

Francis was born in 1181 in Assisi, Italy. Europe and the Muslim world had already endured two crusades. The third crusade began when Francis was a boy, and the fourth when he was twenty-one. In short, the world was obsessed with war, fear, and security. Assisi itself joined in an ongoing war with Perugia, a neighboring city. Francis rode off to fight and was taken prisoner by the Perugians in 1202. In 1204, the Christians of the West sacked and looted Constantinople (present day Istanbul). Shortly after that, Francis came out of prison dazed, disillusioned, and feeling there must be something more than all this cruelty and aggression. Francis seemed to realize that there is an intrinsic connection between violence and the need to protect one's possessions, perks, and privileges. His own father was one of the first generation of propertied businessmen in the new trading class of Europe. One biographer found city records of twelfth century Assisi showing that Pietro De Bernadone, Francis' father, was indeed buying up the lands of the poor. Francis recognized that his father's obsession with money had in many ways destroyed his father's soul. And so, in some way overreacting to his father,

Francis set out on a radically different path. Francis concluded that the only way out of such a world was to live a life of voluntary poverty, or what he called a life of "non-appropriation," and to simply not be a part of the moneyed class. Franciscans wear a rope around their waist as a sign that they carry no money, since the leather belt in Francis' time also served as a wallet. Francis knew that once you felt you owned anything, then you would have to protect it and increase it. That is the inherent nature of greed—there is never enough. For some reason this is no longer considered a capital sin in our capitalist society. In fact, I have never heard anyone confess an offense against the tenth commandment. "Coveting our neighbor's goods" is the very nature of our society. Today the need for simplifying goes beyond an avoidance of violence. Our planet is in grave peril largely due to greed, overconsumption, and reckless exploitation. While most of us are not like Francis, willing to dive into a life of voluntary poverty, we must all make choices and decisions to do our part to follow these wise words of an unknown speaker: "live simply so that others may simply live."  
*Adapted from Richard Rohr, The Art of Letting Go: Living the Wisdom of St. Francis*

**REFLECTION**

The American humorist, Mark Twain, famously said: "The only reason why God created man is because he was disappointed with the monkey." Yet, today's Gospel assures us that God loves all of creation; even the smallest of sparrows are in his care. We know that the Lord didn't create anything without a purpose. Even so, we might have to say that mosquitoes come close to serving no purpose! As daughters and sons of God, we are all called to discover our purpose in life and to acknowledge it before all else. We must forever give glory to the Creator who breathes us into life, walk with us in all our days and calls us home at the

What is a prophet? A prophet is someone called by God to read the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel. A prophet is someone deeply in touch with contemporary reality, one who is loving and courageous enough to expose what is contrary to the will of God and is able to encourage others to believe in and work to create a Gospel alternative. Now there's a job guaranteed to antagonize just about everyone! Prophets question any privilege we may feel that we have earned and challenge our complacency and comfort. Listen to Pope Francis as he quotes St. John Chrysostom: "Not to share one's goods with the poor is to rob them and to deprive them of life. It is not our goods that we possess, but theirs." Few of us are left off the hook! Prophecy has the second task of proposing real alternatives. This dimension of the prophetic vocation offers an interpretation of Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops."

How often do we hear that quiet inner voice prodding us with the questions "Does it have to be this way? Are there any other possibilities?" The moment we find ourselves avoiding or resisting such questions, we have allowed ourselves to be conformed to the status quo and we are no longer living out our prophetic vocation or responding to the call of the prophets in our midst.

*A new heart I will give you, and a*

**NEW SPIRIT**

*I will put within you. Ez. 36:26a*



**Parish Pastoral Council**

**At the heart of our community: you!!**

This weekend was slated for Parish Pastoral Council elections. Over the past few weeks the nominating committee has been at work seeking candidates for the four members at large positions that were open on Council. During the same period, the ministry clusters were also at work selecting their representatives. Happily, nominees have been named for the open positions. As there were only four nominees for the at large positions, those nominees are acclaimed. We extend heartfelt gratitude to all who have offered their talents to serve our parish community.

See the following pages for photos and short biographies of the new members of Parish Pastoral Council.

**Who's on Parish Pastoral Council?**

Our Parish Pastoral Council has three groups of members: Members at Large, Cluster or Mass Representatives (the Sunday evening Mass will continue to have a Mass Rep) and Ex Officio Members.

The Cluster Representatives have been chosen and confirmed by the ministries within their cluster. The Sunday evening Mass Rep has not been confirmed yet, but will be at the beginning of September, and the Members at Large have been elected by acclamation. Their photos and bios are inside.

The Ex Officio Members include the

Treasurer, Greg Forestell; the Executive Director, Christopher Adam (non-voting member) and the Pastor, Richard Beaudette, OMI.

The chair of the Council, Joanne Lee, continues until the end of her term. Terry Byrne has one more year in his term as a Member at Large.



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## MEMBERS AT LARGE

### ROSLYN BROWN

I am, first and foremost, a person of prayer, both private and communal. I am passionate about the sacraments – I need all the grace I can get! Extremely serious, I have, at the same time, a wicked and quirky sense of humour (that can sometimes get me into trouble). I attended Sunday liturgies at St. Joe's in the 1980s and 1990s. Now retired from the workplace, I have become invested in St. Joe's over the last year and half. I have assisted in the Supper Table Kitchen, the English Conversation Group and today am a Eucharistic Minister at the Saturday 5 p.m. liturgy.

