



St. Joseph's Annual Report

June 8, 2016

St. Joseph's Parish / 174 Wilbrod Street / Ottawa, Ontario



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Pastor's Report

Contact: Richard Beaudette, OMI

Accomplishments

I officially joined the Pastoral Team on November 1, 2015. It was a transition back into parish ministry after several years away from a full-time parish ministry and fourteen years of diocesan administration. It was a big adjustment to have only parish responsibility after so long in administration along with parish ministry.

- First eight months in the parish – a time of getting to know the community
- Learning about different ministries and groups in the parish
- Fitting into the activities that are part of the parish
- Learning about the parish organization and governance
- Listening to understand the needs of the community members
- Available for people thanks to very little administrative responsibility
- Involvement in the University Mass and to some degree with Young Adults

Challenges

- As I settle in, trying to understand how we can function as a team in ministry and get some of that organized
- Question of how to reach out to and respond to young adults (especially university students)
- Integrating into Oblate community life again and balancing that with parish ministry
- Inviting members of Oblate community to participate in some of the ministry alongside myself

Year Ahead

- Try to assess the needs of parishioners – looking at a survey (short) in the fall
- Implementing the Responsible Ministry Program from the diocese
- Establish connections between the three Oblate parishes and plan programming together
- Respond more to the needs of young adults and university students



St. Joseph's Mission Statement

We who choose St. Joseph's Parish are called, as part of the Body of Christ, in the Archdiocese of Ottawa to be:

A **Proclaiming community**, which is a living witness to Christ in the inner city and in partnership with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, proclaims the Good News to the poor.

A **Welcoming Community** which is gathered together in weakness and strength by the Spirit of Jesus to nurture its faith by sharing the Word and breaking the Bread, remembering and celebrating God's love for us.

A **Discerning Community**, which inspired and led by the Holy Spirit on a journey of Faith, encourages the gifts of individuals to flourish;

A **Ministering Community** which serves the needs of its people and reaches out in solidarity, especially to those who are poor and marginalized in the community at large.



Parish Pastoral Council Report

Contact: Joanne Lee, Chair

Sad Good-byes and enthusiastic Welcomes have been the hallmarks of PPCs activities during 2015. Wishing Father Andy all blessings in his post St. Joe's life was not easy, but it has been a pleasure to welcome the engaging enthusiasm and openness that Father Richard is bringing to the parish. It was also with an underlying sense of loss that we wished Christine Burton fulfillment in the next stage of her faith journey. And with the same acknowledgement of their having served PPC so well that we said at least a temporary PPC farewell to Kathy Crowe, Dianne Taylor, Rene Danis, Melanie Forget, Phil Spencer and Rose Purification. But Council has also been blessed in this past year with new members: Jenine Figurado, Walter Hughes, Iyobosa Igbinedion, Angela McCanny and Roshene Lawson.

As spoken of in Council's Report at last year's AGM, PPC is mindful that its activities must be in harmony with the overarching objectives of support to the faith life of those who come through our doors, the presentation of nourishing and inclusive liturgies and the delivery of extensive outreach services to the poor and marginalized. These objectives have been the underpinning of the accomplishments over the past year.

PPC has kept a watchful eye on a number of operational matters, with the monthly reports from Chris Adam covering among a number of other matters the scheduling and implementation of the roof repair activities, innovations to parking lot arrangements and new long-term rental agreements. The monthly Council meetings also include presentations from the Finance Committee. The details of the accomplishments of that Committee over the past year are covered in the annual report. There has also been a joint meeting of PPC and Staff, a briefing session with ROC on their work with respect to the Syrian refugee situation and a meeting of the PPC Core Team with representatives of OMI Lacombe. As far as the latter is concerned, we were pleased to learn that the Provincial Council is in favour of continuing the St. Joseph's ministry for the next 3-9 years.

Council has also been concerned with good and open communications with parishioners. The specific actions in this connection include ensuring that the minutes of the monthly meetings are posted on the Parish website, and a PPC panel has been added to the bulletin board at the back of the Church. There was also a parish-wide information session on the situation of refugees, and we hope to do similar sessions on broad community issues.

Finally, PPC continued to work on its ongoing commitment to monitoring and evaluation various Governance elements. This work included the preparation of a statement on the roles and responsibilities of PPC members, the launching of a stewardship initiative and consideration of the cluster structure.

Arise for it is your task, and we are with you, be strong and do it. Ezra.10:4

This exhortation is included to highlight one of the challenges of the coming year. Volunteer fatigue does set in, and at least a sabbatical break is important to renew energy and dedication. A number of the contact persons for individual ministries have signaled that it is time for others to take on that responsibility. PPC has also been trying unsuccessfully for some months now to recruit persons willing to



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serve on Council as a representative for the five o'clock Mass and as Liturgy Ministries Cluster representative. To repeat a message from the PPC report at the 2015 AGM, St. Joseph's is a vibrant parish because it is filled with people willing to listen to the call of the Holy Spirit to serve their sisters and brothers. We hope that some of us who are not now part of a ministry or PPC will say yes to this call.

Respectfully submitted,

Parish Pastoral Council

Fr. Richard Beaudette, OMI (Pastor), Joanne Lee (Chair), Jacqueline Dawson (Vice-Chair), Patricia Malikail (Treasurer), Angela McCanny (Secretary), Herman de Sousa, Jenine Figurado, Theresa Fournier, Walter Hughes, Iyobosa Igbinedion, Roshene Lawson



Executive Director's Report

Executive Director: Christopher Adam

Accomplishments

The past 12 months have been particularly momentous from an operational perspective. Much of our year has focused on three key areas:

1. Capital investments in our physical infrastructure;
2. Expanding our rental program, in order to generate new and stable revenue streams for the Parish;
3. Outreach initiatives and partnerships, both within and outside the Oblate community.

In 2015, the first of two major capital projects were completed: after many years of discussions, the Parish had a new HVAC system installed. Almost immediately after the completion of this project, we proceeded with the first phase of a new roof for the church, in order to address the on-going problem of leaks. Phase 1, which involved replacing many of the damaged slate tiles on the roof with new slate, as well as work on the gutters, walls and copper siding, was completed in April 2016. The Parish hired the engineering consultancy services of the IRC Building Group, in order to assist us in managing the project and to review tender documents, as well as monitor the progress of the work. The work itself was completed by Raymond Roofing, primarily between the months of October to December 2015, and then late March to April 2016. This first phase represented an investment of \$220,000 by the Parish. We expect to proceed with Phase 2 in the late summer and early fall of 2016, and our consultants have estimated the costs of this second step at \$100,000. We are now in the process of receiving quotes and recommendations before we proceed.

In an effort to maintain a balanced budget (which we achieved in 2015), we recognize that expanding our rental program with on-going and long-term leases signed with prominent cultural and artistic groups in Ottawa is essential. We have made some important progress on this front in the last 12 months. Most critically, we signed a five-year lease agreement with the Ottawa Swing Dance Society in August 2015. We have thus far had an excellent relationship with our new tenants, and as you can see—they have invested in our hall, by installing a hardwood floor.

In 2015, we also signed an agreement with a local business called Nacho Cartel Inc., which operates a food concession truck in our parking lot. In March 2016, we renewed their lease until April 2017.

In May 2016, we concluded lease agreements with two prominent local choral ensembles, namely: The Ottawa Children's Choir and the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir. We have had good, professional relationships with both choirs over the years, and are pleased to announce that both have decided to make St. Joseph's its new home as of July 2016.

These four new lease agreements alone will have increased our facility rental revenues by nearly \$40,000 in additional funds annually. We have already seen a marked increase in our rental revenues between 2014 and 2015, from \$28,808 to \$46,735 in 2015. With our expanded lease agreements, we expect revenues this category to approach \$60,000 in 2016.



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The more effective rental of our parking lot spaces also characterized the second half of 2015, when we signed onto a parking lot management agreement with Precise Park Link. On average, our parking lot revenues have increased by 4% per month, and an added benefit has been the greater availability of parking spaces, as those who park illegally are ticketed in short order. That said, we continue to work on identifying areas of required improvement with our parking lot management company, most notably swifter processing of payments using the automated machine and a review of our pricing, to ensure that we are competitive in this part of the Ottawa.

In addition to our lease program, we are working on outreach initiatives, on numerous fronts. In March 2016, I met with Mathieu Fleury, our City Councilor, to discuss our current programming, provide a tour of our facilities and discuss our challenges as a community. One of these challenges is around accessibility, and the state of our stair lift. We have been working with Mr. Fleury's office to explore possible granting opportunities for us to improve the accessibility of our building.

St. Joseph's has also continued to participate in the organization of conferences through OMI Lacombe's Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office. In Fall 2015, I represented St. Joseph's once again on the organizing committee of a conference focusing on mining. I also chaired a panel at this symposium, held at St. Paul University. St. Joseph's certainly aims to continue being an active part of the Oblate community in Ottawa, through both staff and volunteer/parishioner involvement in Oblate initiatives.

In May 2016, St. Joseph's hosted the Region II meeting of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, providing our guests from other local Catholic parishes with lunch and with an opportunity to meet and discuss common areas of interest and concern. These meetings are held twice per year for English-speaking and minority parishes in the central neighbourhoods of Ottawa.

We continue to invest in the professional development of our staff. Each year a modest portion of our budget provides funding for staff training and for participation at conferences or workshops. In June 2015, all staff participated in CPR and First Aid training, during a two-day period, at an off-site location. We only realized first-hand how essential this training was, when two weeks ago, one of our staff members, Dan Handfield, experienced cardiac arrest in the workplace and was revived by CPR performed by Nick Cacciato, our Maintenance Manager, who had attended this training. Dan Handfield is now on the road to recovery. After his leave and once he is ready, we hope to once again see him return to the Parish.

Upcoming Challenges

We have a number of challenges moving ahead. Our stair-lift is first and foremost of these. In September 2015, we once again brought the maintenance firm in charge of the stair-lift for repairs, as well as perform regular, annual work. Unfortunately, this proved to be a very temporal solution, and by the beginning of 2016, the stair-lift was once again unreliable. We are, at this point, hesitant to continue to perform work on the existing stair-lift, as there never any guarantees as to how long it will function well. The Church purchased the stair-lift 12 years ago, and while it should certainly still be operational, the manufacturer has since gone out of business and his model has been discontinued. An outright replacement would cost an estimated \$60,000. Obtaining grants would assist us greatly. We are also looking at a more economical alternative, which would be a type of mobile stair-lift, which is currently being used in the All Saints Sandy Hill community centre. In the next weeks, we will determine if this is a viable option for our space.



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We have also been exploring the possibility of having a professional security presence at key hours on our property. I have met with local security guard providers to discuss options. Having a professional security presence may allow us to reach out the broader community, the vulnerable and the marginalized in new, and innovative ways. You can expect to hear more about these possibilities in the coming months.



