



St. Joseph's Annual Report

June 4, 2017

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



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All reports included in this document were voluntarily submitted by
ministries who chose to provide an update on their activity



Pastor's Report

Contact: Richard Beaudette, OMI

With this Annual General Meeting, I have completed my first full cycle between Annual General Meetings. Having had only about six months in the parish before the previous AGM, I did not have as broad a sense of the parish as I do now. I have also been through two cycles of the high points of our liturgical year – Christmas and Easter Seasons.

As I have come to know more members of our parish community and become more involved in the daily life of the parish, I have gained a deeper appreciation of the depth of involvement of so many members of the parish in so many different ministries and activities. In some ways, it is almost mind-boggling to imagine that all of this activity is carried on in the name of our parish. I extend a heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of parishioners who give so selflessly of their time, talents, and treasure. You truly are a gift to our parish and to the wider community. Your lives inspire us to respond more fully to the call of Jesus to follow him as his disciples.

There have been a number of initiatives undertaken this past year that moved us forward, sometimes in new directions, sometimes in well-known paths. Following are some of the highlights, from my perspective:

- In late spring of 2016, a few parishioners and I met to try to imagine a response to the Calls to Action that came out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. From this initial gathering and brainstorming was born what we call “ST. JOSEPH’S DIALOGUE CIRCLE ON RENEWED RELATIONS - Developing a Heart for Reconciliation and Healing.” Beginning with an initial brainstorming gathering in September, the steering group developed four evening sessions and planned a joint Sunday Eucharistic celebration with the Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa. It is hoped that through learning, experience, building relationships, reflection, and celebrating together, we can help to develop renewed relations within the broader community between the Indigenous peoples and settlers. Even using some of those terms may cause discomfort for many of us, but using them also challenges us to reflect on our history and our present-day response to the call to build bridges.
- A social group was formed as a response to some of the feedback given to the Parish Pastoral Council and this group has undertaken a number of initiatives to help build a greater sense of community. Since we gather from so many points around the city of Ottawa and beyond, we need to be intentional about building bonds and relationships within the community. We don’t have the natural affinity that comes from living in a shared neighbourhood, so we must make extra efforts in that regard.
- During the past summer, the coordinator for chaplaincy services at University of Ottawa suggested that the director of young adult ministry and pastor of St. Joseph’s be added to the register of chaplains within the chaplaincy office. Subsequently, Michelle Miller and I were added to the roster and have been sharing office hours on Wednesday mornings at the university. This is another form of outreach to the university population that supplements the



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various ministry done here in the parish and through our Sunday evening Eucharistic celebrations for university students.

- We have had the beginnings of a speakers' series, with a series on the Early Christians and an evening presentation on the experience and work of a Hungarian poet. It is hoped that the interest shown will continue as we plan and present more presentations.
- Our liturgies continue to be the heart and nourishment of our parish life. It is thanks to the generous contributions of so many that they continue to be that focal point of our parish. This year, the Liturgy Committee felt that it would be good to add to the ritual and symbolism of Easter to highlight this focal point of our liturgical year. As in the past, we have been using the sprinkling rite in memory of our baptism, and we have added the processions with the Book of the Gospels. Again, something different than what is done during Ordinary Time, in order to highlight the season of Easter. After Pentecost, we will return to the more low-key opening rites of our celebrations and proclamation of the Gospel.
- I have been heavily involved in the Sunday evening celebrations for the university students. Fr. Ken Thorson, OMI has also been involved when he is in town. This involvement has opened the doors to many young adults coming for reconciliation, spiritual direction, a listening ear and sometimes a shoulder to cry on. For me, this has been a privileged ministry and one that is close to my heart. With the departure of Michelle Miller this spring for other ministry and the hiring of a new Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry and Faith Formation, there may be changes, but I believe that change is also a call to grow and explore new avenues. While Michelle's departure is a sad moment for us, I look forward to the future with hope.

