



NOTRE-DAME BASILICA  
OF MONTRÉAL



LA FABRIQUE DE LA  
PAROISSE NOTRE-DAME  
DE MONTRÉAL



NOTRE-DAME-DES-NEIGES  
CEMETERY

# Dialogue

Newsletter of La Fabrique de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Montréal

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Web site: [www.cimetierenddn.org](http://www.cimetierenddn.org) E-mail: [cimetiere@cimetierenddn.org](mailto:cimetiere@cimetierenddn.org)

## Our institution has the duty to ensure its future success!

### 1. Notre-Dame Basilica of Montréal

In recent months, a host of events have produced important benefits for La Fabrique de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Montréal.

Firstly, the magnificent St. Peter and The Vatican exhibit, held at the Notre-Dame Basilica, came to a close. This exhibit enabled more than 80,000 people to reconnect with the Basilica, gaining a better understanding of the Church's history through sculptures, paintings, ecclesiastical implements, literature, and more.

In addition, our "Let there be light" show attracted more than 35,000 spectators who experienced firsthand, a page of

Montréal's history and discovered the Basilica's artistic and patrimonial values.

As part of its pastoral activities, the music committee, in collaboration with the pastoral team, introduced a monthly event-based program designed to give a tangible form to important liturgical services and special celebrations such as Mother's Day, Our Lady of the Rosary and The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), among others.

Consequently, occasional visitors, people of faith, and tourists alike have the opportunity to discover or rediscover the Basilica, its music and its current community involvement as a living and proactive institution.

For an enriching experience, we encourage our readers to attend one of the many masses we organize.

### 2. Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery

"A loved one is given peace when laid upon his final resting place."

This saying is based on the need to protect our cemetery as a landmark of memory and to pursue our initial mission dating back more than 150 years, i.e., to



be the guardians of our loved ones who have passed away.

By opting for a necropolis in a natural setting, we are witnesses to the enrichment of a collective space and must see to the site's harmonious development.

This development must absolutely take into account the values and principles conveyed by government agencies as well as interest groups who promote the protection of Mount Royal's historical and natural values.

Last autumn, our cemetery obtained the necessary authorization to undergo the construction of a new mausoleum.

This new building will meet the needs of our various clientele whose burial traditions and customs are just as varied.

While construction is underway, we will undertake a series of projects to emphasize the site's natural features relative to its flora and fauna.

Furthermore, a building-upgrade and restoration program will require major investments to protect and preserve the building's heritage value. Each visitor will live visual experiences designed to allow a full appreciation of the natural surroundings, gaining knowledge on the evolution of our

**Thanks to all our readers who contribute comments and suggestions.**  
*Please keep writing.*

society through the monuments and people they commemorate.

Finally, the management committee has unanimously approved this plan of action. All of us are able to attain the level of satisfaction demanded by our clientele while respecting our institution's mission. ♦

  
Yolande Tremblay, General Director



The members of the management committee plan, coordinate and implement the orientations, objectives, policies and action plans determined in collaboration with the board of directors of La Fabrique de la paroisse Notre-Dame de Montréal. — From left to right: Sylvia Ceacero (NDDN cemetery); Johanne Duchesne (NDDN cemetery); François Campagna; Daniel Cyr (NDDN cemetery); Sylvain Léonard; Claude Bergeron, Yolande Tremblay; Josée Benoit, (Notre-Dame Basilica).

By Johanne de Montigny, Psychologist, Palliative Care Unit,  
McGill University Health Centre, Montreal General Hospital  
email: jo.de.montigny@videotron.ca

## The legacy of last words, and their impact on the mourning process.

**Y**ou may have had the opportunity to experience the last days of someone you love. This is both a deeply challenging experience, and an outstanding privilege. Supporting a loved one, and our feeling of powerlessness to alleviate their overall suffering is in itself an appalling realization. Yet, the intimate, unmatched territory offered by the transition between life's end, for one, and the beginning of life without that other highlights an intimacy that exceeds the limits of day-to-day life. Frequently, daily life encourages us to believe that we will survive, that we still have time - lots of time. Yet, when life is clearly drawing to a close, we are driven to an incontrovertible awareness of the fragility of life. The power of the experience encourages us to go deeper into a loving, even spiritual dimension never before encountered.