Finance Committee

Ministry Contact: Patricia Malikail Chair and Treasurer

Members: Greg Lopinski (Recorder), John Cuddihy, Molly Fitzgerald, Greg Forestell, Agnieszka Hill, Martin Hill, Chad Humeniuk, Richard Beaudette, OMI (ex officio); Joanne Lee (ex officio), Chris Adam (ex officio, non-voting)

Accomplishments

We were fortunate to have five new members join Finance Committee in December and welcomed back John Cuddihy. These positive and committed individuals have strengthened the Committee's capacity.

In 2015, we ended the year with our **operating expenses in surplus; the second year we have done so.** Our regular Sunday collection is continuing its downward trend since 2012. However, in 2015, this was more than offset by increased revenue from fundraising and special offerings. Extra effort by parishioners on fundraising, and the initiative and creativity of our staff have put us on the road to long term sustainability. We have also increased revenues from parish hall rentals and parking lot revenues. These are important sources of income.

Please note that where the numbers on the Statement of Operations show the Supper Table net deficit – this number represents the accumulation of the contribution of the Parish to the Supper Table. This contribution and our contribution to the Women's Centre are core important missions of the Parish. The audited statements show amortization of \$70,712. This represents spreading out the expenses of our **major capital expenses** over a ten-year period, or in the case of the roof and boiler, a 20-year period. With this figure included we show on paper a \$16,571 net deficit for the year. We do not have a deficit in our overall net assets.

Our Raise the Roof Campaign was launched in October 2015 and by the end of the year had raised just over \$20,000 – an excellent start.

Challenges

Our main challenge is to build in savings for major projects like the HVAC and roof repairs into our annual budgets. This goal is within the reach of the Parish and successful fundraising for the Raise the Roof campaign from October 2015 to October 2017 can get us close to this goal. Keeping our buildings in good shape also helps us attract good clients for hall rentals.

Year Ahead

- Depreciation has been built in to the 2016 Budget that is put to Council for approval.
- We are on track for a balanced budget for 2016.

New multi-year contracts for hall rentals are enabling us to plan ahead with more certainty. We have completed an initial comparison of staff salaries with other non-profit salaries and will make recommendations to Parish Council on any further action in the autumn of 2016.



St. Joe's Supper Table

Contact: Mary Murphy

Accomplishments

- The Supper Table implemented a new website that records online donations in a database and also includes a membership database. The site has an online template and is always updated through the company. We have yet to use it to its full capacity, but had a chance to use its invoicing resources, online donations tools, and volunteer registration process.
- The garden was expanded this past year from two beds to 12 beds. Though we were able to use everything produced from the garden in the food bank and meal program, the best outcome was from the conversations with the passersby, neighbors, and guests. Every day people would comment and when the garden was turned in the fall, we had two people make the effort to stop by the office to say how much they had appreciated walking past during the various stages. A special thank you goes to Just Foods for their donation to the garden and also to TD Friends of the Environment Fund who provided funding for our new signage.
- When the garden first went up, we used cardboard signs that had to be continually replaced. But in the fall, new signage was created and now we will benefit from it's messaging this spring (ie. Messages about the growing season, nutritional notes, about the vegetables we grow, notes of appreciation to friends, donors, and volunteers etc.). The new signage will also help the volunteers as we can insert weekly work plans and directions into the bed signs. It can also be a message system for those who just want to visit and walk around. They can get some insight into how to care for the garden at each stage.
- The St. Joe's Supper Table also became part of the Good Food Organization; which, is a national food sharing group under the direction of the Community Food Centres of Canada. Their mandate is to support neighbourhoods and provide healthy food in sharing meals, food banks, community gardens, and in educational institutions. We benefit by sharing in so much wisdom across the country. There is a database of resources we can draw on for webinars and grant opportunities.
- In October, we opened a second food bank to serve the needs of those in our community who are less-mobile in the poorer area of Sandy Hill. Bus service is limited and there are many seniors living in the area.
- This winter, we had patrons wait in the church for the dinner service. One of our volunteers who is a cellist played music for an evening while people waited for dinner. When music groups were rehearsing people enjoyed that as well. There were many great things about lining up in the church during the winter.
- We started a Baking Club with a group with developmental disabilities, which was suggested to us by a parishioner. This has been fun and opened doors to more diversity.

Challenges

- The second food bank is a success and a challenge. We receive the same amount of food from the food bank as before, but are starting to serve a larger number of people. More than that, our main food delivery comes to the 151 Laurier Ave. location and we have to transport stock to the 300 Wiggins Private location every Friday afternoon. The Ottawa Food Bank also switched to an automated system which requires us to purchase a tablet to register participants at this



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second location. It is physically and logistically demanding; however, the partnership with the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and Ottawa Community Housing is helping us to respond and serve in new ways. The food bank was identified as a need and the people in the area with health and mobility issues have felt the benefits of this new initiative.

- The food budget and creating healthy nutritious meals that people will eat is another challenge. There is often an aversion having green on the plates, but we continue to seek better ways to prepare, present, educate, and encourage healthy eating for a healthy community. The challenge is changing guests' habits.
- Having enough volunteers to manage the winter line-up, as well as changing peoples' minds about where to enter was a challenge. But for the most part people did appreciate the change. It brought to mind something that does challenge us in general, which is the lineup itself. I found the dignity concern of the line-up was more prominent in the winter as people lined up in the church – sometimes people felt they could sit, but mainly people lined up to wait. I thought it would be great if we could set up the chairs and tables in the church entrance as we do for funerals as a way to serve more people in the church entrance. That way, people might feel they could stay around longer out of the cold, be more relaxed, and eat without feeling the need to rush; however, the main reason would be that they didn't have to line up.
- There have been challenges regarding thanking and supporting volunteers in training. Training does have a cost that is not in the budget and we will need to have more volunteers with Food Safe certificates, some will need police checks, and I would like to have at least 10 trained in crises intervention. It is a minimum of \$25/person for the Food safe certificate and the cost of crises intervention is more than three weeks of our food budget for just one person.
- As always, we continue to reflect on our mission and the challenge that food security plays in Sandy Hill in general and at St. Joe's. It is a challenging question for all of us, especially in how we live this through our parish mission. It is often difficult to take the time and discernment needed to delve deeply into this ministry and wonder if this is the best way for us to serve the community.



St. Joe's Women's Centre Report

Contact: Marsha Wilson

Accomplishments

The Women's Centre continued to see an influx of participants in 2015. Our programs and services adapt and change to the increased needs of the population we serve.

Below are approximate statistics that reflex the timeframe of January 2015-December 2015:

Total Visits: 8,300

Total Meals Served: 9,200

Total Amount of Grocery Hampers: 1,860

School Snack Program, "Snack in my Pack": 950

Pet Food Cupboard Distribution: 121

Vet Outreach Program Referrals: 26

Back to School Backpack Program:

- Elementary Bags: 38
- High School: 24
- Total: 62

Christmas Sponsorship Program: 37 Families

Summer Camp Sponsorship: 10

Challenges

As we see an increase in the population that we serve; two presenting challenges have been made identifiable.

Challenge #1 - Space: On busier days we simply do not have enough space. At times running out of seating for the women to sit and eat lunch. There is also a lack for space for staff and/or outreach workers to meet one on one with women, to provided supportive counselling.

Solution: We are continuously being creative with our space. Our computer room area is often transformed into an additional dining space. Our children's room is often used as a confidential meeting space for one on one support. Additional chairs have been purchased, via a grant, for added seating.

In addition, we have been making better use of the variety of meeting spaces available to us in the building. We are very appreciative to the parish being accommodating to us in using these spaces for groups, workshops and meetings.

Challenge #2 – Mental Health: Over the past couple years, we are seeing a steady increase in the amount of participants that are living with a variety of different Mental Health conditions. These participants are typically higher need, requiring more attention from staff, referrals into the community or even at times immediate crisis interventions.

Solution: We believe that both education and collaboration is key to working with diverse populations.



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The Women's Centre has focused on building reliable partnerships with the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Royal Ottawa Hospital and the Mental Health Unit (Ottawa Police).

In 2015, staff have had the opportunity to attend such trainings as; Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Motivational Interviewing and First Aid/CPR. So far in 2016 multiple staff have attended cultural sensitivity training at Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health.

We will continue to foster community partnerships and broaden our knowledge base throughout 2016.

Finances

2015 City of Ottawa Grant Funding: \$329, 519

Inspire & Ignite Fashion Show: \$25, 000

Quality of life Awards: \$17, 000

City of Ottawa, Small Capital Funding (Housing Services Branch): \$7,790

(Replacement of existing seating and purchase for additional seating)

Bon Appetit Grant: \$6,000

"Tips 4 Cops" Ottawa Police & Local Public Eatery: \$600

Thank you to all community members and parishioners for your continued support to the women's Centre through monetary donations.

Year Ahead

- The Women's Centre will start soliciting for Back to School donations in June
- We are in the midst of planning our annual summer outing. The Women and children are very excited to return to Mont Cascade.
- We are thrilled to announce that we will be hosting a comedy night fundraising event this August. More information can be found in the church bulletin, in the upcoming months.
- The Centre has been approved to hire an eight-week contract worker through HRDC Canada Summer Jobs Grant.
- Rogers TV spearheaded a toiletries drive with the women's Centre as one of three recipients. This event gathered enough donations to last the Centre approximately five months.
- The Women's Centre will be the recipients of Royal Oak Day on May 22nd
- On the 16th of April, 22 women and children received dental services free of charge. In recognition of National Dental Week, this sponsorship was provided by The Dental Charity Gala and St. Laurent Dental. Those that participated in the program, were those that have not had access to dental work through OW/ODSP.
- As operational costs continue to increase, we are making efforts to reduce costs when available. Such as; staff cooking days, buying seasonal fruits and vegetables, reducing of stationary items, advertising fundraising event through social media vs. mail outs. We will continue to further these initiatives into 2016.

Community Building Cluster

Cluster Representative: Herman De Souza

The Community Building Cluster is where St. Joe's parishioners turn when they want to be together. All kinds of relationships are nurtured in our ministries: new ones (Welcoming), playful ones (Family), and brave ones (LGBT & Straight Alliance). We share books (Library), relationship advice (Marriage), conversations (English Conversation) and stories (History). Our faith is the underlying theme but it is in our relationship with each other that we feel the excitement that the disciples felt on the road to Emmaus.

Some notable achievements in 2015 include the relocation of the parish library and the resulting increase in books borrowed; Michelle's certification in FOCCUS training and the diocese's increased reliance on St. Joe's as a centre for Marriage preparation; the collaboration between the Family ministry and Development and Peace; and 33 welcome letters sent to new parishioners. Our challenge lies in attracting and empowering new volunteers but, by and large, our ministries are active and well-regarded.