For me personally, being part of the community of St. Joseph's has been a blessing. When I was asked to come here for this ministry, I had already prepared for a future in administration, and had decided that 31 years of parish ministry was quite enough and the future led in another direction. Being here at St. Joseph's, with all the staff taking care of the administration, leaving me free for the pastoral work which is so vital in a parish, I have rediscovered the joy and blessing of pastoral ministry. So, thank you for welcoming me, making me part of your community, and giving me the opportunity to share my life and ministry with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Beaudette, OMI
Pastor



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

The preparation of the Chair's AGM report has some of the elements of the Sacrament of Reconciliation - I have looked back over what has happened over the past year on PPC activities and have prepared a list of some of the particularly significant of these. The difference is that looking for absolution and reconciliation are not my reasons for reporting to the parish on what the PPC has been up to over these last twelve months; rather, I hope that that my twin objectives of transparency and accountability will result in the support, trust, and encouragement that the parish has given the Council.

Turning to what has indeed transpired over the year, the PPC spent a good deal of time on ongoing operational matters. Council approved or oversaw a number of decisions involving the financial, human resources, and structural aspects of the parish. You will read details of these in the reports from the Finance Committee and the Executive Director. You are also probably aware of one of the very special accomplishments - the new stair lift thanks to an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant which allows access from the church proper to the Parish Hall.

Council also gave a good deal of attention to the three essential elements of our mandate, and our standing agenda items include discussions on Vision, Governance and Community. I can report that, with Father Richard's guidance before and after the Council retreat in October, we have reflected on parish interests, needs, and how Council can play a role in meeting these.

Again as you will read later, a large part of many of the monthly meetings were given to consultation, discussion, and discernment for decisions on the elements of a responsive and effective restructuring of the Council. We have also reflected at some length, and will continue to do so, on the current Statutes and Terms of Reference to ensure that our governance structures are solidly based and adjusted as necessary to meet evolving needs.

As well as these rather transient concerns, I wanted to make a special events portion in this report to highlight those unique initiatives over the past year where Council members were involved either directly or inspirationally. This admittedly partial list includes:

- In recognition of the particular personality of each of the Masses, initiating periodic Community Gatherings at the end of Mass.
- The well-attended series of lectures on Early Christians and the lecture on the Hungarian Catholic poet.
- The November celebration of the 160th anniversary of the church with an International Festival and a one-mass celebration of the event.
- The meeting of the stewardship working group with Ministry Coordinators, facilitators, and Cluster Representatives to evaluate the effectiveness of current governance structures.
- The revival in February of the Spirit Parish Newsletter.
- The two sold-out workshop presentations provided by Roshene Lawson on Advance Care Planning
- The creation last month of the Financial Coaching Ministry



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The special events mentioned above were well-directed both internally and externally. Here I want to mention the extraordinary efforts of the Refugee Outreach Committee on making arrangements for the settlement in Ottawa of two refugee families. The associated parish activities included the backpack drive in February and the assistance provided by the Syrian Refugee Support Group.

Other outstanding external special events have centered around the St. Joseph's Dialogue Circle on Renewed Relations, with five parish meetings on responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including presentations by experts, a film presentation, and the blanket exercise. There was also the One-Mass celebration on April 30th in collaboration with the Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa.

The Council is also very conscious that the work of our many ministries is the heart of parish life and is responsible for the actual delivery of both the large and small elements of our twin charism of welcoming all and solidarity with the poor. You see many of the ministries collaborating in the celebration of Mass each week. Others you see less frequently, such as the Infant Baptism Ministry and other Sacramental Preparation groups. Other groups meet on their own to meditate on their faith or on the scriptures, such as the Spiritual Seekers, the Males Spirituality Open Circle, Small Group Faith Sharing, and the Christian Meditation Ministry. Some groups may be as small as two or three gathered together and some involve a few dozen people giving up an evening or a Saturday morning to build up their spiritual life in the company of others. The work of the various ministries, together with the Women's Centre and the Supper Table, is the grace and the glue that underpins the much treasured and desirable personality of St. Joseph's.