Perhaps you are familiar with the two types of grief: the tragic, sudden, irreversible loss, a death that occurs without having had an opportunity to say "Goodbye", and the slow death that leads to a memory of images and painful emotions for an undefined length of time. Some say that this type of loss is more difficult than the first kind. Others, however, believe that the pain is caused by the death of someone we are emotionally involved with, no matter what the circumstances are. The goal here is not to assess the degree of suffering associated with the different contexts of loss, but rather to explain that

the loss that marks us the most is the one that carries weight for us because it causes us to remember last words.

As a palliative care psychologist, I have learned something that I would like to be able to use in the final moments of my own life. Here, I share the main elements involved in each one's destiny.



Looking back, the process of mourning is a good illustration of the intensity of the separation imposed by death. The irreversible separation of a mother and child, the loss of a parent, the death of a friend, a brother's absence, the sudden disappearance of a little sister: these emotional fractures break an established connection, shared habits and visions, and bring on a feeling of insecurity not to be imagined when each first committed to the other. The ability to remember is a balm on sharp pain. The present demands we go on, but envisioning an entire future that lies ahead without the loved one is unbearable. The bereaved must, in spite of himself, engage in the intense labour of overcoming his pain.

The words "*I love you, please forgive me, I forgive you and thank you*" are, for many, fairly spontaneous, important expressions that are stated or revealed during life. In short, some would never say these words while others repeat them constantly, trying to communicate their real meaning. If personal feelings and the statement's original expression match, we can think about love's magnificence, and its everlasting effects. For, lacking the permanence of the people we love, commemorating their impact on us cannot be destroyed. Pathological, difficult or complex bereavements are due to suspended, conflicted or completely disappointing relationships. Resentment, the inability to forgive, and feelings of revenge are obstacles for

## After the funeral

Allow me to return to a subject that should not be neglected: the importance to be placed on the mourning period. Losing someone or facing a change in your situation causes a pain. Often, to avoid confronting this pain, we pretend it doesn't exist. The truth, however, is that this can weaken us inside. As in the Sully-Prudhomme poem, *The Broken Vase*, "the fan barely brushed it, and no noise betrayed it ... but do not touch, for it is broken," the personal suffering we want to hide from ourselves makes us fragile, and there are consequences. Accepting the loss and the suffering that comes with it allows us to deal with the situation and get through it while helping the wound to close.



Losing a being: this reality confronts us with our own values. I used the neutral expression "being" instead of "person" because, in some cases, more tears are shed for animals than for people. I have nothing against this, but seeing people left out in the cold in this way should give us cause for reflection. I know of circumstances involving very marginalized people who, toward the end of their lives, discover people who help them find "a degree of humanity" around them, and make sure that their passage out of life occurs with dignity. However, besides this, which is an exception, how many others, perhaps less marginalized, end their days completely alone? Respect for human life, from its beginning to end, has always been a value promoted by Christians and history. History reminds us of brotherhoods of laypeople who ensured that everyone received the benefit of funeral rites, which emphasize the human being's dignity. Moreover, those who study the origins of humanity see in this ritual one of the clues that help us understand the transition from animal to human.

The funeral rite is primarily for the people who perform it. It is a matter of grieving for the lost being, as well as accepting that we, too, must one day go. Apart from the intimacy that bound us to the person, losing someone also involves transforming a network of human relations, a



habitual web that must be changed. And, in more specific cases, when a beloved has been lost, an absence or void must be filled. We therefore have to learn to rebuild these networks, learn new life habits and, even if we don't feel like it, find new ways to bridge the void left by the person. We must turn within and understand that, in spite of our fragility - we will also have to depart - and now we must go on living. As Paul Valéry said in his poem *Cemetery by the Sea*, "The wind stirs: live, leave all but life behind!" In this spirit, Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery has asked Ms. Ginette Bacon to support those who wish this service in their mourning. Making it possible for the painful experience of death to serve as a springboard for regaining the taste for life is our way of showing that the service we provide to the community is not restricted to the burial of the departed, which we strive to do with as much dignity as possible. It is primarily for the living, to give new impetus to that which seemed broken. ♦

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*Robert Gagné*, p.s.s.  
Priest, Notre-Dame of Montréal Parish

## Our new support service for the bereaved at our cemetery

We wanted to respond to a growing need expressed by our clientele: a need for increased support after the death of a loved one. To respond to this request, we have created a support group for the bereaved.