Communications Ministry

Contacts: Brandon Rushton

Accomplishments

- The St. Joe's Blog, a semi-regular parish blog, was created to provide parishioners with more unique long-form content, while profiling groups and individuals within the parish community. The posts thus far have been primarily interviews with individuals, but it will continue to expand.
- Brandon began primarily managing the weekly parish bulletin. The transition went smoothly and the content has not been effected.
- The parish opened an Instagram account (@st.josephsparish) for the purpose of sharing photos and to give parishioners an inside look into the parish's operations. So far, the account has 26 followers.
- Months of research was compiled to find a program suitable to replace/update the St. Joseph's Parish church software (used to manage parishioner information, track giving records, etc.). This proved challenging due to the lack of options available in Canada; however, a few strong options were discovered. Breeze appeared to be the best fit for St. Joseph's and was purchased in February, 2016. Breeze Church Management Software provides many tools that can be useful for the administrative team, ministry members, and parishioners.

Challenges

- The parish has had difficulty maintaining an online presence through the website and multiple social media platforms. To combat this and gain a strong online presence, the parish will continue to create a higher volume of unique content.
- While the bulletin is very consistent, it is believed that it can become even more useful for the parish community. In the coming months, Brandon plans to experiment with formatting options and content within the bulletin.

Year Ahead

- The Communications Ministry plans to continue growing and maintaining the parish's online presence through the website, blog, and social media.
- The Communications Ministry will continue to investigate the many ways in which the tools provided through Breeze Church Management Software can be used to better communication between the parish administration, ministry volunteers, and parishioners.



English Conversation Group

Contact: Michael Richard

Accomplishments

The group, which is sponsored by St Joe's and a number of other Ottawa churches, has had a very active and successful year. With the exception of breaks during the Christmas and summer periods we have met every Wednesday evening at our new location at St Paul's University. We normally have between a dozen and twenty volunteers, and an equal number of participants (often newcomers to Canada such as students, immigrants, refugees etc.). We have continued to focus on meeting our primary goal of enabling the participants to have a one-on-one conversation with a volunteer who speaks English fluently. We have a relaxed, inclusive, and friendly atmosphere at our sessions to encourage social interaction and enable language skills to be improved in a supportive, friendly and enjoyable way.

Challenges

Our greatest challenge remains having sufficient volunteers to engage in English conversations with the participants as there are occasions when there are surges of participants and not enough volunteers.

Year Ahead

We will continue to meet every Wednesday evening from 7-8:30 pm in Room L-142 of La Framboise Hall at St Paul's University, 233 Main Street. If the reader wishes to improve his or her spoken English, is interested in becoming a volunteer, or requires further information about the group, please contact Michael Richard at (613) 744-2429 or by email at Michaelrichard2008@hotmail.com.

History Committee

Contact: Terry Byrne

Accomplishments

Continue to update and maintain parish bulletins, any newspaper articles dealing with St. Joe's and its parishioners and photos of events at St. Joe's.

Challenges

Due to sickness of several members of the committee and the students moving on after their studies, the committee has not formally met in 2015. It plans to meet in the fall of 2016 to determine what actions should be taken and whether its mandate should be changed. New members and ideas will be welcomed with an invitation to this meeting being announced in the parish bulletin.

Year Ahead

The History Committee plans to meet in the fall of 2016 to determine what actions should be taken and whether its mandate should be changed. New members and ideas will be welcomed with an invitation to this meeting being announced in the parish bulletin.



LGBT and Straight Alliance

Contact: Ewelina Frackowiak

Some of us identify as LGBT persons who embrace Catholic spirituality as well as their sexual and gender identity. Some of us are straight allies who want to help LGBT Catholics to gain full equality within the church. In terms of God's gifts, there is really no difference between us; whether gay or straight, we have the same faith and the same ability to love. The difference between us lies in our experiences; LGBT persons' ability to love has been perceived as shameful in many communities, and we had to find a way to accept and love ourselves despite the surroundings which taught us otherwise. We want to tell our stories and build a community. If you are an LGBT person or a straight ally, join us! We meet on second Friday of every month for discussions, faith sharing and socializing. We also run an LGBT-themed book club.

Accomplishments

Monthly gatherings

We are treated to a wide variety of views, problems, aspirations, and life experiences. There is a community feeling as we learn more about each other; as we share cares and fears; and as we sympathize with personal histories. Some topics of our discussions were:

- Coming-out in the Catholic communities nowadays
- Bible and Homosexuality
- How it feels to be both LGBT and Catholic

Book club

In 2015, we read and discussed the following books: "Why Be Happy When You Could be Normal" by Jeannette Winterson, "Far From the Tree" by Andrew Solomon, "A Place Called Winter" by Patrick Gale, "Sex as God Intended" by John McNeill, "The Well of Loneliness" by Radclyffe Hall.

Pride Week and Pride Parade

Every year we march in the Ottawa Capital Pride Parade. By marching, we show that LGBT persons have the right to spirituality and spiritual communities that accept them as they are.



Marriage Ministry

Contacts: Steve and Angela McCanny, Michelle Miller

The Marriage Preparation ministry at St. Joe's is one of only a handful in the diocese. We welcomed a steady number of participant couples in 2015. Some are registered and attend St. Joe's and some are not. The St. Joe's Marriage Prep program currently consists of completion of the workbook prior to the weekend course, a full Sat/Sun weekend course, as well as the FOCCUS online pre-marital inventory and facilitation process. Most of the couples are young adults and this offers an opportunity for a fruitful "faith intersection."

Highlights

- The Spring 2015 session welcomed 22 couples; one couple planned to be married at St. Joe's; two couples reported that either the bride or groom attended St. Joe's as their church (the spring course is always larger).
- The Fall 2015 session included 11 couples; four couples married at St. Joe's; three couples reported that either the bride or groom attended St. Joe's as their church.
- Participant couples are encouraged to attend the 9:30 am mass during their weekend course. This has received positive reviews from couples and parishioners. (We just met a woman who attended the course a few years ago and is now looking to learn more about the Catholic faith).
- Two wine and cheese evenings gave an opportunity for instructor couples and FOCCUS facilitators to compare notes and look at the overall flow of the weekend course.
- 2015 began the transition to the "What God Has Joined" workbook for couples. The new resource is more visually appealing and seems to be meeting the needs.
- One new instructor couple was brought on.
- Michelle Miller is now a FOCCUS Facilitator Trainer and can train new FOCCUS facilitators. The Archdiocese and Michelle are looking for dates for Michelle to provide a diocesan-wide training for new FOCCUS Facilitators.

Weddings

During 2015, there were two weddings at St. Joe's. This is a significant decline from years past.

Challenges

Marriage Preparation

There is always the question as to what couples really need to help start their marriage off on the right foot. Most couples are not connected to any faith community.

Weddings

As stated above, two weddings at St. Joe's is a significant decline.

Year Ahead

Marriage Preparation

We are currently trying out couples from various local organizations who can effectively present on the benefits of Natural Family Planning as part of the weekend course.



Resource Library

Contact: Elizabeth Behrens

Accomplishments

- The highlight of 2015 was the move of the Library during the Summer of 2015, from the upstairs dining room, to the former sacristy meeting room on the main floor, resulting in much easier access, as well as additional seating for both casual reading and studying. This new superior Library space was also used regularly for other parish activities.
- The Library collection grew to 1,800 books and 94 audio-visual materials, for a total of 1,894 items. This increase was made possible entirely through donations, with 157 books and 12 CDs added in 2015. Promotion of the Library continued in weekly submissions to the Parish Bulletin.
- Borrowing of Library materials in 2015 totaled 49 loans, an increase over 34 loans in 2014, while in-house use remained constant at 66 items.
- Books are donated by community members on a regular basis. Those that are not added to the library collection are added to the ongoing Book Sale near the western candle stand in the Church. Nominal financial donations are collected from the Book Sale.

Challenges

With minimal room for addition bookcases and existing shelving space nearing capacity, continued growth of the collection will be problematic, without the weeding of some existing materials.

Finances

No notable expenses incurred. We need a few more bookends but the Book Sales will cover this.

Year Ahead

As noted above, the current collection may have to be “weeded” to make more room.



Welcome Ministry

Contact: Maria Virjee

Highlights

- Greeters at the doors at all four Masses (University Mass during the school year)
- New parishioners who have filled in a Registration Sheet receive a welcoming letter
- This welcoming letter is followed up by personal contact – initial meeting over coffee, opportunities to ask questions about St. Joe's, meeting other parishioners over a relaxed meal at somebody's home. This year two more parishioners started hosting new parishioners.
- Keeping statistics on numbers of registration sheets, welcoming letters, successful follow-up meetings, welcoming dinners, and parishioners involved at those dinners
- Guest book entries are followed by email or phone call and some new members join the parish by this route
- Welcome Desks at all three Masses to provide information to newcomers, visitors, and parishioners. Various binders have been created to help the Welcome Desk volunteers stay informed and organized. Since there is much information shared between the Welcome Desk and the Parish Office, the Parish Office Manager has become more involved and this has been very helpful.

2015 Figures:

Welcome letters sent: 33

Successful follow-up (meeting over coffee = closer personal contact): 9

Number of welcoming meals: 7

Number of new parishioners at welcoming meals: 13

Number of welcoming parishioners at meals: 23

Challenges

- Ensuring adequate numbers of regular greeters at all three Masses (University Mass coordinates students for that Mass).
- Recruiting more parishioners to help with welcoming letters and personal follow-up
- Raise awareness among established parishioners to look beyond their usual circle of friends to include newcomers and visitors
- Ensuring adequate rotation of volunteer presence at Welcome Desk. Finding effective processes to communicate with the Parish Office are always needed.

Finances

No parish funds used so far for hospitality expenses, and there is no plan of doing so in the foreseeable future. In March 2014 Chris Adam and Maria Virjee decided it was quicker to have Maria mail the welcome letters herself, rather than taking them to the Front Desk for mailing. Arrangements were made to provide Maria with the necessary stamps.

Year Ahead

There are no hard and fast dates and/or numbers for the Welcome Ministry. The **Challenges** give a good idea of what continuous efforts are required to keep it functioning effectively.



Young Adult Ministry

Contact: Michelle Miller

Highlights

University Mass (7 pm Sundays)

- The University 7 pm Mass continues to hold steady with a population of between 70 and 100 each week. Young adults perform all the liturgical functions including the choir. The music is definitely a highlight of this liturgy.
- Programming after Mass continues and usually includes a monthly pizza night.
- Students and other young adults continue a monthly service project, after this Mass, to cook for the Supper Table. This has been great endeavor. Over the summer, this service time moves to after the 11:30 am Mass. They usually have 7-15 young adults helping out.
- A young adult initiated a monthly evening of faith questions and discussion after Mass, usually with the presider.
- There is a young adult representative of the 7 pm Mass that sits on the Parish Council.

