

CATHOLIC STREET MISSIONARIES



**Meet our 2024
Hope On The Horizon
missionaries and learn
about this summer's
mission—and donate
now for our 2025 Mission
to help bring hope to our
homeless brothers and
sisters on the streets of
Vancouver,
British Columbia.**



***Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of
the least of these my brethren,
you did it to me.***

(Matthew 25:40)



From Archbishop Michael J. Miller,
Spiritual Director of Catholic Street Missionaries

As Spiritual Director of Catholic Street Missionaries, I'm very happy to offer my endorsement to its New Hope on the Horizon program. This in-depth experience of outreach to the homeless can have a transformative impact on young people. It fosters spiritual growth, inspires compassionate service and development of meaningful connections with those on the street in Vancouver.

Horizon on the Horizon emphasizes CSM's unique ministry, building genuine relationships with those experiencing homelessness. Participants will be encouraged to step out of their 'comfort zone' and engage authentically with individual people who are homeless.

They start with a 'hello' and offer practical assistance such as food, drink and warm clothing, followed by some friendly conversation and when it is appropriate, they offer spiritual support through prayer. This approach fosters a sense of connection belonging and hope among those they encounter.

This program offers much more than CSM's regular weekly outreach. Hope on the Horizon missionaries will dive deeper into building trusting relationships with friends on the street by visiting them four times a week.

For two-and-a-half weeks participants will live a communal life—praying, learning and serving together. Participants will be reinvigorated with the renewed passion for serving others. They will also develop invaluable skills in communication, empathy and leadership that will serve them well in all areas of their future life. What's more – they will cultivate a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ – discovering the joy and fulfillment comes from following his example of selfless love.

I wholeheartedly recommend Hope on the Horizon to any young person who wants to spread their love of Jesus to the poor and marginalized in Vancouver.

Some of the
2024 Missionaries
share their experiences.

“

Learning
different
stories, and
different perspectives....

I could see Jesus in each and every one of them. I know this will have a huge impact on the rest of my life. — *Madiba* ”



“ When you
know, love and
serve the poor,
you can really
feel like you're
living out the

words of Jesus and truly living
out the Gospel. And there's
so much joy and so much
fulfillment in that. — *Lily* ”

“

This program
helped me
discern *where*
God wants me to
be, and *who* God
wants me to be. — *Marissa* ”



Meet Our Missionaries (2024)



Andrew Heakes

I am an experienced street missionary as I have been a regular volunteer with CSM's Sunday outreach for a bit more than 2 years.



Danielle Fomalin

This is a great opportunity for me to experience

reaching out to our brothers and sisters in the streets with God all the way through prayers and service to them. It's especially bringing the love of Jesus to those who really needed them the most in these hard times.

Lily Dauriac

I was born in France and moved to Massachusetts when I was 10 years old. When I was 17, I moved to Montréal to pursue my university studies at Concordia University. I study Philosophy and Theology.



Vincent Tam

I've joined this program because of two important scriptures: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12) and "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)



Marissa Lam

Our actions are not only out of charity but of justice as we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Our street friends deserve all the opportunity and all the prayers that you and I have been so fortunate to receive.



Crispin Lap Shing Huang

I'm super excited for the Hope on the Horizon summer outreach program!



Neil Rodrigues

I experienced Christ intimately through my darkest

period 3 years ago, and ever since there's Jesus who has begun to live inside of me. All I desire to do is live the Gospel and share out of the abundant Love I have received through Christ.



Madiba Burks Magara

Hello my name is Madiba and I am from Uganda!! I am 19 years old and I joined the program because in such a secularized society it is more than important to show others the light, Jesus Christ.

Hope on the Horizon Leaders (2024)



Linda Kerssens,
Woman's leader

Michael Mendonca,
Men's leader



Building **COMMUNITY** Before Service

THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND HEALING

Walking in faith is not a solitary journey; it is a path meant to be shared. When we prepare for street ministry, especially when ministering to the homeless and vulnerable, the need to build a strong, supportive community becomes essential. The work of serving those on the streets isn't just about addressing material needs but offering spiritual and emotional care. To do that effectively, we must first cultivate our own hearts, heal from our past, and foster deep connections with others who walk the same path of faith.