This group progresses together for a full ten (10) weeks, during which time you can share your bereavement experience with other people in similar circumstances. The session includes workshops on the history of your mourning, expressing your feelings and emotions, how to take care of yourself and your loved ones during this process, ways to

find meaning in your loss, forgiveness, and much more.

The session of ten (10) workshops is led by a bereavement support specialist. She will be available to recommend resources that will help you find your way. New sessions start in spring, summer, autumn and winter. Space is limited.

For more information on dates and fees, please contact the head of support services for the bereaved, Ms. Ginette Bacon, SGM at (514) 735-1361.

### The foundations of the service

Few events in life are more painful than the death of a loved one. You might wonder if you will make it through this time of immeasurable loss. Sometimes, you're not sure you have the energy or even the will to deal with the basics. You might experience moments of darkness and loneliness. If you feel confused, it's normal: you have lost a part of yourself.

The pain you are experiencing is influenced by the circumstances surrounding the death, your network of friends and family and by your cultural and religious background. Your reaction and grief will be unique. However, although mourning is a very personal experience, our responses follow similar lines: shock, numbness, anger, the search for the beloved and even withdrawal. During this difficult time, it is imperative not to become isolated. Discuss your loss openly. Talk about your memories of the person you have lost, what they were like, your history and your experiences together. Allow yourself to speak from the heart, take your pain as it comes and experience your grief at your own pace. These are the first steps in healing.

Undoubtedly, it will be difficult for you to deal with mourning, but you don't have to do it alone. Your suffering can be an opportunity to grow, for you, your loved ones and those who are experiencing the same thing. In these difficult times, it is important to surround yourself with people you feel comfortable with, people you can trust and share your feelings with. Asking for and accepting help from others is often hard to do, especially in a state of suffering. In these trying moments, putting together a support network is recom-

mended. It is important to seek out the company of people who can support you. As challenging as it may be, mourning will follow its own course and come to an end. However, a group and gathering place make it easier to heal and move forward.

For guidance through this process, our support service for the bereaved is available to everyone.

And, for those who prefer to have a text to refer to, we have a series of nine (9) pamphlets to recommend practical advice and help you find the path to healing.

### List of pamphlets:

1. Helping ourselves during our bereavement
2. Helping ourselves when we lose a parent
3. Helping ourselves when we lose a spouse
4. Helping ourselves when we lose a child
5. Helping children overcome their grief
6. Helping a friend in mourning
7. Helping a dying friend
8. Helping the survivors of suicide
9. Helping young adults overcome their grief

These pamphlets are available free of charge from our administrative pavilion as well as on our website at [www.cimetierenddn.org/en/services/deuil/decas.asp](http://www.cimetierenddn.org/en/services/deuil/decas.asp)

At Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, we're there for you... for everything. May your path be peaceful! ♦

*Sylvia Ceacero, MBA, MA*  
Director, Customer Service





## Love, Lose and Grow: Healing Grief

On Wednesday, November 2, 2005, I attended a soiree-benefit with Ms. Ginette Bacon, coordinator of the grief ministry at Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, which was entitled, "Love, Lose and Grow: Healing Grief" organized by Maison Monbourquette and Novalis Publishing.

It was a wonderful evening! Why, you ask? Because the conference, hosted by Mr. Jean Monbourquette, founder of *Maison Monbourquette*, and his colleague, Ms. Isabelle d'Aspremont Lynden, validated the work that we will be carrying out in the grief ministry. The comments and reactions we received pertaining to our support service for the bereaved also confirmed the need for these services.

During this conference, the two organizers explained the stages of grief: attachment, loss, shock, denial, expression of emotion, concrete activities, sense of loss, forgiveness, recognition of the legacy and the end of mourning. Our support service for the bereaved is greatly inspired by the method developed by Mr. Monbourquette.

Mr. Monbourquette and Ms. d'Aspremont explained that we must **experience**

grief; we shouldn't try to escape our pain or sorrow. However, each person experiences grief in a way that is unique. Our grief belongs to us. We can use this time to collect our thoughts and move on in a new direction. In this respect, psychologist Johanne de Montigny explains that "it is vital to rethink one's existence." During these moments, we are alone... or we often feel that we are.

Although family and friends mean well and try to be available when a loved one passes, their daily lives can take priority. Consequently, we find ourselves alone with our grief. However, there are options for dealing with this grief. Sometimes strangers who are going through similar experiences can provide a listening ear, empathy and help, just as you can for them.

