly improved the boy’s situation. Today, years later, she still sees that camper from time to time, and while she doesn’t know if he remembers that intervention, she feels blessed to have played a part in his healing.

Her time at the CSE was in a different season of our ministry. Although she misses the discontinued discipleship formation program, she sees great potential for future leader development with the full time position of a camp director, which Gabrielle Champagne is now filling. Christine recognizes that Gabrielle’s monthly formation meetings, for next year’s slate of counselors, will be an important factor in the development and growth of that team.

Kafui, Christine’s eldest daughter, had her first experience as an eight year old camper in 2013. When the family moved to British Columbia, Christine wondered if her kids would ever get another chance to participate in CSE programming. But they moved back to Manitoba last year, and this summer was Kafui’s first chance to be a camp counselor, for two weeks. “There

was some relief,” says Christine. “For teenagers, your peers become so important, and as parents we want them to have good friends. And as much as she had a rough summer due to the challenges they faced, she just can’t wait to go back. I don’t think parents realize how much their kid is actually learning as a counselor.”

“I wanted to be a counselor,” says Kafui, “because my other friends who’ve done it say it’s very challenging and yet very fun. I wanted to spend more time with them and get to know them better because we share the same faith.”

When Christine picked up Kafui after the counselor training week, her first thought was, “Ahh, I’ve missed this,” she says, smiling wistfully. “But then it quickly faded when I remembered the energy needed to be a counselor. I’m very happy that she liked it. It’s a struggle for me to be without her help at home when she’s at camp, but it’s worth it.”

Christine, looking at her own siblings and their experiences at the CSE, points out that not all teens are necessarily called to be counselors, and that the other camp positions of kitchen assistant, custodian, lifeguard, or many other background roles can have their own rewards. “The whole CSE community experience, the spirit of accompaniment, and being authentic in our faith are the most important parts of working at camps. It’s such a good complement to what we’re trying to do as parents.”

Now that she and her daughter have both had this powerful experience of being a counselor, their relationship has a new shared dimension.

“When Kafui came back from her first week, because I know how intense and exhausting a week of camp work is, I gave her the next day off from chores and let her sleep in, and I prepped my other kids to give her some space,” recalls Christine.

Kafui greatly appreciates having a mother who understands what it’s like. “One of the other counselors told me that when she got home, her mom said, ‘OK, get to work, you’ve missed a whole week of chores.’” Then, with a proud smile, she adds, “My mom gets it.” ✠



Photo credit: Marta Guerrero / La Liberté

**Deciding to spend a second year serving at the CSE, the Kautz family shares about God’s Providence throughout their first year:**

At the beginning of our married life we took great joy in surrendering to God’s will, of praying the “dangerous prayer” – “Lord, whatever you want me to do, I will do.” When our family heard the call to commit to a year of service at the CSE, we were not sure what would happen when that year was up. Our younger kids had to change schools, we had to put our involvement in volunteer activities in the city on hold, and we had to rent out our house. God’s hand was clearly visible in making each of those changes happen smoothly. It felt like the cluttered table of our lives was being swept clean for something else.

As the summer of 2018 approached, all we knew for sure was that we would move in to the CSE in late August 2018, and that we would need to vacate our rooms in early July 2019 in order to make room for that

year’s summer camp program.

That first year here was hard, but good. It was hard because of the logistical problems of an old building, teenage girl drama, mental health challenges, our mischievous boys, the commute, a new baby, and marriage struggles. But it was good because we all improved our work ethic in making a large place like this beautiful and ready for groups to use. It was good because we grew spiritually through participation in the retreats here. It was good because we deepened our family purpose and communion. It was good because of the deepening friendships with the CSE staff. It was good because we had our very own chapel in which to do personal and family prayer time. It was good because God answered when we called out to him.

