



INTRODUCING DARLENE O'LEARY

On September 1st of 2020, we welcomed Darlene O'Leary as our new, full-time Coordinator of the Martha Justice Ministry!

Darlene comes to us with a rich educational and work background. She has a MA in Theology from Regis College and a PhD in Theology with an Ethics concentration from Saint Paul University. The integration of social and ecological justice is a passion of hers and one reason she was attracted to this position. She is experienced in working with politicians and religious and grassroots groups on strategies to eradicate poverty in Canada. For the last 4 years, she was employed by *Citizens for Public Justice* in Ottawa, ON as a Socio-Economic Policy Analyst.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MARTHA JUSTICE MINISTRY

A few months into my role as Coordinator of Martha Justice Ministry, I am both grateful for and inspired by the work that has been done and the relationships that have been fostered throughout the years of this ministry. We are in a time of such challenge and uncertainty, with the Covid-19 pandemic affecting us all in so many ways, with rising social tensions, and with the climate crisis looming. However, we continue to work, pray, and live out of hope. Right now, we are called to be in solidarity with Sipekne'katik First Nation and Mi'kmaq fishers striving



to live out their Treaty rights to a sovereign fishery. We work and pray for an end to all violence, in the hope that governments and non-Indigenous communities work with Indigenous communities in friendship to build right relationships and ensure the flourishing of all communities and the conservation of species. These are deep challenges. We invite you to continue to pray with us as we walk the path of reconciliation, justice, and love of creation together!
~Darlene O'Leary, Coordinator,
Martha Justice Ministry



NEW GROWERS END OF YEAR UPDATE

Saturday, October 24th was the last time at market for our New Growers, Olivia Gowan & Andrew McGillicuddy, after a very successful year. An end of the year celebration was held on Tuesday, October 20th

Olivia and Andrew, some of their family, and former program participants have gathered at Fatima Cottage for our year end celebration. It could not happen at Parkland Antigonish with all Sisters present, unfortunately. We are hoping to return to that practice next year.



Andrew and Olivia receiving New Grower Program certificates from Jen Greenberg.

As for the near future, Andrew will be starting work with livestock in Wallace Bay and Olivia is enrolled in the Plant Science Diploma program at the Dalhousie Agriculture Campus.



Jen and David Greenberg listening to Darlene O'Leary, Martha Justice Ministry Coordinator.

Next summer they are hoping to grow food somewhere in the province depending on where the opportunity is.



Current and former Martha New Growers Program participants had a chance to chat during the gathering.



SEASON OF CREATION

This year, Martha Justice Ministry held our first Season of Creation Gathering in St. Theresa's Garden on September 27th.

The Season of Creation is an ecumenical celebration that brings together groups and churches from across the world to share in contemplation, gratitude, and action for all of creation. It takes place from September 1st to October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a small ecumenical group gathered on a beautiful day to share in prayer and celebration, reflecting on the beauty and gifts of the natural world. The group offered rich sharing about how we connect with the Spirit through nature and the importance of creation care. We will continue to grow in deepening our love of creation through future gatherings, networks like the Global Catholic Climate Movement, our New Growers program, and ongoing care for this land and all of creation.



Season of Creation Gathering in St. Theresa's Garden

THE "ORANGE SHIRT DAY"

Orange Shirt Day, September 30th, is an annual day of solidarity and remembrance in recognition of the harm done to Indigenous children in residential schools in Canada.

The day is inspired by the story of Phyllis (Jack) Webstad who, at 6 years of age, started school at Mission, BC with a brand new orange shirt that her grandmother bought for her. The shirt was very special to her, but when she arrived at school, she and the other children were stripped of their clothing. She never saw the shirt again. On Orange Shirt Day, we wear orange to remember the mistreatment of Indigenous children forced into residential schools, where their traditions and language were taken, and where many suffered abuse that has impacted generations of families. We stand with Phyllis and other survivors to acknowledge this trauma, and to voice our solidarity for Indigenous rights and healing.



The Leadership Team and Martha Justice Ministry Coordinator



A LETTER IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE SIPEKNE'KATIK FIRST NATION

As we strive to live out of right relations and deepen our understanding of being Treaty people, we invite you to read our letter to Chief Mike Sack of Sipekne'katik First Nation and to reflect on the questions that follow.

Dear Chief Sack,

Martha Justice Ministry of the Sisters of St. Martha, Antigonish, unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, wish to express our support for the people of Sipekne'katik First Nation and the ongoing efforts to live out your Treaty rights to a sovereign fishery.

We are deeply concerned about the escalating violence directed at Mi'kmaw fishers in your community who are exercising Treaty rights. We stand with you in urging the federal and provincial governments to ensure the safety and well being of your community as nation-to-nation discussions proceed in fulfilling the rights affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in the 1999 R. v. Marshall decision.

We will call on the Nova Scotia and Federal governments to honour the Peace and Friendship Treaties and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to work at building right relations among communities.

We are continuing to pray for peace and friendship among communities across Mi'kma'ki. We are striving to deepen our understanding of the original treaties of this land and the responsibilities of being Treaty People through ongoing solidarity with Mi'kmaw communities and Indigenous communities throughout Turtle Island.

In peace and solidarity,
Martha Justice Ministry Core Group

What does it mean to be in right relationship with the Sipekne'katik First Nation and Mi'kmaw communities at this challenging time?

In what ways can we deepen our understanding of Treaty rights and foster friendships with local Mi'kmaw communities to grow a sense of trust and solidarity?