Family and friends are important in supporting you through your grief, but pro-

fessional help can also be a comfort during this time. For example, Monbourquette published the *Répertoire des ressources en suivi de deuil du Québec* in 2005 and it is in the process of introducing a hotline to provide support for the bereaved. The Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery believes in continued support and offers bereavement services.

These resources are easily accessible and can be very useful in helping you move on and making you feel surrounded and supported. Ms. de Montigny wrote: "Support from your entourage helps you keep your chin up and hope for better days to come."

Use all the resources at your disposal to come to grips with your grief and don't forget: a joy shared is twice as sweet; a pain shared is reduced by a half. ♦

*Sylvia Ceacero, MBA, MA*  
Director, Customer Service

### *Did you know that it is possible to bury urns in winter?*

In response to our clients' requests, Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery performs burials of cinerary urns through the entire winter season.

In consideration of our clients, we have reorganized our services in order to offer this option to all families wishing to bury the ashes of their lost loved one in winter.

This winter service will be offered until spring, three days a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you choose this option, we encourage you to make an appointment with our funeral coordinating service. Please note that in 2006 a supplementary fee of \$110 applies to having ashes buried in winter.

At this appointment, you may request the services of a deacon to support you in these final moments. This service is offered by the cemetery to all families wishing to say goodbye to their loved one with the utmost peace and dignity.

Do not hesitate to contact our team to receive further information or to make any comments. Our primary objective is to provide a service that will meet your standards.

At Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, we're there for you... for everything.

*Sylvia Ceacero, MBA, MA*  
Director, Customer Service

## Visits to the Notre-Dame Basilica of Montréal

We will be pleased to welcome you and your group for a visit to the Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal. Upon reservation, our guide will give you general comments about the history of Notre-Dame as well as descriptions of the main features and points of interest in the Basilica. Two options are available for your group:

### • An appointment with our organist

The organ is a complex, mysterious and majestic instrument. More than one hundred years of age, the organ of Notre-Dame is a master chief world-renowned. Come to discover it with our organist, Pierre Grandmaison. Preceded by an introduction to the church, this appointment, high on emotion, will be engraved in all memories.

Length: 90 minutes / Target audience:

10 years old and over

Schedule: Offer on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, depending the availability of our organist.

Cost: Adult: \$6, 7 to 17 years old: \$3, entrance fees included

Complimentary: One adult chaperon for each group of 10 students  
Capacity: Maximum 30 persons.

### • Introduction tour

General comments about the history of Notre-Dame as well as descriptions of the main features and points of interest in the Basilica.

Length: 20 minutes / Schedule:

Offered Monday to Sunday

Cost: Included in the entrance fees

Complimentary: One adult chaperon for each group of 10 students  
Capacity: Up to 250 persons



### ENTRANCE FEES

With or without a guided tour:

Adult: \$4, 7-17 years old: \$2

Complimentary: Guide, driver and one adult for each group of 10 students.

### VISITING HOURS

Monday to Saturday:

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday 12:30 pm (approximately, depending on the duration of 11:00 am mass) to 4:30 pm.

### PAYMENT

The entrance fees must be paid on the day of the visit at the entrance desk. You can pay cash, by cheque or we can bill you (voucher, must be approved). Should you arrive more than 10 minutes later than expected, your guided tour could be cancelled or delayed depending on the

availability of the guides and the reservations of the day.

### CLOTHING

The Basilica is a sacred place of worship. We ask for your co-operation to ensure that everyone in your group is appropriately dressed.

### MASSES SCHEDULE

Your group is welcomed to any of our services (*All our services are in French*).

Monday to Friday: 7:30 am

and 12:15 pm / Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am,

11:00 am, and 5:00 pm

Upon request, you can also have a private mass. To make arrangements, please contact Ms. Daniela Staffa at 514-842-2925 or by fax at 514-842-3370.

For more information, to help you organise your visit or to make a reservation, do not hesitate to contact Ms. Mireille Desrochers by phone at 514-842-2925 ext 259, by fax at 514-842-8275, by email at [mdesrochers@basiliquenddm.org](mailto:mdesrochers@basiliquenddm.org) or by visiting our website at [www.basiliquenddm.org](http://www.basiliquenddm.org).

We thank you for your interest in our Basilica. We are certain its history, architecture and artistic value will delight your group. ♦

**Josée Benoit**

Director of Tourism Activities

## We've kept our pledge ... we're building the new mausoleum!

We are delighted to announce the construction of the Mausolée Esther-Blondin on our site. Of course, many of you have received confirmation about this since the last few weeks.