I mentioned a couple of times the efforts put towards the restructuring of the Parish Pastoral Council. This work was prompted by the concern that current structures continue to be relevant and also to create an environment that would encourage parishioners to take their turn serving on Council. The decisions include combining the Liturgy ministries and the Music Ministry into a single cluster, thereby reducing the number of Ministry clusters from five to four: the Community Building Cluster; the Faith Formation and Initiation Cluster; the Liturgy and Music Cluster; and the Pastoral Care and Social Justice Cluster. Another major decision was to provide for the election of five members at large instead rather than having elections for representatives from the Saturday and Sunday morning Masses (note there would still be a representative from the University Mass). The ex officio members of Council would continue to be the Pastor, the Executive Director, the Chair, and the Treasurer. While the terms of Council members would remain at two years, with specified renewal possibilities, appointments would be staggered so there would be continuity of Council members from year to year.

The plan is to have a Council in place by the end of June that would be structured along this pattern. Contact has been made with the ministries in the four clusters about their selection of Cluster Representatives. A Nominating Committee has been named to manage the identification of candidates for the members at large positions, and a parish-wide election scheduled for end of June.

We do have some hellos and good-byes for the current PPC membership. We were blessed to be joined in October of last year by Terry Byrne as Representative of the Saturday Mass, and by Greg Forestall as Treasurer this past November.



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But we have had some losses too. Theresa Fournier resigned in October and Herman de Souza left us in February. And sadly this is the last meeting for a number of members: Walter Hughes, Jacqueline Dawson, Jenine Figurado, Iyobasa Grace Igbinedion and Roshene Lawson.

One of the last things I did as preparation of this report was to review those presented at other AGM's. As a result of this review, my final remarks are in fact those that were made by Christine Burton at her last parish meeting and she said exactly what I believed when I first joined the PPC and still believe today:

I have had the opportunity to see, first hand, the work of so many staff and volunteers, and to bear witness to the deep and abiding faith that underlies your commitment to every aspect of our parish life. I have worked with dedicated men, women and children who generously give of their time, talent and treasure. I look at what you have done and what you are doing and I listen to the dreams of those who want to do more, and I think of the first prophet, Moses, and I say to myself 'I TOO have been to the mountain-top.'

Thank you, and God bless!



Executive Director's Report

Contact: Christopher Adam, Executive Director

Investing in our Parish Home

Our large, overarching challenge in 2016, at least from a management perspective, was to complete significant upgrades to our facility, whilst maintaining a balanced budget. In addition to the completion of Phase 2 of our multi-year roof project, in 2016 we moved forward with a number of additional upgrades. These included the first phase of replacing all banquet chairs and tables in the Parish Hall, with one third of chairs and tables replaced in 2016. In early 2017, we replaced a second set of tables and chairs and we plan to complete this project in early 2018. This investment makes the Parish Hall more comfortable and appealing to both our own community, as well as to renters.

In 2016, our internal maintenance staff – primarily Nick Cacciato and Dan Handfield – also renovated the Parish Hall kitchen. By using internal staff, as well as some material already on hand, we were able to limit our costs. We also began the renovation of our parish bathrooms and the coat-check area—a process that continued into 2017.

In 2016, we received a \$34,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, as part of the Ontario 150 Community Capital Program. The aim of this program is to enhance public spaces where Ontarians gather, during the 150th anniversary celebrations. In our case, we applied for a grant to replace our stair lift and to make our hall more accessible for those with reduced mobility. This has long been our desire, but it was an external funding package that ultimately made this possible for us. The new stair lift was ordered in early March 2017 and was installed in late May 2017. The total cost of the stair lift replacement was \$55,000, with the grant covering a majority of our expenses.

Challenges remain in terms of the upkeep of our facilities. In summer 2016, we realized that we would have to proceed with the replacement of the commercial air conditioning unit that cools the second floor of the rectory building, including community spaces like the Oblate Lounge. We are proceeding with this replacement in the late spring of 2017. We also realized that several of the wooden frames around our stained-glass windows are in very poor shape. Our internal maintenance team will be addressing this in the coming months. Looking into the future, in addition to a third phase of our roof replacement program, we are also aware of the need to resurface our parking lot in the coming years.