I bring a varied educational preparation:

B.A. (Gen) - Queen's University, 1975

B.Th. - St. Paul University, 1978

M.H.A. - University of Ottawa, 1994

My work has also prepared me to assist:

Pastoral Assistant – Canadian Martyrs Parish, Ottawa

Pastoral Assistant – St. Mark's Parish, Aylmer

Director of Pastoral Care – St. Patrick's Home, Ottawa

Coordinator of Staff Development, Information Systems and Quality/Risk Management - St. Patrick's Home, Ottawa

As a retired person, I now have time to give and I seek a place where my talents can be used. These are, in part, skills in:

- Organization
- Strategic Planning
- Communication
- Teaching
- Problem solving



### JACKIE MAURAS

Parish Activities: Choir, Lector, former president of MAMI (Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate), Funeral Ministry, former Parish Council, Diocesan Synod Representative.

Community Activities: immediate past president of Ontario Branch of the King's Daughters and Sons (Christian Group in Ottawa), started Meals on Wheels, operate affordable housing.

Education: St. Patrick's College, St. Paul's (MA in Mission Studies), Algonquin College (Volunteer Management), plus courses in Palliative Care, Aging, and ESL

St Joe's: Member mainly because the Oblates are here. Sermons are not aimed for the "comfortable pew" crowd. Want to return to being more active at St. Joe's

Personal: Mother of three - Michael, Edward, and Marc. Grandmother of five.



### ROBERT ORSER

I feel it is time to serve this vibrant community and to bring my background as an owner of a Pharmacy and as an Assistant Director of Pharmacy for a hospital in Ottawa. I also have a specialization in Addiction Management as a Methadone Pharmacist serving those with addiction issues.

I have been a member of St. Joseph's Parish since 2003. During this time, I have served on the Funeral Committee, a "Money Counter", and as a Eucharistic Minister at 9:30 am Mass. At my former Parish, I was e member of the Infant Baptism Committee for 10 years. As a father of three children and a grandfather of six granddaughters, I have dealt with many of the issues surrounding young families.

As a recent retiree, I now have time to devote to my Parish. As a member of the Funeral Committee and Infant Baptism Committee, I have met many couples who have been estranged from their Church and their Faith. My goal has been to encourage those who no longer practice because they have felt pre-judged or do not understand, to consider community, a community that accepts everyone no matter where they are in their faith journey.

From the perspective of a business owner, I have experience in financing, budgeting, and personnel management and I bring these experiences "to the table".

This Parish has helped me in so many ways as a Catholic and a retired Pharmacist and I look forward to serving the people of this community.



### ROBERT SYKES

I am currently a small business owner as well as a student at Saint Paul University. I come from a large Catholic family, spread across Ontario, though I was primarily raised in Ottawa, I first began attending Mass at St. Joseph's Parish in the early 2000's during my theology undergrad. After returning to Ottawa in 2010, and continuing with my Master's in theology, I also returned to the parish.

During this time, I have produced and assisted with our children's pageants, delivered multiple reflections at Sunday Masses, volunteered my time to design and construct the back wall of the parish sanctuary, and assisted at St. Joe's Supper Table.

I have a professional background in administration, the arts, carpentry and restoration, and an academic background in the pure sciences, as well as philosophy and theology. I have served on multiple advisory boards, been key to renovating multiple church properties, and worked as an advocate for minorities and the disenfranchised.

It would be an honour to formally lend my diverse experience to our community by serving on the Parish Pastoral Council.



## CLUSTER REPRESENTATIVES

### PAUL ROCHE

#### Faith Formation and Initiation Cluster

I am a Toronto native, attending St. Michael's High College, University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School. I worked as a lawyer in Toronto for a number of years and moved to Ottawa in 1994 to join the Department on Foreign Affairs (now Global Affairs). While at the Department I was posted for two years each, at our Embassies in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Bucharest, Romania. I am now retired and am a member or the Seekers and the Men's Group. Also, I help at with the setup at St. Joe's Table on Tuesdays.



### DONNA RIETSCHLIN

#### Liturgy and Music Cluster

St. Joes has been one of my spiritual homes since moving to Ottawa in 2001. I appreciate our liturgical celebrations; they are one of the many riches of this community that drew me here. John and I have been married for 45 years. We have 7 adult children and our 7th grandchild just arrived on June 11th. I look forward to serving our community through working as a member of the PPC.



### ANGELA MCCANNY

#### Pastoral Care and Social Justice Cluster

Angela returns to Council as a Cluster Representative, having served as the Pastoral Care and Social Justice rep and the secretary of Council during her term which has just ended.



### ANDREA MacWILLIAMS

#### Community Building Cluster

Andrea is member of our music ministry, among other things. She is completing her bachelor's degree in music at Uottawa. Andrea is also a composer and is involved in theatre in the city. She often serves as a cantor at special celebrations, participates in the parish choir as well as serving as a leader of the Sunday evening Mass choir.

(sorry, no photo available at time of printing!)