This new two-story building, the first phase of development, will accommodate more than 6,000 crypt and niche spaces. The entire project will consist of four phases and will be completed over a period of 20 years, creating a total of 20,000 crypts.

This building, with a fairly modern style, was designed with an overriding concern for reflecting the splendour of this wonderful historical site. Due to their colour and texture, the selection of prefabricated concrete materials blends in with the landscaping around the site, which is designed to hide the building from public thoroughfares. This construction will be a veritable oasis of beauty, originality and innovation, its triangular shape fitting into its plant screen like a precious jewel in its setting. This effort will be rewarded with an extraordinary radiance inside the mausoleum, which will bathe each marble plaque with a daily caress of sunlight.

For those coming to mourn the loss of a loved one, light will be the greatest source of comfort. The windows adorning each of the walls of the main and first floor will give visitors a panoramic view of the cemetery, and a tastefully furnished place in which to rest and meditate. Covered by an awning, the mausoleum's main entrance

leads into an open space, where visitors will be welcomed by a chapel and an altar, allowing grieving families to collect their thoughts before proceeding to a loved one's placement in the crypt, or the placement of the cinerary urn in a niche. The awning will provide shelter to funeral processions at all seasons and any weather. We will also offer the services of deacons to accompany families in the final moments of the funeral, always laden with emotion and sadness.

The marble and adornments we have selected for this mausoleum are, of course, of the finest quality. We offer a full line of products and services associated with purchasing a crypt, providing clients with substantial savings by allowing them to take advantage of today's prices, thus avoiding ever-present inflation, and ensuring peace of mind with the knowledge that everything has been planned in accordance with the wishes of the person involved.

This new mausoleum is intended to be multicultural, like today's Greater Montreal. That's why we have given so much consideration to the décor of each corridor

### How do we most effectively meet the needs of each community?

Families will be able to register their loved one's name in their own language. Furthermore, a selection of effigies and decorations will be available to accommodate their culture and religious beliefs. All religious services may be conducted at the cemetery itself, at the Chapel of the Resurrection which is located behind the administration building, one of our three meditation chapels located near the crematorium, or the new mausoleum's Chapel.

Phase 1 of the new mausoleum's construction will take approximately 21 months to complete. Families who unfortunately experience a loss in the interim will be provided with a place in which their loved one can rest with all due consideration and dignity until the mausoleum is completed.

Therefore, while waiting for the grand opening to which you will all be invited, why not take advantage of the highly favourable pre-sale prices and terms of payment?

Come view the model and take an on-screen look at the new mausoleum's magnificent décor. Each customer will





# Our Trees: Loyal Witnesses to the Past, Present and Future

At the hearing for Montreal's Draft Tree Policy, published by The Direction des sports, des parcs et des espaces verts, we supported the initiative to protect our historic and natural heritage.

## Introduction

Over the years, we have neglected our arboreal heritage. We have forgotten that trees age, that they need to be maintained, and especially, that they are not immortal.

Some of these trees have reached or surpassed the same venerable age as Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery itself, which celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2004.

## Resolution

Protecting our historic and natural heritage is becoming an increasingly important value in our society. This new awareness prompts us to take our commitment to the environment more seriously, particularly in this fundamental area: our trees.

The Ville de Montréal is a key player in maintaining and developing an urban forest. Consequently, we decided to implement a policy identical to theirs, through the adoption of a project structure, an order of priorities similar to the Montreal Draft Tree Policy.

The cemetery has therefore decided to join the Ville de Montréal's initiative.



## Situation

In 2005, the cemetery took a giant first step, by taking inventory of its arboreal heritage. This step, which constitutes the cornerstone of our commitment to the Montreal Draft Tree Policy, has now been completed.

Last September 29, the cemetery, as well as Greater Montréal and The Montérégie, came face to face with one of Mother Nature's. Violent winds attaining speeds of approximately 100 km/hr for several hours caused significant damage to the cemetery trees. We began a second inventory of damaged trees. This action truly demonstrated the operation's merits.

This investment helped us do better follow-up on operations related to our arboreal plan. We are securing the succession of witnesses, attesting to our past, present and future.

We would like to assure our clientele, the general public, and all organizations working toward the protection of green spaces that the management of our cemetery and its team of pruners are working to protect and maintain our arboreal heritage as well as maintain the well-being of our historic site.