Our renters in Winnipeg were committed through June of 2019, so we knew we’d have a place to return home to in the summer. That was our plan, anyway. They are recent immigrants and faithful Catholics who came to Canada to be with their family here, and were hoping to rent short-term while they searched for something permanent. But that

**LORD, WHATEVER YOU WANT ME TO DO, I WILL DO.**

**For a number of years now, Stan Scott has been a behind the scenes volunteer at the Catholic School of Evangelization.**

Using his IT experience and knowledge, he has contributed to the work of the CSE by creating the program that we use for our online registrations, setting up our network, fixing our computer bugs and advising us in countless ways.

search has proved difficult for them. And since we had discerned to commit to a second year at the CSE, it didn’t make sense for us to move back to our Winnipeg house for a handful of weeks, especially because our renters still needed a place to live. Once again we felt like God was asking us to trust him in a radical way. And once again, he met our needs.

Years ago, Dawn had met a woman whose family lived on a farm near Morris. A chance Facebook post brought them together again. Her family was planning an extended trip to Europe with their children, during the exact - yes, exact - window of time that we needed a place to stay. They had been desperately seeking somebody to watch their laying hens and care for the home while they were away. The house was more than big enough for us, and our children quickly learned how to care for chickens and collect eggs. Those weeks of relative calm living there were a much needed break from a busy year.

As for what will happen at the end of this year, only God knows. All we know is that he’ll call us to radical trust again. ✠

When asked why he decided to get involved at the CSE, Stan shared that he “always felt connected to the CSE since my young adult years when it first opened. I felt it was a way for me to give back and support the mission of the CSE.” Stan also adds that he has “good friends who are involved with the CSE and I thought it was a good opportunity to work and reconnect with those friends!” ✠



# VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE STAN SCOTT





**L**ionel Demers is the proprietor of St. Joseph's Carpentry & Renovations. He has a young family, and as his children are approaching camp age, he inquired in the spring if he would be able to contribute some volunteer hours to improve the CSE's building for the next generation of campers. His initial idea was to beautify our chapel, but after touring the building he realized a greater need was to make the old basement a usable space.

If you're not familiar with the old basement, it's directly beneath the dining room and kitchen. It's an open area with lots of potential as a multi-use room. The walls and ceiling are finished, but the floor is bare concrete, and there was a lot of storage clutter. In the heat of summer, there is also a moisture problem which we've mitigated by running dehumidifiers constantly. This, however, merely replaces the moisture problem with a noise problem, and that along with the clutter made the space largely unusable.

We purged the storage this past spring. Centre Flavie-Laurent sent a cube van which we filled with surplus desks, tables, foam mattresses, etc. Other broken items were taken to the landfill or suitable recycling depots. This left us with a lot more room for

the camps to use during the summer.

This Fall, Lionel has donated thirteen working days here. Among other smaller projects, he built an interior storage room to separate a section of the basement for storage of tables and chairs. Then, to work towards a solution for the moisture problem, he gutted the utility area of the basement. These walls were very old concrete, poorly insulated and with no vapor barrier and they leak during heavy rains. He installed new framing in preparation for insulation. Traditional fiberglass batting was considered, but spray foam was chosen as the right solution for the space given the age of the walls, seepage, and the numerous small, tight spaces which would need to be insulated in that utility area. With the help of a team of volunteers, he turned his attention to installing some donated flooring in a few of the older dorm rooms and in the basement.

And he is still hoping to get to his dream of beautifying the chapel.

His example has inspired others, too. Cladan Electric donated some time doing upgrades and repairs. Habitat for Humanity's newest ReStore donated new flooring which is, at the time of this writing, sitting in the prop room awaiting installation. Phil Grenier, from Toupin Plumbing and Heating, installed a new water heater to replace a leaky one in that utility room.

Henry Bohncke repaired and sealed the interior concrete walls before they were insulated. Leo Gosselin helped with the storage purge and used his trailer for our dump runs. Many others have chipped in as well. You all have our deepest thanks!