Staffing

In 2016, we welcomed a new Bookkeeper/Finance Coordinator at St. Joseph's. Our previous Bookkeeper, Anthony Churko, who had been with us for two years, relocated in August 2016, to pursue a professional accounting career. Saul Mendoza, who is a university student, joined our team in 2016. In the Women's Centre, a long-time and deeply dedicated member of our staff, Cathy Dolan, announced her retirement, while Isabelle MacKay, also of the Women's Centre, moved on to a new career. Caleb Gunning—who worked part-time for over a year in the Front Office—also moved on with his professional career following the completion of his graduate studies. Brandon Rushton continues to expertly manage the Front Office team and in recent months, you may have also seen more of our two part-time staff members, Julian Paquin and David Trepanier.



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Most of you will also know by now that Michelle Miller is leaving us in early June 2017 to pursue a new ministry. Michelle's sense of initiative, her passion, and her successful development of our young adult and university mass community has been a real gift to the parish.

In the last weeks of 2016, we were very pleased to welcome back Dan Handfield, our talented carpenter, after a 6-month leave of absence.

In 2016, we began testing a new security presence in the Parish, in light of a number of security incidents that occurred in previous months, where staff or volunteers had to intervene, as well as in response to requests for improved safety on the premises. We have members of two youth or children's choirs present on site during the week, who have leased the facilities from us, and we are mindful of providing a safe environment for their rehearsals, as well as for all staff, volunteers, clients, and guests in our building. Praetorian Garde, a local security firm, began providing part-time security services during peak hours in September 2016.

Our parish staff team meets once per month, and this is an opportunity for all of us to share updates on developments or challenges in our departments, as well as to discuss issues of common interest or concern. Marsha Wilson and Jennifer Clark of the Women's Centre, as well as Mary Murphy of the Supper Table are integral to these meetings. In addition to these meetings, Fr. Richard Beaudette is just down the hall from me and is always available to chat about questions around operations, and to share his wide-ranging expertise!

St. Joseph's Parish has an active and dedicated base of volunteers. Five volunteers in particular, are especially well known to our staff, due to their regular presence during working hours, namely Terry Byrne, Mary Duggan, Eleanor Rabnett, Bob Sunday, and Janice Kennedy who edits the parish bulletin each week.

2016 Celebrations

In 2016, we celebrated the 160th anniversary of our parish community with a special joint Sunday Mass, as well as an International Festival in our Parish Hall. City Councillor Mathieu Fleury was present, reported on our commemorations using social media and he continues to strongly support our work.

External Clients

We continue to have a number of external clients renting space from us in the parish, and this has gone a long way in helping to achieve a balanced budget. It was through Jamie Loback's contacts and efforts in the music community that a number of choirs, including the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir, the Ottawa Children's Choir and the Capital Chamber Choir signed agreements with the parish and found a home here.

Additionally, our lease with the Ottawa Swing Dance Society has been a fruitful relationship for both parties and we were also pleased to have once again signed a contract with a group of young entrepreneurs who run a food truck in the parking lot.

Thank you to all parishioners and members of our community, for continuing to support our mission and our work, and for being so passionately engaged in our parish life.



Finance Committee

Ministry Contact: Patricia Malikail, Chair; Greg Forestell, Treasurer

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

Accomplishments

- We balanced our Parish Operating Budget for the third consecutive year.
- In 2016, we also balanced our budget including an amount equivalent to annual depreciation of physical assets. In 2016, the amount allocated for depreciation was \$65,266 – so covering this amount is a major accomplishment by parishioners. It means we are better providing for future capital needs and a sustainable future for St. Joseph's.
- Recognizing the important contributions of St. Joseph's full-time staff, Finance Committee did a comparison of wages using benchmarks in the non-profit sector. We were able to recommend salary increases for five positions and are phasing-in the salary increases in 2017 and 2018.

Challenges

Our main challenge continues to be to build in savings, annually, for major projects like HVAC and roof repairs. We also want to invest these savings for greater returns. This would reduce our reliance on major fundraising campaigns – like our *Raise the Roof Campaign*. We covered the equivalent of depreciation in 2016 and will continue to work hard to cover depreciation in our annual budgets. Revenues from rentals of our facilities and the parking lot will play a large role in helping us achieve this goal.

Raise the Roof Campaign:

- The two-year campaign began in October 2015 and targeted raising \$55,000 per year from parishioners. Fifteen months into the campaign, we have raised \$44,033 – so we are well below our goal.