*Gilles Gagné*  
Foreman, Landscaping and Foundations

## *The Journey through Grief*

*Reflections  
on Healing*

*Death leaves a heartache  
no one can heal, love leaves  
a memory no one can steal.*

## CEMETERY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

A staff of usually twenty people work in the administrative pavilion taking care of our customers. These members work in various activity sectors, with the following primary responsibilities.

### Funeral services

This service handles various tasks such as taking requests for funeral services on a daily basis. The team of regular employees, made up of Ms. Véronique Didier, our funeral coordinator and Ms. Ysabelle Dufresne, funeral clerk, handles the transmission of burial requests to Operations.

This team also meets with families and funeral homes in order to coordinate the various administrative steps involved in the burial process in conjunction with Operations. The team's members must also make sure that there are spaces available for burying the deceased.

These employees invariably carry out their tasks with the utmost care and respect for the client and the deceased.

### Counsellors

The staff on our team of client advisors is made up of five people, some of whom have more than twenty-five years of experience. The team's primary mandate is to receive clients and determine together their needs and services that they require in the event of a death.

These employees offer bereaved clients and those wishing to make pre-arrangements a full line of products and services so as to create a "complete package." They also ensure each file is followed up and that clients are satisfied with the services provided.

Clients benefit from the extensive experience of our employees, who are consistently tactful and sympathetic. Our client counsellors are: Ms. Louise



Here are some of the employees from the Cemetery administrative staff. From left to right on the picture: Ysabelle Dufresne, Sophie Morissette, Judith Wraight, Denise Laffranchi, Véronique Didier, Nicole Racicot, Wilma Resta and Christine Latour.

Roux, Ms. Judith Wraight, Ms. Nicole Racicot, Ms. Julie-Anne Brien and Mr. Walter Lando.

### Administration

This department takes care of various functions. Generally these staff members have the first contact with the client. Christine Latour is our telephone receptionist, and Wilma Resta is our cashier.

In addition to this team is Ms. Nathalie Massé, who is in charge of sales administration. She coordinates each step involved in a burial.

### Accounting

Ms. Sophie Morissette and Ms. Suzie Piché look after the tasks associated with accounting. They track clients' accounting records from day to day, and prepare and send out account statements. They create files and do data entry.

They are also responsible for preparing various reports, as well as for performing the accounting operations

required for each file's follow up. They do their work with all the attention to detail and thoroughness it requires.

### Requests

During the summer in particular, two employees handle requests from customers regarding improvements to be made to their concessions. Such improvements can involve landscaping, grass, monuments, etc. The request clerks inform Operations, who make sure clients' requests are carried out.

Generally, these tasks are carried out by temporary employees.

### Temporary staff

Temporary staff members who are at the cemetery during the summer period generally fill all office positions. They replace vacationing regular staff members and handle the additional summer work.

Ms. Denise Laffranchi, Ms. Rosie Carmosino, Ms. Thérèse-Louise

both the person who is getting ready to leave the world, and the person who will remain caught in an unresolved conflict.

*Those who are departing and those who remain behind* have thus convinced me of the importance of last words. Those who had to go without warning may leave us with an unfinished, incomplete, or highly satisfying memory. However, it may leave us with a terrible feeling of having missed the last meeting.

We do not have the luxury of being able to rely on a known time of death so as to postpone letting someone we love know how we feel. The saying has it: "A man dies as he lived". We will have gain by pouring out the nectar of our love for the person or people responsible for our personal development

during our lives, not just at the time of death.

The messages we give others make the difference when it is time for the great parting. Let me share some of the messages I have heard from those who are leaving, and those who remain behind: "You can't do this to me," (meaning die.) "I can't do it. I'm nothing alone." "Without you, I've got nothing to live for." "I can't do it: don't die, do it for me."

Final communications and silence do not all have the same effect: "Go on your way. I will go on mine with the strength you've given me." "This really hurts, but living my whole life without you would have been much worse than living some of it without you." "I want to thank you for what you've given me. You've made me so happy." "Rest easy,

don't worry. Your wisdom will always inspire me." "I'll watch over you still, you can count on me."

When these words are the last words, they carry much weight. This could be the meaning given to one's final days: precious hours to achieve a healthy separation from each other. The process of dying confronts us with the huge opportunity we have at every moment in life: to offer and give the best of ourselves to the idea that this could, in fact, be the last time.