Community-building before embarking on street ministry provides a strong foundation for this work. It allows individuals to be supported, uplifted, and encouraged by like-minded believers. It's within this shared environment that faith can flourish, accountability can take root, and spiritual growth can thrive. These

relationships become a source of strength, especially when facing the challenges and emotional weight that street ministry often brings.

Part of preparing our hearts for this journey involves taking time for personal healing, reflection, and deepening our connection to God. Silent retreats, such as the 3-day hybrid retreat at Carmel Hill in Deroche, offer the perfect opportunity for this. These retreats are spaces where individuals can step away from the noise of everyday life, focus on their spiritual journey, and allow God to heal old wounds, including childhood traumas that may have held them back.

Silent retreats provide an environment where introspection and prayer can lead to transformative healing, allowing individuals to enter street ministry with open, compassionate hearts.

Living in community during these retreats and beyond fosters vulnerability, support, and love—elements that are crucial when ministering to others. Before stepping onto the streets to serve, it's vital to experience this kind of healing and support within a safe, faith-filled community. As individuals come together in shared faith and healing, they are better equipped to bring love, hope, and spiritual guidance to those they will serve.

Building community, embracing healing, and deepening faith aren't just preliminary steps; they are the essence of what will sustain and guide those called to minister to the homeless. In this shared journey of faith, we find the strength and grace to offer love, compassion, and hope to those most in need. And it is in healing ourselves that we are best able to help heal the world around us.

First day of program

Walking around our neighbourhood where we will be spending 2.5 weeks in community, and engaging in the street ministry daily.





The photo captured on the last day of the retreat beautifully embodies the joy and peace that come with being healed and set free from childhood hurts. The smiles, the sense of freedom in posture, and the warmth shared among those present depict the joy that follows deep inner healing. For many, this retreat was a pivotal moment—a time when they shed the chains of their past, felt the weight lift from their shoulders, and were filled with a new sense of purpose.



HotH missionaries playing spikeball during free time.



Building **COMMUNITY** Before Service

THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH AND HEALING



Building community is sometimes simply about having fun. Here we are on top of Dog Mountain during our excursion day! As part of the 2.5-week program, we take one day to explore and enjoy an outdoor adventure. Here's a snapshot of the young men practicing their jumps and embracing the moment!



Pizza-making and eating together.

Milena Bebic, a St. Mary's Street Ministry volunteer came and taught us how to make pizzas.

Marissa Lam's heart-shaped pizza (left).

In community, we ate together daily, with different people taking on the cooking chores everyday.



PRAYER Before and Throughout Service

THE SPIRITUAL LIFELINE OF FAITH AND HEALING

Prayer is the spiritual lifeline that sustains those serving in street ministry. It draws us closer to God, empowers us to serve with love and humility, and provides the strength needed to bring hope to the broken and weary. Through prayer, we are reminded that, ultimately, it is God who heals, restores, and brings transformation.



Second Day of Program – Adoration and reflection – praying and reflecting on what we have learned so far.

Retreat – Healing time with the Lord in Adoration

Hope on the Horizon missionaries love Adoration. Photo taken in the chapel of Little Flower Monastery (Carmel Hill), Deroche



As we prepare for our time on the streets, we do Lectio Divina everytime we go out on the streets to visit our homeless friends.



Hope of the Horizon missionaries pray morning and night prayer together every day in the chapel

STREET OUTREACH

EMBRACING AND SHARING AN ACTIVE FAITH

While singing praise and worship songs and Mass hymns on the street corner in the Downtown Eastside, we engaged with folks, offering popsicles, listening ears, and prayers. The shirtless man in the photo is Sydney Whitefeather. He and his friends sat across the street, listening to our music for about an hour. After enjoying the songs, Sydney came over and treated us to a heartfelt performance of "Knocking on Heaven's Door" by Guns N' Roses, singing and playing guitar. At the end, we invited him to join us for a group photo, capturing a beautiful moment of connection and shared music.