***Do you have time and talent you could devote to the CSE? There's a lot to do in a building like this. Some projects we anticipate in the near future are:***

- Landscaping to remediate our water problems in the old basement
- Tree servicing to remove dead branches
- Repainting the basement, the boardroom, and the chapel
- Locksmithing to help us reduce the dozens of keys we need around here
- Electrical work to rewire our fluorescent fixtures to LED tubes (we have dozens of them!)
- Repairing a ball joint on our van
- Kitchen cabinetry repairs / updates
- Plumbing to replace some old sinks / toilets

If you can help with any of these, or if you have other talents we could use, contact the CSE to coordinate a suitable date. Thanks in advance! If you are interested please give us a call at 204.347.5396. ✚

## 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](mailto:anita@catholicway.net).
- Tax receipts may be issued for in-kind donations.

- Shop Vac
- Laptop
- LCD projector
- Gas Lawn Mower
- Gas Cards
- Office Supplies (Paper...)
- Weed Whacker
- Office Chairs

- Shovels
- Children's car seats
- Altar Cloths
- Flat Screen television
- Large foldable plastic tables
- Candles
- Queen size or double mattresses and frames

- Area rugs
- LED pot lights
- Limestone, soil, grass seed
- Curtain rods (tubes) and hardware
- Craft Supplies



**T**he CSE dorm bedrooms are identified with paintings of saints and labeled with their names. Libby Kautz, alumna of St. Malo Catholic Camps and member of the Missionary Host Family, was inspired to paint images of the saints on the doors. Libby shares her experience of creating this inspired artwork.

"Before I starting a painting, I always prayed. I asked for the intercession of the saint I was about to paint, and asked the Holy Spirit to guide me. Whenever I felt discouraged, or nervous about something difficult I had to paint, I would pray more. I offered up the late hours and numb hands for all

who have been involved with the CSE, and for those who do not know God. Whenever I was worried for someone, or going through something difficult myself, I offered it up while I painted. Looking back on the paintings I see my past year, where my heart was at each saint. I see so clearly that the Holy Spirit was guiding me the whole way. I see intricate details and emotions that I could not have expressed on my own. We all receive gifts from the Holy Spirit, and are trusted to use them to glorify the Lord. Throughout this year, I realized that I have received a gift of art to do just this. By leaving something beautiful at the CSE, I hope that they reflect God's beauty, and bring people to know Him more."

Be sure to come by the CSE to have a look at these beautiful pieces of art in person! ✚



**Hello! My name is Gabrielle Champagne.** I'm the new Camp Director for the St. Malo Catholic Camps! I am 21 years old, and I grew up in Lorette, MB. I now live in Ste. Anne with my eldest sister and niece.

I have been coming to camps since I was 4 years old starting out with day camps, followed by many summers and winters as a camper, kitchen helper, counselor and lifeguard. More recently, I was part of the counselor CORE team last summer (2018), and as Head Counselor this past summer (2019).

The CSE has become my second home in terms of faith and friendships, along with many experiences that have helped me grow into the woman of faith I am today. I had my first encounter of God's love for me here at camps when I was 10 years old and it has impacted my personal faith in a transforming way to this day.

My role here at the CSE now involves sharing my faith with the new generation of young people who are coming through our doors. I have a passion for youth ministry, and I hope to expand our support and resources for leadership and faith formation for young people.