We will be looking to recruit new members to Finance Committee in autumn to maintain continuity.

Year Ahead

- We have begun a review of Finance-related policies to ensure they are still relevant and that they are being followed. Many of these policies were put in place in 2012. We appreciate the excellent work of those who formulated them. We plan to propose any revisions we think are needed, to Parish Council, by the end of 2017.
- We will be taking a closer look at our long-term needs such as church buildings and equipment. We should receive an estimate of the final bill for the last phase of roof repair.



St. Joe's Supper Table

Contact: Mary Murphy, Manager

Accomplishments

- The garden has been a growing success and continues to inspire people as they pass by to ask questions, stop to chat, and has been a way for people to get to know St. Joe's in a new way.
- The volunteers, as always, continue to be the life-force of this adventure, and the growing inclusion of guests as volunteers only adds to the depth of the concept of food sharing and community.
- More vegetarian meals are being served and enjoyed, so a mindset is opening to receive vegetarian meals among the guests.
- We were able to stop handing out Styrofoam cups during the day and will attempt to get rid of them all together beginning in the fall.

Annual Figures

Food Bank: Total of 405 households served and 2,546 visits from Sandy Hill residents.

Meal Program: Total of 27,371 meals served.

Community Kitchen: Average of four participants per session.

Challenges

- Fundraising is an ongoing concern. We need to develop a strategy and put the foundation in place for grant applications.
- Setting up a fundraising committee.
- Developing a board with members from the broader community.



St. Joe's Women's Centre Report

Contact: Marsha Wilson, Director

Accomplishments

The Women's Centre has seen an overall influx of participants in 2016. There has been a slight decrease in participants in some of our programs/services targeted towards women with children. Low-income families are able to access more and more services through their local community houses and Centre's. We continue to adapt our programs and services with the everchanging need of the population we serve.

Below are approximate statistics that reflect the timeframe of January 2016-December 2016:

Total Visits: 11,251

Total Meals Served: 11,714

Total Amount of Grocery Hampers: 2,260

School Snack Program, "Snack in my Pack": 520

Pet Food Cupboard Distribution: 198

Back to School Backpack Program:

- Elementary Bags: 28
- High School: 20
- Total: 48

Christmas Sponsorship Program: 25

Summer Camp/Waupous Sponsorship: 6

Fun Facts:

- Our annual Holiday Party takes place each year in the Parish Hall. Generously sponsored by The Westin, 150 women and children enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner, holiday crafts, face painting, sing along, and even a visit from Santa.
- Summer 2016 marked our 2nd annual trip to Mont Cascades. Approximately 80 women and children packed onto school buses, equipped with bathing suits, hats, and lots of sunscreen. Many participants commented that this event was the first time they had the opportunity to go to a water park.

Challenges

Fundraising

Our Inspire & Ignite Fashion Show Gala has been an annual event for approximately 12 years. This event typically raises anywhere between \$17,000 - \$35,000. It was with heavy hearts that we made the difficult decision to cancel the 2016 Inspire & Ignite event. Primarily due to lack of tickets sales, the cost associated with putting on the event would have outweighed the revenue we would have been able to sustain. Lack of ticket sales is an issue that many of our community partners have also identified as a factor in the success of their most recent fundraising events.



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We have been able to identify some key factors to ensure success of the event moving forward; advertising more through social media, date/time/location, and changing the theme in order to appeal to a broader audience. A “Night of Comedy” event was held in August to help offset the costs of cancelling the event. We exceeded our goal by raising just over \$3,000.

Diverse Populations

A large percentage of our increased population are women seeking basic needs support whom are also new Canadians, refugees or have come from indigenous communities. Some challenges we have seen when working with these diverse populations include language barriers, mental health, PTSD, addictions, religious conflict, and community isolation.

To address the specific needs of the indigenous population we have reached out to our community partners for support. Outreach workers from the Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, and Minwaashin Lodge - Aboriginal Women's Support Centre are present in the Women's Centre on a regular basis. Traditional crafts, drums, teachings, and supportive counselling are available.

