



## ***WOMEN AT THE HEART OF CHANGE***

*Sr. Norma McDonald - Sisters of Holy Cross  
Saint-Boniface, Manitoba*

Brought up in North Vancouver, Sr. Norma McDonald entered the Sisters of Holy Cross when she was 21 years old. She started teaching in Alberta and Québec and then pursued her career in education in Manitoba at École Lagimodière, Collège Louis-Riel and the University of Saint-Boniface, where she founded a Development and Peace student group in 1993. She received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and the Development and Peace Certificate of Recognition in 2014.

Her years of fostering social justice awareness about the Global South have inspired her to live with deeper integrity by educating herself and have called her to face the injustices which are a part of our Canadian reality. According to Sister Norma, the greatest struggle we have in Canada at the present time is between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. Thus, Project "réconciliACTION" was born and is an apt description of her deep desire to create relationships which lead to reconciliation and healing.

**"The vision and principles of Development and Peace go hand in hand with mine. From the beginning of my teaching career until now**

I have shared my belief that each of us has a responsibility to help the vulnerable. Over the years, Development and Peace has provided me with concrete resources through their education campaigns. These have not only helped me bring awareness to the young people I work with, but also give me a context where I can put my Christian faith into action.”

“Whether it is in the global North or South, the repercussions of colonialism have brought about much injustice. Creating a more just and compassionate society can only happen if we work in solidarity with one another. I love working with young people and over the years, each person who has engaged in this work with me offers the witness that this transformation is possible!”

From <https://www.devp.org/fr/femmes-insp>

Submitted by Thérèse Fortin, CSC



*Look for Barbara in the background*

## **COMFORT QUILTS**

*Spreads Warmth for Cancer Patients*

For many many years, Barbara Hackett has been involved in quilt making with this group – Comfort Quilts. On her own Barbara has produced numerous quilts and many sisters at St Joseph Pavilion enjoy them. She has also made some very special ones for sick children as well for many cancer patients.

The following is part of an article that appeared in the *Seaway News*:  
The fight against cancer may be difficult, but it's a battle we all share. At least, that's the way Janice Valade of Cornwall Comfort Quilts thinks about the illness.

The non-profit organization formed in September 2013, and has since dedicated countless hours to sewing handmade quilts for cancer patients. Valade hopes that the group's altruistic undertaking will help to bring physical, mental, and spiritual comfort to those affected by cancer.

"When I first started, I wanted to quilt, but I wanted to do it for someone," said Valade. Now, at forty-three members and growing, the organization can do just that.

The group meets on the last Wednesday of each month, where they work on quilts, socialize, and stay up to speed with any recent developments. Most recently, Valade and her team decided to hold an open house to showcase the fruits of their labour.

All of Cornwall Comfort Quilts are delivered to recipients with a label, which reads "someone cares" – a small message of hope in difficult times.

The organization relies on the support of volunteers and donations, which help with the purchase of cotton for the quilts, batting, flannel, and any other related item needed for making these quilts.

"People don't realize that, sometimes, little things can make a huge difference in the lives of cancer patients," said Villeneuve, Coordinator of the group.

Submitted by Betty Dilio, CSC

## ***WHEN A STRANGER RESIDES WITH YOU*** ***You shall not do him / her wrong...***



*"When a stranger resides with you i  
n your land,  
you shall not do him / her wrong.  
The stranger who resides with you  
shall be to you  
as thenative among you,  
and you shall love him / her as yourself,  
for you were aliens in the land of Egypt;  
I am the Lord your God."  
Lev 19:33-34*

Words like these could be heard in the public square of Manchester's City Hall Plaza on March 21st during a walk and a vigil which brought together people of every race, religion and language. Immigrants, refugees and lifelong citizens stood together carrying their banners, reading from the Christian Scriptures,

reciting Muslim prayers, Hindi prayers and sharing a variety of reflections.

Clergy members from various denominations and the Granite State Organizing Project brought people together to say "we all belong here." Several students and staff members from the Holy Cross Family Learning Center participated in this vigil where cold and wind did not deter them from witnessing to what Americans truly value. In spite of these times of instigated fear, blatant racism and religious discrimination in our country, we want to be beacons of hope, a light and support to all who are suffering during these dark times.

Pauline Maurier, CSC

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