Neil, Lily and Madiba
(from left to right)
praying for a woman

Lily, Neil and Vinisha, a CSM
volunteer, (from left to right) giving
quality time to a man in red.





Crispin and Marissa listening to the sharing of the street friends.

FORMATION

In this journey, formation is not only about personal growth, but also about preparing to serve others. By growing in knowledge, wisdom, and virtue, Catholics are better equipped to share their faith, serve their communities, and contribute to the mission of the Church.

Ultimately, formation is about transformation—becoming more Christ-like in thought, word, and deed, and being shaped into the person God has called each to be. It is a dynamic and ongoing process that deepens one's relationship with God, strengthens one's sense of purpose, and enriches the Catholic journey.



Day 2 – Retreat Day Archbishop Miller celebrated Mass for us and gave us an inspiring talk to start us off.



Day 2 – Retreat Day
– Fr. Mark Hoo, O.P., gave us a talk on the Liturgy of the Hours (what is it? And why pray it?) as we will be praying the Breviary every day.



Eric Chow, Director of PROCLAIM and Associate Director, Ministries and Outreach Office, gave a talk on "How to give an effective testimony"



Day 2 – Retreat Day

Fr. Ray Smith, CMF, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, led us in a talk on the importance of prayer, preparing us for an hour of silent prayer each day. Before the program concluded, Fr. Ray also spoke to the young men about vocations. After the retreat at Carmel Hill ended, one young man was so moved that he immediately emailed the Vocation Director in his home diocese. He shared with us his thoughts, saying, "When I imagine myself on my wedding day, I feel happy. But when I imagine my ordination day, I am overwhelmed with joy, and brought to tears."



Louisa Gietz, Lay Formation Coordinator, Ministries and Outreach Office. She is also a CSM volunteer. Louisa has a Master of Theology from Augustine Institute.

She gave us a talk on "The Role of the Laity."

Two days after the program finished, we went up to visit the Queen of Peace Monastery (as the Archbishop suggested). After the visit, one missionary plans to come back next summer and spend a weekend there to discern her vocation. Right, participants walking on a road in Squamish.



HOPE ON THE HORIZON

CSM SUMMER OUTREACH

The **Hope on the Horizon Summer Outreach Program** offers a remarkable opportunity for young Catholics aged 19 to 30 to respond to Christ's call to serve the homeless with compassion. Coordinated by the **Archdiocese of Vancouver** in partnership with **Catholic Street Missionaries**, this transformative program will take place in the **summer of 2025**.

Participants will experience **a rich community life**, grounded in the power of **prayer**, while deepening their understanding of **Catholic teachings**. They will actively serve the homeless on the streets of Vancouver, engaging in a **holistic formation that nurtures their human, apostolic, spiritual, and intellectual development**. Throughout the program, participants will receive training and leadership guidance from experienced Street Ministry leaders, who will offer invaluable insights and support as they embark on this mission of service.

In addition to their outreach work, participants will enjoy moments of **joy through recreational activities** and be provided with accommodations that foster a supportive and nurturing environment. **The program is open to all young Catholics, regardless of prior experience**, and is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge necessary to fully engage in the mission of serving the homeless with love and compassion.

For more information or to embark on this transformative journey, young Catholics are invited to visit the official website at catholicstreetmissionaries.org/horizon or contact Mildred Moy at catholicstreetmissionaries@gmail.com.

In this sacred mission, let us embrace the teachings of our Catholic faith and answer Christ's call to serve those in need with hearts ablaze.

catholicstreetmissionaries.org/donate

Catholic Street Missionaries is a B.C. registered charity incorporated on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 3, 2016. We are endorsed by the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Archbishop Michael Miller is our spiritual director. We aim at developing young lay missionaries to reach out to the margins of society.

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Archdiocese
of Vancouver



CATHOLIC
STREET
MISSIONARIES



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