Language barriers can be very difficult to navigate through. The local 211 service has been a wonderful resource. It is also wonderful to see a community come together to help each other. Often several Syrian refugee women will come into the Centre together, one speaking better English than the others, and come together to express what they may need support with. We recently received a donation from the Ottawa Vanier Women's Liberal Association to directly support Syrian refugee women and their children. We purchased Walmart gift cards to distribute. Many women use these gift cards to purchase Halal products, something that is very difficult to provide through the Food Bank.

Into 2017, the Women's Centre staff will seek out culture/diversity specific trainings and workshops. Social Work truly is a field of continuous learning in order to be equipped to provide the best serve possible to those in need.

Finances

2016 City of Ottawa Grant Funding \$334,462

Quality of life Awards \$18,750

City of Ottawa, Small Capital Funding (Housing Services Branch) \$3,532

- Computer Room Upgrade: Purchase of four new computer and monitors. Replacement of computer chairs.

Bon Appetit Grant \$6,000

2016 Major Contributors:

- Tony Graham Toyota \$15,000
- Green Family Charitable Foundation \$10,000
- Royal LePage Shelter Foundation \$10,000

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



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Year Ahead

- The Women's Centre will start soliciting for Back-to-School donations in June. Please keep an eye out for an announcement in the Parish Bulletin.
- The Centre has been approved to hire a 12-week contract position through HRDC Canada Summer Jobs Grant.
- The Women's Centre has been making ongoing efforts to be more environmentally friendly. Our daily/monthly statistics are now tracked electronically and our monthly calendar is now laminated and posted in the Centre, as well as being available on our website.
- A volunteer committee has been created to re-vamp and modernize one of our staple programs. Historically the New Beginnings Program is a holistic program that teaches a combination of life skills and employability skills to women of all backgrounds, which assists them in recognizing their own strengths for self-determination as they strive to establish personal and economic independence.
- Our annual Quality of Life Awards will take place Thursday November 2nd, 2017. Recipients are to be determined and will be advertised in the Parish Bulletin.

Community Building Cluster

Financial Coaching Ministry (*New*)

History Committee

LGBT+ & Straight Alliance

Marriage Ministry

Resource Library

Welcome Ministry

Young Adult Ministry

Financial Coaching Ministry (*New*)

Contact: Melanie Forget

About the Ministry

The mission of the Financial Coaching Ministry is to equip St. Joe's parishioners with tools and education in personal finance management in order for them to prosper at any and all stages of their lives.

This ministry consists of:

1. Free confidential **one-on-one financial coaching** with a certified financial coach which includes:
 - Preparing a written, monthly budget
 - Creating a plan to reduce and eliminate your debt
 - Providing money-saving tips
 - Helping deal with specific financial issues
2. Financial Peace **workshops** to teach the basic steps to manage personal finances God's way, taking control of one's finances, getting out of debt, saving for the future, and making an impact with one's resources.
3. Access to **educational resources** about sound financial and biblical teaching.



History Committee

Contact: Terry Byrne

Accomplishments

The History Committee determines which records, photos, and items need to be kept and/or preserved to ensure that the history of the parish is maintained.

Notable activities/events/other included:

- Statue of St. Theresa was repainted using the proper colours which more accurately reflects the order to which she was a member.
- A wooden staff was built and added to the statue of St. Patrick. The previous one was missing since the early 1990's.
- The photos taken by Tom Okrainec were donated to the History Committee and are being included in our parish archival photo library. Photos have also been donated by Jacqueline Maurais.
- Additional newspaper articles from the 1880's, early 1900's and 2016/2017 have been included in our newspaper archives.

Challenges

The History Committee is down to one person who is maintaining the various archival documents, a project which was initiated ten years ago. If new members come forward, there will be a need to decide on the focus of the History Committee and its priorities.

Year Ahead

- The photo archives have about 2,000 photos depicting life and parishioners at St. Joe's over the past 90 years. The major focus will be in identifying dates and people in the photos and organizing them in a way that would be most useful and accessible.
- Our current records (baptisms, marriage, death etc.) are paper based and have never been digitized. There is a need to move these records to an electronic format while the paper records are still readable.