Student Ministry

- Over 25 local churches were involved with the 3rd annual University of Ottawa Church Crawl. St. Joe's was part of the planning team and was one of the "destination" churches on the crawl. Over 150 students from various faith backgrounds participated.
- Parish meeting rooms were made available each day during Study Weeks at the University. This is a joint project with the Christian Reformed chaplain who rents an office in the parish.
- In Fall 2015, we held an evening of reflection for first-year students as well as those new to Ottawa. Our focus was on new beginnings. At this gathering, they asked for support in getting ready for the winter and buying appropriate clothing. In response, we held a workshop on proper winter outerwear. We also asked for drivers from our parish community and three cars of students and newcomers visited a few local thrift stores to purchase needed winter clothing.
- Each semester, Michelle Miller meets with other Christian campus ministers who work with the students at the University of Ottawa.
- The first Catholic Student Week for the University of Ottawa was held in February and spearheaded by the young adult minister at Sacre Coeur. St. Joe's was on the planning team and the events included an information table on campus, a student panel discussion at St. Joe's, Mass at Sacre Coeur with Bishop Riesbeck, as well as a closing bilingual Mass at the St. Joe's University Mass.
- Programming continued for student teachers and included teacher-parishioners sharing their faith journey in the midst of their profession.

General Young Adult Ministry

- Young adults are involved in many parish activities and ministries: St. Joe's Supper Table, Refugee Outreach Committee, History Committee, Liturgy, Music Ministry, LGBT & Straight Alliance, 1st Communion Preparation, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Spiritual Seekers, Men's Spirituality Open Circle, to name a few. Our goal in St. Joe's Young Adult Ministry is to both program for and with young adults as well as assist in integrating them into the life of the parish.
- Young Adult Ministry Planning (YAMP) meetings were held throughout 2015 for planning and evaluation of programs.



St. Joseph's Parish Annual Report – June 8, 2016

- Thirteen young adult planned and attended a Lent retreat at Bethesda Renewal Centre.
- Young adults continue to gather throughout the year for a monthly brunch after the 11:30 am Mass.
- A small group of young adults visited the National Gallery together.
- Young adults who do not have family in the area gathered together for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at the parish on Thanksgiving weekend.
- There was a reception for young adults in between the Christmas Eve Masses.
- Michelle Miller sends out a weekly email to over 600 young adults which includes young adult activities, parish activities, and a "Faith Formation" section that encourages young adult spiritual growth.
- A monthly gathering of young men continues to be fruitful.
- To celebrate the Year of Mercy, in December 2015, participants from St. Joe's, Catholic Campus Outreach, and Sacré Coeur hosted "Works of Mercy." They collected winter gloves, hats, socks, etc. from their respective communities and came together one night to organize their donations and take them to the streets along with hot coffee and sandwiches. St. Joe's hosted their return and provided stew made by Fr. Richard, as well as an opportunity for them to reflect on their experience.
- The St. Joes Young Adult Facebook page continues.

Challenges

- We continue to pay attention to what is "organic" at St. Joe's and how to best serve the young adult community that is ever-changing.
- It is a work in progress to serve the large age range of young adults, from undergrads, to graduate students, to young adults in the working world.
- A fall 2015 retreat was cancelled due to lack of RSVP's.

Finances

- Most of our programming attempts to pay for itself, or at least to off-set some of the expenses.
- The World Youth Day pilgrims will be doing some fundraising

Year Ahead

- Three young adult delegates will be attending World Youth Day 2016 in Poland this summer. They will spend a pre-week with young adults from Oblate parishes all over the world
- Developing more resources and programming for students and young adults new to Ottawa may be very helpful. One idea is to match up a new-comer with a parish family or individual who can help them get accustomed to Ottawa and winter. This could also include prayer and a home-cooked meal every now and then. We have a large international student population at the University Mass and this would seem to be welcome.
- There is continued energy to grow our ministry for and with young adults. Given our proximity to the university and downtown, St. Joe's being a hub for young adults is a no-brainer.
- We would like to increase the traffic of the Facebook page as a way for young adults to connect with each other.
- We would like to look for more opportunities to create a stronger sense of community.
- We would like to increase opportunities for service, faith formation, prayer, and reflection opportunities.



Faith Formation and Initiation Cluster

Cluster Representative: Walter Hughes

Facilitator: David Perry

The Faith Formation and Initiation (FFI) Cluster is comprised of ministries and groups that support the initiation, formation, and nurturing of the faith life of St. Joe's parishioners. As such, the activities are focused upon sacraments, meditation, and personal faith-sharing. A short description of the FFI ministries and groups can be found on the parish website under publications/parish guidebook. While the cluster ministries did not meet during 2015, the ministries' activities continued faithfully throughout the year thanks to the dedication and generosity of their volunteers.

Walter was appointed Cluster Representative on Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) in November, and David's position as Facilitator was extended. The new term is for 2015-2017.

Some ministries – specifically Infant Baptism Preparation and Sacramental Preparation for Children and Teens - work closely with the Liturgy Cluster to provide a community forum for sacramental initiation. As most ministries have a focus clientele, there is limited opportunity for collaboration across ministries within the cluster. A few ministries have activities off-site, for example most participants of Scripture Studies have gathered at Canadian Martyrs Parish.



Christian Meditation Ministry

Contacts: George Martin, Rosemarie Morris (Monday, 9:30 am)
Francie D'Annunzio (Friday, 7:30 pm)

We come into this world with a loving gift from God - God's own Spirit to dwell in us. We are called to free the Spirit, to grow in the Spirit and to not hinder the working of God's Spirit in us. Christian Meditation is the journey of coming to know God in us. On this journey, we grow in love, compassion and mercy. We become true to the Spirit in us. More and more, we act and live out of the life of God present in us. Christian Meditation purifies our hearts, grounds us in humility, teaches us patience and love.

Accomplishments

- Provided directed period of meditation based on the teachings of Fr. John Main o.s.b. and Fr. Laurence Freeman o.s.b.
- Meditation time was conducted every Monday morning at 9:30am from January to December (except for holidays when the St Joseph's Parish and office are closed).
- All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation.
- The ministry supports the parish in its welcoming, inclusiveness, ecumenical and spiritual development initiatives.

Challenges

Christian Meditation, a form of contemplative prayer, is built on a simple method: stillness and silence. Everyone is welcome to attend the groups in the parish Monday morning (9:30 am) and Friday evening (7:30 pm). No previous experience or training is required. Each session allows for an introduction, questions and answers.

Finances

The meditation group has operated without need of financial resources. A quiet meeting place with table and chairs, a portable CD player, votive candles, storage space, and very occasional access to photocopy facilities meet the group's requirements.

Year Ahead

- We will continue to provide the meditation periods on both Monday mornings at 9:30 am and Friday evenings at 7:30 pm throughout 2016.
- We will continue to be welcoming, inclusive and ecumenical as each of us strives to know God within us.



Infant Baptism Ministry

Contacts: Kathy Crowe and Kirsty Olivier

Accomplishments

Demand for infant baptism continued to be high in 2015. We try to limit both the number of families per preparation series so we can get to know them, as well as celebrating baptisms only one Sunday a month, per Mass time. Baptisms can occur at any of our four weekend Masses. The on-line registration form was fine-tuned and is working very well as is our Excel spreadsheet that was initiated in 2013 for recording infant baptism information.

The Numbers:

- Three group series for baptism preparation on consecutive Saturday mornings were offered in February, September and October
- Two individual series were offered, one in May and one in June
- 13 families attended the preparation series in total
- 19 families requested baptism (note 6 of these families had previously baptized children)
- 21 children were baptized

Challenges

The infant baptism "team" reduced from two people to one person in the second half of the year. So far, with the support of the coordinator of Faith Formation & Young Adult Ministry the remaining team member has managed to meet the demands of the ministry, however this could be problematic if this team member became unexpectedly unavailable to carry out ministry functions. A parishioner who regularly attends the Saturday 5 pm liturgy and the Sunday 11:30 am liturgy has offered assistance during these liturgies when baptism is celebrated - this has been a big help. An invitation was made through the bulletin for additional volunteers for the ministry - three individuals responded with some interest, but so far have not been available to help.

Finances

A suggested donation of \$25.00 is requested of families whose children are baptized. A parishioner hand crafts the baptismal candles at cost, from used Pascal candles. We so appreciate his donated time and talent. If the budget allows, having an additional copy (copies) of the David Wells DVD series would be very helpful for families who have to miss sessions or who want to do a review, at home, segments from the group sessions.

Year Ahead

- The rhythm of the preparation sessions schedule - winter, spring and fall - seems to work well and will be maintained for 2016.
- So far in 2016, we have tried to streamline the "baptism Sundays" even further by offering only one baptism Sunday per liturgy per month. The team will, however be open to discussing options for parents who may need special accommodations.
- The team will re-evaluate the pre-baptism anointing, i.e. whether or not to continue with these
- Recruiting of additional volunteers will continue



Males Spirituality Open Circle

Contact: David Perry

Highlights

- The “Men’s Circle” brings together men from all ages (usually between ages 18-78) for expressing and exploring the inner journey. It is not a self-help group – far from it. It’s more of a “find your identity in the big Self” - in the grace of God, nature and the company of brothers.
- It involves about 25 men; usually 15 attend a monthly circle. It’s a mix (50/50) of men from St. Joe’s and beyond; and about 1/4 of the circle are young adults from St. Joe’s.
- The Men’s Circle weaves together drumming, silence, sharing, nature and contemplation; using the language of archetypes, shadow work and the good news of liberation in Christ.
- We meet year round on the last Monday of the month, from 7pm – 9:00pm.
- This past year we committed to being outside in nature all year round. This has been a great decision; as we’ve settled in at Bethesda Renewal Centre in Ashton where the walking trails, winter fires and wood stove Chapel are an ideal setting for what we do.
- The Our website is www.malespirituality.ca
- Implicitly, we are built on the foundations laid by Fr. Richard Rohr – and the men’s work movement he started 20 years ago; relatedly we are affiliated with Illuman, the International body that carries Rohr’s vision. They are at www.illumian.org

Young Adult Men’s Small Group (PSB)

- This outreach and community building initiative started two years ago as a response to young adults who couldn’t make the men’s circle. This group also operates as PSB or “Priere Share et Biere”
- Monthly during the school year, and more frequently during the summer – young adult men gather to prepare and share a meal, engage in some faith sharing around the Sunday scriptures, and fellowship.
- Participation can vary from an intimate number of three or four, to up to ten 10.
- Folks can bring friends of any faith background

Year Ahead

- We are looking at expanding **our wilderness wanderings**, with full days and overnight retreats.
- We promote (for men aged 25 and up) the 4 Day **Rites of Passage** retreats (by Illuman) that are offered several times a year at different locations across the U.S.
- We’ve begun a new **leadership program** using the framework of Spiral Dynamics, in conjunction with Spiritual Seekers (see their update)
- We will be co-hosting (with Galilee and “brothers” across Ontario), a province wide **Men’s Weekend Retreat with Fr. Jim Clarke**...August 2017.