I decided to work here because I wanted to be able to give back what I received, which was my faith and love for God. My motto for this coming year at the CSE comes from a quote by Saint Teresa of Calcutta: "God doesn't ask that we succeed in everything, but simply that we are faithful". ✚

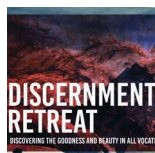


**Hello, I am Brianne Ouellette,** the new outreach coordinator at the Catholic School of Evangelization. I am very excited for this new chapter of my life working in ministry. There was a time when this would not have been a job I would have chosen but today this is a dream come true. It was through a retreat held at the CSE that I found my way back to the Lord and, through many retreats since then, I have strengthened my faith. A huge part of my faith journey has been the retreats here at the CSE. These retreats always offer a safe place for people to go to reconnect with the Lord, spend time with people who share in my faith, further grow in the faith and, for me, it is like going home. I know firsthand how much these retreats impact people. I look forward to being able to give back and help others in their faith journey, through the ministries for which I will be responsible. The Lord always has a plan and I am overjoyed that in this season of my life he has brought me to a place that feels like home. ✚





# CALENDAR 2020



## DISCERNEMENT RETREAT

JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Amazing retreat experience for young adults between 17 and 35 years of age. This retreat will promote the discovery of the beauty of all vocations, to the priesthood, to the married life, and to the religious life. The investment for this retreat is \$50, and includes all retreat materials and food.



## WINTER CAMPS

WEEKENDS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2020

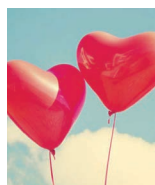
Amazing weekend camps in January and February for all kids aged 8 to 17! Camp fires, snowshoeing, winter fun, small groups, prayer, and more! Register today! More information: [catholicway.net/winter-camps](http://catholicway.net/winter-camps). Registration: [stmalocamps.net](http://stmalocamps.net)



## VIRTUAL LENTEN RETREAT

FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> TO APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Daily meditations, by members of our local Church, will help guide you through the high holy season of Lent, from the comfort of your own home! Be part of this online retreat here: [cselentenretreat.wordpress.com](http://cselentenretreat.wordpress.com).



## VALENTINE'S DAY SOCIAL FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

A fun night out and a great way to support the CSE, the Valentine's Day Social will be held in the Holy Redeemer Parish hall, 64 Donwood Drive, Winnipeg. Tickets are \$15 each (\$10 for supporter tickets). There will be music, dancing, a silent auction, and more!

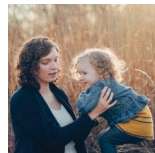
For tickets call 204.347.5396 or email [brianne@catholicway.net](mailto:brianne@catholicway.net)



## TRIDUUM RETREAT

APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> TO 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Join us for this meaningful retreat. You'll celebrate the mysteries of the Triduum in a small community setting, delving deeply into the mysteries of Christ's death and resurrection.



## MOTHER-DAUGHTER RETREAT

MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> TO 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2020

This will be a beautiful weekend retreat for mothers and daughters of all generations! Bonding, prayer, and loads of fun will have you going all weekend! **Investment:** 14 years and older: \$40 per person; Under 14: \$30 for first, and \$10 for all others of the same family.



## FATHER-SON RETREAT

MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> TO 31<sup>ST</sup>, ROSEAU RIVER CAMPGROUND

Come out to this amazing camping weekend! Boys only! Beautiful weekend of bonding, activity, and prayer between fathers and sons. Dad can't make it? God-fathers, uncles or male role models are welcome!



## SUMMER CAMPS

WEEK-LONG CAMPS FOR KIDS AGES 5 TO 17 IN JULY AND AUGUST

Check out this amazing opportunity for kids ages 5 to 17!

We offer amazing week-long camps for age groups between 8 and 17, and day camps for 5 to 7 year olds. Check out our summer camp page and register your child today!

*\*Save the Date!*  
→ CSE Annual Banquet  
ENJOY A GREAT MEAL  
AND SUPPORT THE CSE  
When?: Friday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Where?: Hall of Sts-Martyrs-  
Canadiens Parish (289 Dussault Ave.)  
Please contact the  
CSE for more info!

*EMMAUS*  
Come every Wednesday  
for prayer and fellowship!  
Check out our website for  
more information on this  
year's schedule!  
[catholicway.net/emmaus](http://catholicway.net/emmaus)



# 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.