



PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012 Father Jacques Kabangu

CRIC monthly meetings, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., have been held on a regular basis. Representatives are usually present and the reaching of the corium is never a problem. The venues have been announced two or three months ahead of time. The last meeting before summer took place at Anna-Lee's place. This was followed by pot luck and we were invited to bring friends.

The two hours meeting duration have been respected. Because of the importance of 'I and my Faith', we spend each time an hour on it. Each representative in turn, makes the presentation in two minutes. Comments, questions and clarifications follow soon after all the talks have been done. This sharing is a momentous moment in that meeting that contributes in a special way to the mutual understanding and appreciation.

Activities

1. Annual Spring cleaning

As every year, we gather in May at Mooney's Bay for the City Spring Cleaning. But this time we met on Wednesday instead of Saturday. This activity was followed by a lunch shared by all members. During the meal, there was an introduction of each Faith Community that was present. Each representative underlined an historical aspect of his group. People enjoyed listening to each other as this experience allowed a better knowledge and appreciation of other faiths. It was a success. Thank you again to Lloyd Spencer for his annual commitment of organising the clean-up. Our goal is always trying to get more Faith Communities involved and more people to participate.

2. Joy of Faith Interfaith Concert

This program took a new shape this year. Indeed choirs from 10 Faith Communities gather on Sunday June 10, 2012 in the afternoon at the Church of Jesus of Latter-day Saints in Orleans. The concert was spectacular and moving. It was followed by a nice reception offered by CRIC. We got very positive feedback from various people. Mayor Jim Watson could not make it and sent his deputy Mr. Eli El-Chantiry. The attendance was estimated at about 350 persons. This successful experience is without doubt to be repeated next June. I want to acknowledge the tremendous work of the sub-committee formed with Bruce Lonergan, Jag Humar and Blandine Stringer.

3. Interfaith Prayer Service

The third annual Interfaith Prayer Service took place on Sunday, October 21 at the Machzikei Hadas Synagogue on Virginia Drive. It was a great success. Nineteen Faith Community representatives and seven choirs participated joyfully. A two minute talk was delivered by each group in line with the topic: teaching on prayer. The Mayor of Ottawa sent his regrets and was represented by his deputy Eli El-Chantiry. The attendance was estimated at around 200 people. There was a mixture of participants. People from different backgrounds

gathered for the service and positive remarks came from the majority of the people. A Heartfelt thank you to Lloyd Spencer, Blandine, Anna-Lee and Nimu who worked with me on this project.

General Remarks

The establishment of the Capital Region Interfaith Council, well known as CRIC, is a great achievement in the city of Ottawa. I am convinced that the activities of the 2011-2012 year, which concludes today with this AGM, have contributed to the advancement of mutual understanding, tolerance, respect and harmony among us for the common good of our region. This again is indicative of past years' activities.

This year we have lost, on the international level, reverend Moon the Founder of the Family Federation for world Peace and Unification. CRIC members offered their condolences and had a prayerful thought for the members of this Family. On the local level, we lost our dear friend Frank Cserepy. Flowers have been sent to his family and some of us made the visitation and attended the Funeral Service.

Religion is important to human life. Scholars do not cease repeating, that there will never be true peace in the world without first peace among religions. CRIC stands for peace. It is my understanding that this same CRIC strongly believes that faith in action, depth and dignity stands as a major contribution to the common good. It leads to Universal Brotherhood. On behalf of the members of the Board 2011-2012, I thank you for having given us the opportunity to serve you. And on a personal note, I thank you for the trust you have bestowed on me to be your president for two years. May God bless all of you always.