Oblate Associates Ministry

Contact: Erin Ryan

Accomplishments

- At the December 8, 2015 Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception service, another parishioner from St. Joseph's was received as an Oblate Associate of OMI Lacombe Canada through making a formal commitment.
- The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate became a religious institute of the Church on February 17, 1826 when Pope Leo XII officially recognized them and their Constitutions and Rules presented by Eugene De Mazenod, the founder. This special date is when Oblates traditionally renew their vows. It is now also the day when Oblate Associates renew their commitments. This year the Feb. 17 Feast Day service was held here at St. Joe's and four of our Associates joined with four from other parishes in that recommitment. A good number of parishioners from St Joe's attended the service.

Challenges

St. Joe's parishioners have always actively supported the Oblates and their many ministries over their long history in the community. In this way they, like the Oblate Associates, are part of the Mazenodian Family and encouraged to learn more about the Founder, St. Eugene De Mazenod, the Oblates, their charism and the work they do all over the world.

Year Ahead

- Continue monthly meetings, formation, participation in Oblate retreats and gatherings with Associates from Canadian Martyrs parish and the Arnprior area.
- Cooperate in the work of the Oblates to serve the poor and marginalized through the parish Mission Centre and Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), as well as other activities.



Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Contact: Michèle Babin

Accomplishments

- The RCIA process is a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment, and formation. There is no set timetable and those who join the process are encouraged to go at their own pace, taking as much time as they need.
- In 2015, we were blessed to have one young adult baptism and two young adults confirmed as members of the Roman Catholic church, all at the Easter Vigil. Over the course of the year preceding these sacraments, RCIA team members, Spiritual seekers learning about Catholicism and other members of the St. Joe's community spent time connecting in God, learning about our giftedness as children of God, as well as our community of faith.
- Our process is always adapted to the needs of inquirers and candidates.

Challenges

We endeavor to find different ways to welcome adults into the RCIA process, so that individuals feel they can inquire at any time.

Year Ahead

- There are various ways to get involved in Christian initiation, as a team member, dismissal leader, sponsor, or occasional volunteer.
- Inquirers who enter the process are expected to begin attending Mass on a Sunday if they are not already doing so, attend a weekly RCIA session, and participate in the wider church community in whatever ways they are most called.



Sacramental Preparation (Children and Teens)

Contact: Michelle Miller

Accomplishments

1st Communion

- In 2015, we welcomed 12 children to the Table of the Eucharist on the second Sunday of Easter.
- The group formation consisted of the children and their two young adult catechists meeting for eight weekly sessions. The parents also met at the same time to share the joys and challenges of raising children in faith. We utilize the “We Share in the Eucharist” booklet, which is home based and expects weekly home sessions with parents and children. We have seen the benefit of this and families have also appreciated the structure and encouragement of home participation.
- During these months, each family was encouraged to invite Fr. Andy to their home for dinner.
- On Sundays, the children who were interested were matched up with a Eucharistic Minister to help with communion at the 9:30 am Mass as part of their preparation.
- Each family was given the recipe to make Eucharistic bread and we used that bread at the 1st communion ceremony as well as other Masses that month.
- As a sign of thanksgiving, the children decorated and filled bags with toiletries and small items for the Women's Centre which were brought up during the presentation of gifts at the 1st Communion ceremony. The children were encouraged to use their own money and to help decided what to buy for the women and children who use the Centre.

1st Reconciliation

- For 1st Reconciliation, we used the booklet “We celebrate Reconciliation” for preparation and began the process after 1st Communion was completed. The children and parents worked through the five chapters at home each week and we gathered on a Saturday morning in late May for prayer, reflection with celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Andy and one additional priest. Parents are also encouraged to celebrate that Sacrament of Reconciliation as a way to model the importance of a life-long faith journey.

Confirmation

- We had one teen candidate for Confirmation during 2015. He was guided through his preparation with a young adult catechists and the Coordinator of Faith Formation. He was Confirmed on Easter Sunday, 2015.

Challenges

Parents could always use more time to share experiences and wisdom. The time between the morning Masses is optimal yet constricting, especially when the 9:30 am Mass runs long.

Year Ahead

- In all of these ministries, we attempt to prepare these young people for their next stage of discipleship, as opposed to prepare them for a moment in time. Integrating them into the life of the parish after they celebrate any Sacrament would be worth putting some specific energy towards.
- It would be wonderful to find one or two parents who could take the lead of this ministry and run with it.



Scripture Studies Ministry

Contact: Pamela Dixon

Accomplishments

In 2015, the Scripture Study session was able to host two sessions. The January 2015 session was Psalms (Part 1). This was the first part of a two-part study on the book of Psalms. We had 10 people participate in this session and it ran for approximately 12 weeks. The second session was in September 2015 and covered the Gospel of Luke. This fall session ran for approximately 10 weeks and had 10 people participate.

Challenges

- Scripture Study is a ministry run jointly with Canadian Martyrs parish. Have not been able to host event at St. Joe's due to lack of co-leader from St. Joe's parish. Currently, we do not know how to host an event, whom to contact to get projector, screen, hospitality, etc. However, announcements are still made in St. Joseph's bulletin and Friday Fax for upcoming Scripture Study sessions.
- Cost of books is borne by the participants and may be more or less depending on the fluctuating Canadian dollar.

Year Ahead

- Jan 2016 – had the Part 2 of Psalms, again 10 participants, approximately 12 weeks in length.
- April 2016 – Co-led Year of Mercy Scripture Study session – nine sessions with 13 participants.
- September 2016 session scheduled to be on Gospel of John – will be postponed to January 2017.
- Instead the September session at Canadian Martyrs will be a mini-session of a course offered at St. Paul's. It will look at several books from the bible to explain the historical context that caused them to be included.



Small Faith Sharing Group (Lent/Advent)

Contacts: Joy Heft and Lolita Walsh

Highlights

- Lent 2016 marked the nineteenth season of Small Group Faith Sharing. Attendance during Advent was particularly robust as we were joined by some new members and the return of some former members.
- Sharing was marked by insightful, thoughtful, thought-provoking, reflective expression of members' reactions to the Sunday scripture readings of the season or reminiscences of seasons past. A spirit of conviviality and mutual respect as well as an appreciation for the stories and perspectives of other members are pervasive within the group.
- Many members, including the facilitators, confess to looking forward in anticipation of these sessions as the season approaches. This year was no exception. While there tends to be a core group who return each season, a hearty welcome is extended to new participants or to former members who have been absent for a period of time.
- A set meeting place and suitable lighting contributed to the spirit of prayerfulness and contemplation.
- During Lent, we changed the start time to 7:15 pm to ensure that people were not locked out upon arrival. This worked well. There were no reports of parking problems this year.

Challenges

We were obliged to cancel a few of our Lenten sessions this year, once to be in solidarity with the Oblates who celebrated their 200th anniversary on a week night when we normally meet and another time because of inclement weather. Weather also prevented some members from attending other sessions during Lent.

Finances

There is minimal expense to the parish from this ministry. The facilitators pay for the copyright of the resource used. The parish provides for our photocopy needs.

Year Ahead

We hope to continue this ministry for as long as there is interest on the part of parishioners. We perceive it as a contribution to the spiritual life of the parish and a community building exercise. Our numbers remain consistent and the feedback is positive, so it appears we will continue for the foreseeable future.



Spiritual Seekers

Contact: David Perry

Highlights

- Spiritual Seekers centers on a mini-retreat experience, every month – usually the second Saturday, from 9:30am – 12:30pm. Our usual location is St Joe's Parish Hall. The sessions provide a "true self sampler" and opportunity for learning and centering into one's essence - through teaching, a communal experience of silence, personal reflection and small group discussion.
- Most of the teaching is through DVD presentations from Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM. His body of work on scripture, Christian mysticism, psychology, and church tradition ... offers new pathways and language towards a transformed identity and freedom in the mystery and Grace of God.
- Our language is Christian, but we see it as complementary and non-competitive with seekers on all paths. A shared meal closes out each session for those who wish to stay. As Seekers continues into its 5th year, we're delighted at the emerging desires for community and more authentic journeys of transformation.
- There are about 50+ "Seekers," about half are from St Joe's. For a particular session, about 35 attend. In the past year, we've been pleased to welcome more young adults.
- It is meant to be open to all, and an outreach for those who want to go deeper. Each month is self-contained unit; and there's no commitment, nor fees required. We only ask that folks RSVP.
- We have a lending library of related materials (DVD, CD, and books) is available each month; this is funded by free will offerings by participants.
- We have started to make child-care available upon request (during the sessions).
- Our website is www.ciemysteryandgrace.org

Year Ahead

- **'Outsiders'** – we are exploring hosting events out in nature during the summer and fall months; hoping to be 'Outsiders' once a month from June through October – starting summer 2016. This would effectively replace the Spiritual Seekers Mini Retreats when weather permits.
- **Spiral Dynamics Workshop:** an opportunity for growth, leadership development, and team building. What could our lives, work, spirituality, and service look like if we based them on the contemplative principles? In the spring of 2016, we have 20 people embarking on this new journey. Also, we're considering an additional 'track' geared to young adults.



Liturgy Cluster

Cluster Representative: Joanne Lee (Interim)

Again in 2015 the work of the Ministries in this cluster has provided the vitality and vigour that allows the liturgical life of St Joe's to be such a powerful and satisfying source of spiritual intensity and community fellowship. The reports of the individual Ministries that follow give some idea of the activities that have gone on during the past year to provide practical, aesthetic and spiritual support.

As far as the next year is concerned, Ministries in the Cluster will continue to carry out their work with very small demands on Parish Funds; however, the need to attract new volunteers to take part in the work is an increasingly critical challenge. The talented and passionate individuals now serving with the ministries would welcome the energy and enthusiasm that new volunteers can bring...and not to mention some well-deserved sabbaticals.



Altar Service Ministry

Contact: Gail Hillier

Members of this Ministry wash linens weekly as needed, including purifications, corporals and altar cloths.

Finances

The Ministry could use \$50 in 2015 for new materials.

Bread Baking Ministry

Contact: Clara Nasello

Accomplishments

There were 16 bread bakers in 2015. Each person bakes bread two or three times during the year. It is a custom that there is no bread during July and August.

Finances

Each bread baker supplies the necessary ingredients themselves.

