

Dear Fellow Members of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd,

I write with extreme gratitude for the outreach of kindness to help rebuild our atrium, through the making of materials.

My name is Denise Grimard. I am a mother of seven (age 11 to preborn, our seventh is due Oct 25th) and wife of 12 years. My husband, Joshua and I have served as lay pastoral administrators for the past 6 years in Telegraph Creek and Dease Lake, remote communities in Northern British Columbia. We serve mainly the Tahltan First Nations as they make up the majority of the practicing Catholic population in these communities due to a long legacy of love & service from various religious orders (priests & sisters). It has been an incredible blessing and source of growth for us spiritually as a family.

In the summer of 2015 & 16, along with several other members of the Whitehorse Diocese I participated and received my level 1 training in Juneau, Alaska. An amazing time! I returned to the community with great passion to start our own atrium at St. Theresa's Mission in Telegraph Creek. My husband was of great help in the construction of a new room in the unfinished basement of the church. He built our little tabernacle, altar, lectern, sacristy cabinet and all the shelving in the atrium. I loved making all the materials for the infancy parables and kingdom parables. We had help from several of the elders of the church to make liturgical vestments and prayer cards for our prayer corner. Our atrium was a special place of prayer. We had children from ages 3 to 14 at various times attending, the older ones being the first time as well of hearing as Christ as the Good Shepherd.

The summer of 2018, was an extremely hot & dry summer. We left to have our 6th child to southern BC, not realizing it would be the last time we would see our home and beautiful little church. The rectory where we were living and St. Theresa's Mission in which we served were completely burned to the ground in the forest fire that swept through the community.

Since the fire, we relocated to Dease Lake, the nearest community and have been serving the faithful of St. Mary Magdalene's Mission. Josh, took on the role of project manager for the rebuild in Telegraph Creek, so the past two years have seen us traveling back and forth between the two communities during the rebuild. We have come to love Dease Lake as well and definitely have seen the Lord providence through our whole experience of relocation. We will be ready to move back to Telegraph Creek at the end of the summer.

Upon losing the atrium as well as all our materials, I really surrendered to God, knowing I neither had the time or resources available, to continue in the near future. I literally said in a prayer, "Lord, if you want me to continue with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, I really need your help." I was SO moved to be contacted by Susan Perna and then Dorothy Burns with the offer of being able to provide some help! Praise God.

God bless you all!
Thank you so much for your help,
Love & prayers,
Denise Grimard & family

Here are a few pictures to share:



The previous St. Theresa's Mission



The new St. Theresa's



The previous rectory/house



The new house



St. Mary Magdalene's, Dease Lake