A precious memory surfaces: in closing, I think of Jacques Voyer, a colleague and long-time friend who was taken from this life on April 18, 2005 in a tragic traffic accident. Jacques, I never had the chance to say good bye, but the many thank-yous I said to you comfort me now. ♦

Paiement, Ms. Rosa Falduto, Ms. Dominique Nardi, Ms. Julie Jeanotte and Ms. Marilena Laezza occupied various positions in summer, 2005.

All our administrative personnel ensure our clients are completely satisfied. Don't hesitate to call upon us: we are there for you, for everything. ♦

receive a DVD or video cassette of the mausoleum, so you can get a second look among family and friends in the comfort of his own home.

Contact us now at (514) 735-1361. Our advisors are available. We also have a team of advisors who can visit your home to present detailed plans

of the mausoleum, photographs of the model and the pre-sale prices for all the types of wall-niche tombs that we offer.

Superb photos of phase 1 of the mausoleum await you on our Web site at [www.cimetierenddn.org](http://www.cimetierenddn.org). ♦

*Johanne Duchesne*  
Director of Sales

## We are there for you... for everything.

*To better serve its clientele, our cemetery offers the following products and services:*

- ★ Marvellous choice of crypts;
- ★ Exceptional sites of plots and interior or exterior niches;
- ★ Variety of monuments and engraving service;
- ★ Burial of caskets and urns, including during winter;
- ★ Cremation and cremation salon;
- ★ Great choice of cinerary urns;
- ★ Magnificent cremation garden;
- ★ Pre-arrangement counsellor service available in your home;
- ★ Funeral procession customised according to your beliefs and traditions;
- ★ Funeral masses or liturgy of The Word in one of our chapels;
- ★ Multiple commemorative objects: vases, lights, angels, crosses, Pieta, Holly family, flower bouquets, etc.



## Become a Member! Friends of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery

Founded in 1854, the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery is one of the most precious and remarkable celebrations of religious, cultural, historical, architectural and environmental heritage in Montreal. A vital witness to the history of the community from which it grew, the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery not only deserves all our attention, but also to be known and recognized for its incredible richness. It was recognized as a national historic site by the Canadian government in 1998. It is also part of the historic and natural borough categorized by the Minister of Culture and Communications in 2003.



*Friends of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges cemetery* is for those interested in the preservation, enhancement and promotion of the Cemetery and its rich religious, cultural, historical, architectural and environmental heritage. More specifically, the goals of the *Friends* are to:

- Reveal to the public the many facets of the collective treasure which is the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery;
- Support the effort given to maintenance, enhancement and management of the site, with respect to its sacred vocation and exceptional environmental characteristics.

### Benefits of being a *Friend*:

- *Friends of Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery* membership card;
- Official *Friends of Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery* pin
- Subscription to the *Dialogue* newsletter
- Annual tour of the Cemetery, on the second Sunday of September
- A deck of cards and a key chain commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cemetery

Do not hesitate to contact Mr. François Campagna  
at 514-735-1361, ext. 279  
if you wish to receive further information.

### *The history of the Notre-Dame-des-Neiges Cemetery in words and images*

A magnificent 9 x 12 inches art album, printed on high-quality acid-free paper, sold in a protective display case.

This 192-page book, of which 96 pages were written by historians Pierre-Richard Bisson and Daniel Drouin, and the architect co-author Mario Brodeur, also includes 84 photographs taken by Stephan Poulin.

Designed and published by Henri Rivard.

To order this book (available only in French), call us at (514) 735-1361, at the special price of \$60, plus \$10 of shipping and handling fees (available while stocks last).



**Booth of the  
Notre-Dame-des-Neiges  
Cemetery and the  
Notre-Dame Basilica:**

**April 27 and 28, 2006**  
Association des infirmiers  
et infirmières du Québec  
Mortagne Hotel - Boucherville

**May 8 to 14, 2006**  
Galerie d'Anjou



### Monthly Masses

#### at the Resurrection Chapel

Attention, new schedule for the Saturday masses at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on these following dates:  
May 6, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup>, August 5, September 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
October 7, November 4, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

FREE PARKING

*A commemorative mass will be celebrated for  
Mother's Day on May 14, and Father's Day  
on June 18 at 11:00 a.m.*

*The annual Mass will be celebrated  
on September 10, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.*

*All Saints' Day masse will be celebrated  
on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.*