Year Ahead

- I would like anyone who hasn't participated in a bread baking demonstration to do so. Petra Nortier offers a tea and bread baking demo each year for those interested in learning more about the ministry.
- Every October I ask the bread bakers if they would like to renew their commitment, ensuring that there are 16 bread bakers at all times. The annual schedule is distributed in in early December.
- I will be looking for a co-coordinator in the coming months.



Celebrant's Assistants

Contact: Bob Part

The Celebrants Assistants (CA) functions as the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for Liturgical Celebrations at St. Joseph's Parish.

Accomplishments

- The CA Ministry has functioned consistently at all three weekend Liturgies throughout the 2015 year. CA's have also been assisting the Funeral Ministry for service at Funeral Liturgies. A cadre of Ministers fulfill this role. Each Sunday Liturgy has a Coordinator who oversees the functioning of this ministry, provides supervision and feedback, and sets a schedule for the CA's. The Saturday evening Liturgy has one CA who assumes this role on a weekly basis. Some other individuals have assumed this role when the CA has been unavailable. The 9:30 Sunday Liturgy has six CA's who assume this ministry on a rotational basis. Likewise, there are six CA's trained and appointed for the 11:30 Sunday Liturgy and again who perform this ministry on a rotational basis. CAs often 'pinch-hit' for each other when the scheduled time slot encounters a conflict.
- In addition to the three CA Coordinators who are concerned mostly with the week-to-week practicalities of this Ministry, a Ministry Coordinator is involved at the level of the Liturgy Committee. The Liturgy Committee sets broad policy for all Liturgical Ministries that function within the Parish. This Ministry Coordinator for CA's also assigns tasks (scheduling) for the three Coordinators when the parish celebrates additional or special Liturgies such as at Easter and Christmas.

Challenges

It is our experience that with a change of Pastors, there are minor adjustments to accommodate individual presider-styles. This has been the case with the arrival of Father Richard. CA's, above all else, must be willing to make these minor adjustments so that our Liturgies continue to be seamless and flowing.

Year Ahead

- In the coming year, the CA Ministry needs to be integrated more closely with the Celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday evening (the University Eucharist).
- The CA Ministry will also undertake a number of other minor 'adjustments' to integrate with the other Liturgical Ministries for smoother flow in concert with recently approved Liturgy Committee Documents including a handbook for the Eucharistic Ministers and Liturgical Choreography. These documents will impact all Liturgical Ministries including the Ministry of CA.
- Other challenges for the CA Ministry in the year 2016 include ensuring that there is a cadre of trained Ministers for all Celebrations and strive to attain Gender equity in the CA ranks at all Parish Liturgies.



Counters Ministry

Contact: Jill Lamont

The Counters Ministry is responsible for the counting of monies received by the parish each week, including donations at each of the masses, hall rentals, and money for services rendered. The team consists of around eight members, who volunteer their time once a month. Counters work in pairs to count the money, prepare deposit sheets and the deposit, record information for the weekly accounting sheet, donations for each mass, total deposit and other data, such as money donated to the Supper Table and Raise the Roof. The time required is about two and a half hours each week. The volunteers in the Counters Ministry are dedicated, fun people, who willingly substitute for each other when necessary, and share coffee and life stories.

Eucharistic Ministers

Contact: Eleanor Rabnett

Accomplishments

At each of our weekend Masses (as well as our daily Masses) throughout the year 30 Eucharistic Ministers come forward to serve all who come to join us in our liturgies. The Eucharistic Ministers have responded to God's call to serve in this very specific way and are a most necessary and integral part of our liturgies.

Year Ahead

We have begun a process of Recruitment and Renewal with the Eucharistic Ministers which take place over the coming months and into September. This process will include some formation (an update for many and something new for those who are joining us). Then at the end of September/beginning of October we will all be commissioned by our pastor.



Family Ministry and Children's Liturgy

Contact: Erin Anderson

Accomplishments

In 2015, Children's Liturgy of the Word continued to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where children and youth felt comfortable expressing their faith at an age appropriate level.

The My Little Church continues to be a hub for young families. The children enjoy playing in this area and we hear comments from people visiting that it is a great way to welcome families. An attempt is made to provide weekly colouring pages that reflect the Scriptures.

Notable (activities/events/other) included:

- A Welcome Back brunch was held to greet old friends and welcome new families in the fall and throughout the year there were additional get-togethers directly after the 9:30am Mass.
- New volunteers were trained to help lead and assist the Children's Liturgy of the Word sessions.
- Successful Christmas and Good Friday pageants were presented to the congregation.

Challenges

- Finding and training enough volunteers to successfully and safely run the Children's Liturgy of the Word sessions continues to be the biggest challenge. A new coordinator will also need to be identified and trained for the 2017-2018 school year.
- My Little Church also only has one volunteer who oversees this space presently. A few more hands are always welcome.
- Young families come from all over the city and they tend to be very busy. Finding appropriate times for additional activities is often difficult.

Finances

The Children's Liturgy of the Word will continue to order the children's handouts and leaders guides in July for the coming year. Although the materials require a small amount of funding, part of the cost as well as the class materials are often donated by the volunteers. At present time, most of the toys and other resources for My Little Church have been donated. The purchasing of new religious toys and books would be appreciated.

Year Ahead

- In April, Development and Peace offered a workshop for the children on wants vs. needs in relation to the environment.
- There will be a volunteer training session in the fall in order to reanimate the Ministry after the summer holiday. New volunteers will be recruited using various channels.
- Children's Liturgy of the Word will once again be run for Kindergarten through Grade 6 students at the 9:30 am Mass from September to June.



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- To further strengthen the community, more activities aimed at young children and their families will be offered in addition to the Welcome Back Brunch, pageants and Summer Celebration.
- My Little Church hopes to add more faith-based toys and books as well as a small bookshelf in the area. The present toys will be weeded out and the space reorganized.

Lectors

Contact: Katherine Laundy

The leadership of the Lector ministry is divided as follows:

Mass leaders (responsible for training new volunteers and ensuring that there are sufficient lectors for each service): 5:00 pm Ann Kelly, 9:30 am Mary Ruddy, 11:30 am Mark Stolarik

Children's Services: Louise Lafond

Liturgy Planning Committee Representative: Dick Gunstone

Scheduler: Katherine Laundy

Accomplishments

- In 2015, three new adult Lectors signed on and prepared for the ministry.
- No meetings have been held this year. Any issues that arise are discussed and resolved through online discussion.
- When lectures or workshops take place in the city to do with studying the Word, Lectors are notified and encouraged to attend.

Challenges

We could always do with more Lectors as quite a few over the last year have left.

Year Ahead

We will look to find more lectors through advertising in the Bulletin and at the Volunteer Event.



Liturgical Environment Committee

Contacts: Dorothy Collins and John Weir

Accomplishments

- In January 2015, we depicted a winter theme which covered the storage room construction.
- During Lent/Easter in 2015, we presented the themes of community outreach, moving towards new Easter beginnings.
- By Easter 2015, the storage room construction was completed.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada on Indian Residential Schools closed its multi-year mandate with events here in Ottawa. Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin, The Creator's Sacrifice, a series of stunning paintings by Cree artist Ovide Bighetty, were displayed until June, 2015 at St. Joseph's Parish. This was presented with collaboration of the Christian Reform Church of Canada, under the leadership of Sid Ypma (Chaplain - Ottawa University).
- Throughout Advent/Christmas in 2015, in response to the international refugee crisis, we drew attention to the parallel between the plight of world citizens desperate for new beginnings and the story of Mary and Joseph and their attempts to find a secure place for their new family.

Challenges

- For the last year and a half, we have had additional help with the work that we do. We are grateful to Angela Mione, Cheryl Tymchuk, Christine Libon, and Charlotte de Neeve who have brought new ideas forward and have provided additional physical support. As retired members of the parish we have had the time to spend on planning and executing our plans, however, we are hopeful that at some point we can share leadership for this work with others who also have the time required.
- Storage was a problem in the past when we stored all of our materials in the organ balcony. The new storage at the front of the church has been a wonderful addition for our storage and accessibility needs.

Finances

There is a small budget available, however we have relied mainly on re-inventing, adapting and reusing fabrics from the collection we have been able to collect, mainly through donations, and store over the years.

Year Ahead

We are looking forward to continuing and seeking members who are interested in sharing more in the leadership work of this committee (ie. sharing the two major annual liturgical seasons - one leadership team responsible for Lent/Easter and the other responsible for Advent / Christmas).



Liturgy Committee

Contact: Bob Part

The Liturgy Committee is a Committee of the Parish Pastoral Council. In 2015, the Committee merged with the (Liturgical) Seasonal Planning Committee. The Committee membership is comprised of the following:

Bob Part	Chair	Coordinator - Celebrant's Assistants Ministry
Katherine Crowe	Secretary	Coordinator – Baptism Ministry
Fr. Richard Beaudette	Ex-officio	Pastor
Jamie Loback	Staff Rep	Coordinator- Music Ministry
Louise Lafond	Member	Coordinator – Lectors Ministry
Eleanor Rabnet	Member	Coordinator - Eucharistic Ministers
Erin Anderson	Member	Coordinator - Childrens' Liturgies
Dick Gunstone	Member	Coordinator - Prayers of the Faithful
Mike Britton	Member	Coordinator – Reflection Ministry
John Weir / Dorothy Collins	Members	Coordinators – Environment Ministry
Joanne Lee	Member	Liturgy Cluster Rep.

The Liturgy Committee is tasked with the formulation of on-going policy with respect to Sunday (weekend) Liturgies at St. Joseph's Parish and through its various representatives ensure that these policies are enacted by the various ministries that they represent.

In 2015, the committee was relatively inactive in terms of policy decisions but met regularly to review the general tenor of the Liturgical celebrations in their totality, critiquing and suggesting alternate\ novel ways for our Christian Community to express itself, ensuring that our Liturgies are living-giving and in concert with Church directives. Planning ahead for each new Liturgical season is a Prime concern for the Committee.

In the Fall of 2015, it became obvious there was a mounting need to revitalized the work of the Committee to complete some unfinished business and to move ahead with policies relating to our Liturgical practice for all ministries. The mandate of sub-committee (formed a number of years ago to study and make recommendations with respect to the General Instruction on the Roman Missal) was renewed. The sub-committee was asked to finalize its report by early 2016.

The Committee did meet regularly to plan for the Liturgical year so that each ministry can adjust to any peculiarities that may arise as a result of Seasonal emphasis. Since the Committee Members are all associated with a particular ministry, the information flow from Committee to individual ministers is expected to be fairly easy and immediate. One of the main goals of the Liturgy Committee is to foster and promote the 'full and active participation of the whole community as the prime directive from the Second Vatican Council in the Constitution on the Liturgy.



Prayers of the Faithful Ministry

Contact: Dick Gunstone

The members of this ministry take turns writing the Prayers of the Faithful for our community for our Sunday Liturgies which allows everyone a chance to offer intentional prayers of the community every six weeks or so and contribute for special liturgies such as Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday, the Easter Vigil as well as Christmas and other special days throughout the year. These prayers are sent to the Coordinator who will then offer suggestions when required and send them on to Jamie Loback to include in the upcoming liturgies.

Reflections Ministry

Contact: Mike Britton

Scheduler: Jamie Loback

Accomplishments

- We have reestablished the Coordinator role in the Ministry, agreed on the Ministry's function in the parish with our new Pastor, Fr. Richard Beaudette, and continued to deliver reflections on a regular basis as required.
- We have undertaken development of an induction and formation process centered on community discernment.
- We have also started occasional discussions for members to express challenges and insights, facilitated by Fr. Normand Bonneau.

Challenges

In the long term, we hope that this structural development will improve our transparency, accountability, and support to the Parish, as well as to our own members.

Year Ahead

We look to continue to deliver relevant and nourishing reflections, to ratify and implement a new induction and formation process, to improve our scheduling process, and to select and embark on our next initiative.



Young Lectors

Contact: Louise Lafond

Accomplishments

The Young Lectors are an offshoot of the Lectors Ministry and provide the lector for the reading at the Family Mass, the third Sunday of every month (except July and August). The Young Lectors Ministry has been married with the Gospel Players, as it is far easier for that Ministry to ensure the resources are equitably distributed (read: the same children are not always reading and/or in the Gospel Play) and that they are not over-tasked.

Challenges

As in past reports, the major challenge has been trying to find/recruit children to be the lector (as there is only one reading not two) without poaching from the Gospel Players; therefore, in order to eliminate this conflict where, at times, two children are assigned to do the reading, it is now in the very capable hands of the Gospel Players Ministry.

Year Ahead

We want to thank all the children who have had the courage to stand in front of the community and proclaim the Word. It is not an easy job.



Pastoral Care and Social Justice Cluster

Cluster Representative: Angela McCanny

The ministries in the Pastoral Care and Social Justice Cluster truly embody the words attributed to St. Teresa of Avila,

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.”

The ministries in this cluster work to bring healing, forgiveness, consolation, justice and companionship in very concrete, personal and pastoral ways. They care for those from our parish, the surrounding neighbourhood and the wider world.

A quick look at some of the activities in this cluster gives the flavour of these ministries:

- An engaging Seven-week course that guides participants in finding inner peace (Practicing Attitudinal Healing Ministry)
- Weekly communion services shared with the elderly residents of Rideau Place, filled with warmth and humour (Pastoral Visiting Ministry)
- Celebrating two ecumenical healing services with St. Paul's Eastern United Church (Community Healing Services Ministry)
- Helping a young single mother from Cameroon move into and furnish a new apartment and raising \$600 for her permanent resident application and that of her child (Refugee Outreach Committee - ROC)
- Welcoming, accepting and comforting fourteen grieving families through helping them prepare the funerals of their loved ones (Funeral Ministry)
- Monthly opportunities to experience physical, emotional and spiritual harmony and wellbeing (One-on-One Experience of Healing Touch)
- Educating the parish about the needs of our neighbours in the South through prayer, educational activities, financial support and the monitoring of Canadian foreign policy. (Development and Peace)

Challenges

Publicizing events and attracting a good number of participants were mentioned as challenges by a few ministries. However, they also concluded, “We all agreed that it isn't about numbers and that we were willing to go ahead for the coming year.”

Finances

Many of the ministries are supported by contributions of the volunteers, whether it is providing food, photocopying materials or covering gas and parking costs.



Community Healing Service Ministry

Contact: Eleanor Rabnett

Accomplishments

- We had two services this year on Saturday morning from 11 am to noon followed by refreshments and socializing. One is held in February at St. Joseph's Parish and one in April at St. Paul's Eastern United Church. There will be another one in October 2016 at St. Joseph's.
- There are 10 on the team. Eight from St. Joseph's and two from St. Paul's Eastern United. The pastors of both parishes are always present.

Challenges

Very few people attend these services. Posters are made in advance and put at the back of the church, ads also appear in the bulletin and are announced.

Year Ahead

- We hope to continue offering these Community Healing Services.
- Clara Nasello will be made a co-coordinator, alongside Eleanor Rabnett, for the upcoming year.



Development and Peace

Contact: Larry Martin

Share Lent is the high profile education and financial support for Development and Peace. Traditionally, a St. Joseph's member gives a reflection on **Solidarity Sunday during Lent** to highlight our mission and national campaign. For 2015-16 our theme is "**Create a Climate of Change**". We include information about some of our **Development Programs** in 20 countries and 200 long-term partner projects which focus on health, education, water, sanitation, climate, food and community leadership. Our work also focuses on **Emergency Responses** such as the ongoing drought in the Sahel in West Africa and the Horn of East Africa, internal/external refugee communities in Syria and their neighbors in the Middle East, reconstruction projects in Haiti, climate-induced disasters such as the typhoon in the Philippines and others in Nepal and Ecuador.

Our **purpose is two-fold**: to educate Canadian Catholics in their parishes and schools and to be of assistance to our Southern partners in community development projects. We work with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, diocesan bishops, clergy, parishes and the 11,000 Development and Peace members/volunteers in Canada. The overall total budget/program of **Development and Peace** is almost \$40 million. **Development and Peace** is a significant Canadian Non-Governmental Organization providing support to development projects in the Global South.

Our programs were reduced when the Canadian International Development Agency (**CIDA**) withdrew 65% of our funding in early 2012, in spite of a 45-year reputation of transparent, effective and financially sound long-term development work. Canada's previous federal government had indicated a new direction linking Canada's economic development being more tied to Overseas Development Assistance (**ODA**). This could hinder the delivery of development projects in true support of our Southern neighbours. Our new federal government is revisiting this method of financial support to the Non-Governmental Community and support to the South.

Catholic Social Teaching and the **Caritas in Veritate**, and **Laudatum SÍ** encyclicals reflect the values of our work and organization. St. Joseph's parish hosts workshops for our members and those in other Ottawa parishes to learn about new campaigns and materials. Social and environmental justice are always the basis of our work and commitment.

Challenges

St. Joseph's has the reputation of generosity every year during the **Share Lent** campaign. We have a number of "Share Year Round", occasional and emergency response donors. We sell Fair Trade coffee after mass, the profits of which go to Development and Peace.

Year Ahead

We meet several times a year on an ad hoc basis and gear up as a committee around Share Lent. We publicize parish and diocesan events sometimes with Southern visitors as they occur over the year. People are welcome to be members of the St. Joseph's committee or to just receive basic information from the national web-site at www.devp.org and the bulletin inserts. We plan to endorse the "Share Monthly" donor program and to publicize and support **Emergency Responses** when needed.



Funeral Ministry

Contacts: Sharon Gravelle, Christine Libon, Patrick Shaughnessy, and Dianne Taylor

Funeral ministers are privileged to help the families of people who have died. We enter their lives of families at one of the most difficult and sorrowful times of their lives. Our goal is to ensure that grieving families are welcome, accepted and comfortable as we help them prepare the funerals of their loved ones. We strive to bring compassion and support and ensure that funerals are meaningful, positive experiences for families.

We guide the family in the selection of the readings, the prayers of the faithful and their choice of music etc. We are present to support, guide, and assist the family at the funeral. We are often called upon to join the family for the wake in the church and the committal.

Accomplishments

- The team provided assistance for fourteen funerals last year and families were very grateful for the help and dedication of our ministry.
- In November, the Funeral Ministry held the second Memorial Service. It was well attended and our guests were more than grateful to be able to remember and pay tribute to their deceased friends and family members. Refreshments were served afterwards. It was a time for healing and friendship in a supportive community.
- We also held another Funeral Preparation workshop. We had several other requests from people wishing to pre-plan their own funeral or that of a loved one.
- A team of other volunteers was established to help set up for the liturgy and put away all materials afterwards. This enables the funeral ministers to focus on the family needs.
- The new procedure for reserving the parking lot for funerals has improved the parking situation for families and guests.

Challenges

Due to the many activities happening at St. Joseph parish and the renting out of the church and hall, it is sometimes difficult to schedule funerals when the family wants them and they sometimes have to have funerals on a day or at a time that is not always best for the family. On a couple of occasions families went to another church because we were not able to accommodate their preferred day or time for the funeral.

Year Ahead

We will continue to minister with compassion and we may have another memorial service in November.



One-on-One Experience of Healing Touch

Contact: Clara Nasello

Facilitators: Norah McMahon, Helena Robb, Colette Chartrand, and Clara Nasello

Accomplishments

This service is offered once a month on a Friday morning between 9:30 am and 11:30 am. We take turns being the coordinator each month. People either sign up at the welcome desk or e-mail or phone the coordinator. Having it announced at Mass the week before our next session seems make people aware of it. Attendance varies from month-to-month. Below are the monthly attendances:

September: 8 persons,

October: 3persons

November: 6 persons

January: 1 person

February: 2 persons,

March: 4 persons

April: 5 persons

Most people inform us if they have to cancel their appointment. There are also times when it isn't necessary for the entire group to participate.

Challenges

- Some people do not notify us if they have to cancel
- Sometimes someone shows up without signing up.

Year Ahead

- Two of our volunteers have suffered misfortunes of their own: the tragic loss of a son and the diagnosis of cancer. Both are on temporary leave.
- We will continue to put regular notices in the Bulletin regarding home-visits in Sandy Hill.



Pastoral Visiting Ministry

Contact: Kathleen Allan

Our visiting ministry is three-fold: Rideau-on-the-River retirement home, home-visits to parishioners in the Sandy Hill community where we live; and Roman Catholic patients at the Civic Hospital.

Accomplishments

- Our weekly visits to the one remaining retirement home in Sandy Hill by Marie, Nora and Irene are continuing with anywhere from four to ten people attending our communion service in the Chapel at the Rideau Place complex. To make it more interactive, we have them respond to the daily psalm, listen to the gospel or an uplifting spiritual reading followed by their intercessions before receiving Holy Communion. Sometimes, on feast days, they enjoy listening to the life of a particular saint and on special occasions (Christmas, Easter, St. Patrick's Day) we may end with a hymn or amusing anecdote, inviting them to pick up a treat from the basket on their way out. Always, the residents are so very grateful and we have a tough time convincing them that it is our pleasure to provide this small service from St. Joe's Parish even if they are not parishioners. Although they have mass celebrated in French every Saturday afternoon, we maintain the English connection by being there for them every Thursday, all year round, and we are indeed happy to do it because this ministry is very dear to us and so much a part of our own spiritual being.
- We also bring communion to three other Sandy Hill residents who have requested a visit in their homes and who are equally grateful for this small gesture of support from St. Joe's. We will continue to acknowledge any other requests that come to us through the established channels.
- Renée and Kathleen visit Roman Catholic patients at the Civic Hospital on a weekly basis.

Challenges

- Getting the word out that we make home-visits to parishioners living in Sandy Hill.
- Connecting with the elderly, shut-ins, lonely; those, who through illness or other circumstances, are unable to participate in parish life and would like a visit.

Year Ahead

- Two of our volunteers have suffered misfortunes of their own: the tragic loss of a son and the diagnosis of cancer. Both are on temporary leave.
- We will continue to put regular notices in the Bulletin regarding home-visits in Sandy Hill.



Practicing Attitudinal Healing (PAH)

Contact: Margaret Dumoulin

Accomplishments

One seven-week PAH course was held at St. Joe's in 2015. There were eight participants who attended all of the seven weeks. The Evaluations were very positive. This course is intended to enable participants to discover and discuss finding inner peace. It is based on the Principles of Attitudinal Healing as described by Dr. J. Jampolsky in his book, *"Teach Only Love"*. Two participants left the group early on for personal reasons. As this is a group sharing type of course, I was not able to offer them the level of counselling that they required. However, I was able to recommend counselling resources to them.

Challenges

- I have found that offering this course in the fall is much more successful than at any other time of the year. I have offered it in the spring in the past, but have had to cancel due to low enrollment. (For the positive effect of group sharing I will run the course with four or more participants only.) Weekend courses have been suggested, but again, low enrolment has been a concern. I am thankful to be able to book one of the meeting spaces at St. Joe's and the upper level meeting room is the best for this sharing group.
- My other concern is that when there is a participant or two who require one-on-one involvement, I am alone. In years past, I have had a fellow Facilitator who was able to assist me with these situations. She has since moved onto other endeavors. I am actively seeking another trained PAH Facilitator interested in assisting me.

Year Ahead

- Having offered this seven-week course, twice per year at St. Joe's over the past 4 years, I would be pleased to continue to do so.
- I hope to offer another session in the Fall (Oct. – Dec.)



Refugee Outreach Committee

Contacts: Louise Lalonde and Robyne Warren

Highlights

Leadership & Membership

- The student who had been Chair of Refugee Outreach Committee (ROC) for the past year returned to Toronto in April, 2015, to continue her studies. The vacancy was filled by two members who share the role as co-chairs.
- From May to November, potential ROC members were interviewed and the membership was increased and limited to 14.

Training

- Four members undertook on-line training with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) and became qualified sponsorship trainers.
- From December 3 - 6, an RSTP team from Toronto gave six training sessions in different parts of Ottawa. ROC members participated in dispensing the training and arranged to hold the December session in the St. Joe's Parish Hall.
- All ROC members were given in-house training and encouraged to take advantage of meetings and conferences offered in the local community.

ROC Involvement in the Local Community

- Coalition in Ottawa for Refugees (COR) Refugee sponsorship, St Elias (April 24)
- Provincial MP's at the Catholic Centre for Immigrants (CCI) on new provincial funding to support refugee agencies province-wide (September 20)
- Catholic response to the Syrian crisis, at the Diocesan Centre (September 24).
- Mayor's Town Hall meeting at City Hall that created Refugee 613 (October 1)
- Coalition in Ottawa for Refugees (COR) meeting with Louise Taylor from Refugee 613, (November 1)
- Refugee Settlement Presentation at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (November 12)
- Capital Rainbow Refuge concerning the sponsorship of LGBTQ (January)
- A Public Forum – Ottawa's Local Response to a Global Refugee Crisis - guest speaker, the High Commissioner of UNHCR, Filippo Grandi, interviewed was by Louisa Taylor of Refugee613
- ROC is an active member of the COR and Refugee 613.
- The co-chairs respond to numerous requests from parishioners and parties from the local community wanting help and/or information on sponsorship and other refugee issues.
- Several members followed training in the Matching Program with Anneke van Nooten at CCI.
- All 14 ROC members have undergone the Police Security Check required to work with a vulnerable population and 12, with two more to come, have signed the Responsible Ministry Code of Pastoral Conduct of the Archdiocese.

Hosting

- In May 2015, three members undertook the hosting of an Iraqi mother, Sabah, and two young adult daughters, Samer and Susan. With this support the three have made important steps towards becoming independent.



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- In September, the hosting of Nathalie, a young single mother from Cameroon, was undertaken. This month, she moved into an apartment. Within days, an ROC member had Nathalie's new home completely furnished and \$600 raised for Nathalie's permanent resident application and that of her child.

Trust Funds

- In 2015, ROC signed seven co-sponsorships with local families sponsoring refugee family members abroad. The task of dispensing monthly checks was simplified by bulk mailing post-dated checks to the newcomers once they had arrived. The ROC co-chairs met with parish council members and staff on two occasions to clarify the implications of these trust funds for the parish.

ROC Private Sponsorship Projects

- In May, 2015, Julie Salach-Simard of CCI, met with ROC members to offer a \$25,000 donation from the Catholic Doctors' Guild for the sponsorship of a Christian Syrian family. The family proposed by Julie, a couple with two young children, had been exposed to chemical poison bombing in the suburbs of Damascus. The same offer was made to another parish by a Guild member and the donation went to the other parish.
- In March 2015, Lisa Hébert and two immigration lawyers from the Capital Rainbow Refuge met with the ROC to propose the sponsorship of Medhat, a single Syrian gay father with three children. In October, two couples from the parish approached the ROC, asking for guidance in carrying out a sponsorship. Having received a donation from a religious community, the ROC partnered with the couples and decided to undertake Medhat's sponsorship. After four Skype meetings with Medhat conducted by an immigration lawyer to establish his narrative, Medhat announced that the government of Switzerland had offered to sponsor him. For his protection and his children's future, the ROC encouraged him to accept the offer. By September 24, he and his children were in their new home in Switzerland.
- At an RSTP session in Barrhaven, Robyne and Louise met with Qusai Awad who asked for help in bringing his two orphan nieces to Ottawa. His family sponsorship application for them was initially refused but was granted following an appeal to the Canadian Embassy in Jordan. The two girls arrived on February 7 and are adapting well.
- The ROC is now working with Qusai to send for four more of his family members: his sister, Maysaa, and her daughters who are in Damascus, Maysaa's 15-year-old son, Amawz, who is a refugee in an orphanage in Germany, and her mother who is a refugee in Saudi Arabia. A friend of Qusai's is supporting these sponsorships financially.
- In the two months that followed the resolution of Medhat's sponsorship, all attempts to secure another family proved fruitless. In January, the ROC and the two couples, now increased to three, applied for and were granted a refugee Syrian family of five in Jordan that was not travel-ready. The expectation was that they would arrive as part of the government's \$25 000. It didn't happen and the family's security check is still in progress.
- On November 19, the co-chairs met with 13 parishioners who had expressed the wish to do their part for the refugee crisis. At a second meeting on December 9, Anneke van Nooten gave a presentation on hosting and invited those who were interested to sign up for host training at CCI.



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- January 11, the parish council held an information evening facilitated by Herman de Sousa for the entire parish. The ROC was invited to give a brief presentation of its history and present projects. From that meeting, a committee named Parish Support for Syrian Refugees was set up.
- February 18, the ROC and Parish Support for Syrian Refugees teamed up to present the parish with up-to-date information on the refugee crisis. Imam Sikander Hashmi gave a presentation on cultural differences.
- The ROC also worked with a Syrian Refugee Support group in developing practical support for newly arrived Syrian Government Assisted Refugees aka "The backpack project."

Accountability to the parish

- In October, the membership approved a revised version of the ROC's Terms of Reference and Job Descriptions. A copy was sent to parish council.
- The ROC has kept its Cluster Representative, Angela McCanny, apprised of its activities. On November 24, Angela met with the co-chairs and on December 13, attended the ROC monthly meeting.
- The ROC regularly informs the parish of its activities through the parish bulletin.

Finances

The ROC has received substantial financial support and in-kind donations (furniture and household items) from the parish and is appreciative and grateful for that support, and for the confidence and encouragement St. Joe's faith community extends to our outreach ministry.



Music Ministry

Contact: Jamie Loback

Accomplishments

High Liturgical Seasons

Easter 2015 and Christmas 2015 were notable successes for the Music Ministry. The quality of singing and quality of repertoire that the Music Ministry contributed to the two Celebrations were incredibly good. The Music Ministry is fortunate and grateful to have had the generous support of Tom Fagan who played the organ at Easter and Christmas as well as Jim McIntyre who accompanies the choir beautifully on guitar. The Music Ministry is also supported by Kathleen Allen who serves as our choir librarian. Kathleen and her team have contributed enormous amounts of time maintaining the organization of our resources.

Fund-Raising

Several successful fund-raising concerts (see section on Fund-raising Initiates under Finances)

Challenges

Recruitment

The Music Ministry in general continues to experience difficulty in recruiting new members to the choirs; its membership in 2015 has remained relatively stable. The overall quality has not been significantly impacted and all three choirs continue to improve. Recruitment remains a priority for the Music Ministry in September 2016.

Social Dynamics

Choirs are small communities and as such require time to socialize. The various choirs periodically set aside time to socialize with one another (primarily with pot-lucks) and the Music Director will continue to work with each of the choirs to incorporate a larger social dynamic within the Music Ministry.

Budget

As is the case with all the ministries of St. Joseph's Parish, the Music Ministry is working to maintain sustainable funding in order to maintain a balanced budget while continuing ongoing development of musical quality as well as the introduction of new repertoire in the liturgy and concerts. In order to assist in the overall Parish effort to maintain a balanced budget, the Music Ministry did not incur any significant capital expenses in 2015 (ex. The acquisition of new scores or hymnals – however, in order to continue to keep our music program living and current, new repertoire will be purchased [within budget] for 2016-2017.

Finances

Generals Finances

- The Music Ministry was within budget in the 2015 fiscal year.
- To date the Music Ministry remains under budget for the 2016 fiscal year; it is likely that the Ministry's 2016 expenses will be well within the approved operational budget.



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Fund-raising Initiatives (2015)

Music Ministry Concerts:

- **Music Ministry Concert #1:** Spring Concert – May 2015: The Music Ministry successfully raised **\$2000** (gross proceeds) from its annual Spring concert for the Supper Table.
- **Music Ministry Concert #2:** Winter Concert - December 2015: The Music Ministry raised **\$2500** for the Supper Table.
- **Note:** both fund-raising concerts brought in less revenue than in 2014

Year Ahead

Fund-Raising Concerts

- Music Ministry Spring Concert (June 2015) – estimated revenue: \$1000
- Music Ministry Christmas Concert (December 2015) – estimated revenue: \$2000

Programming Considerations

- Recruitment and orientation of new members
- Possible Music Ministry retreat in October 2016