LGBT+ and Straight Alliance

Contact: Ewelina Frackowiak

Highlights

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:

- Saint Paul's writings and their impact on our attitudes, identities as LGBT+ Christians, and views on issues of inclusion and diversity
- Having an LGBT+ person as a family member
- Being transgender
- Being Christian and asexual

Book Club

We read and discussed the following books: *"Carol"* ("Price of Salt") by Patricia Highsmith, *"Epiphany. A Christian's Change of Heart & Mind Over Same-Sex Marriage"* by Michael Coren, *"The Song of Achilles"* by Madeline Miller, *"Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence"* by Nancy Manahan and Rosemary Keefe Curb, and *"Does Jesus Love Me? A Gay Christian's Pilgrimage in Search of God in America"* by Jeff Chu.

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.

Challenges

How to respond to a visitor's hurtful questions that are based on a prejudice.



Marriage Ministry

Contacts: Steve and Angela McCanny, Michelle Miller

Highlights

Marriage Preparation

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. 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 2016 session welcomed 25 couples; The Fall 2016 session included 23 couples.
- Participant couples are encouraged to attend the 9:30am Mass during their weekend course. This has received positive reviews from couples and parishioners.
- A wine and cheese evening was held for the parishioner couples that present during the weekend.
- Michelle Miller is a Facilitator Trainer for the FOCCUS Pre-Marital Inventory and was asked to provide a day-long archdiocesan training for other parishes.
- There are presently five parishioner couples who present on the Marriage Prep weekends.
- There are presently three FOCCUS Facilitators and another facilitator couple will be added in 2017.

Weddings

During 2016, there were nine weddings at St. Joe's.

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.



Resource Library

Contact: Elizabeth Behrens

Accomplishments

- The Library collection grew steadily in 2016, entirely through the donations of 180 books, for a total of 2,006 titles and audio/visual materials.
- Promotion of awareness of the Library continued with weekly "Library News" entries in the Parish Bulletin.
- Borrowing remained constant, with 46 book loans, while Library in-house use also continued at a steady rate, with the use of approximately 63 items.

Year Ahead

The addition of one more bookcase filled the available floor space and with the current collection now almost filling the existing shelving, weeding of the collection will soon be necessary to accommodate new materials.



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 on parish stationery.
- 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 three more parishioners, in addition to Maria, started hosting new parishioners.
- Keeping statistics on 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 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.

Welcome Ministry Figures:

Welcome letters sent:	26
Successful follow-up (meeting over coffee = closer personal contact):	6
Number of welcoming meals:	2
Number of new parishioners at welcoming meals:	4
Number of welcoming parishioners at meals:	10

Welcome Desk:

The Welcome Desk is the first point of contact for many new parishioners, and an important information hub for church activities. It acts as an extension of the Parish Office during weekend Masses. Everything from food donations to book sales to activity sign-ups happens at the Welcome Desk. In a busy parish where many people know each other, it's easy for new faces to go unnoticed, and the Welcome Desk helps to ensure that new people are seen and greeted. Welcome Desk volunteers often hear questions and concerns that otherwise might be missed.

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, personal follow-up, and hosting welcoming dinners
- 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.



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- There is a need for volunteers to greet people as they enter the church, rather than solely from behind the Welcome Desk. A personal greeting can help to "break the ice" for a person who is attending for the first time and may not know anyone.
- There is a need for more Welcome Desk volunteers, in particular at the Saturday 5:00pm Mass.

Year Ahead

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



Young Adult Ministry

Contact: Michelle Miller

Highlights

UNIVERSITY MASS – 7pm Sundays

- The University 7pm Mass continues to hold steady with a population of around 100 each week. Young adults perform all the liturgical functions including the choir. We don't encourage perfection but treat this as a training group so young adults can invest in the liturgy and understand the various supporting ministries.
- Monthly "God & Pizza" nights continue after the evening Mass and offer a time to explore faith-related topics. This was young adult initiated last year.
- Students and other young adults continue a monthly service project, before this Mass, to cook for the Supper Table. This continues to be a great endeavor. Over the summer, this service time moved to after the 11:30am Mass. They usually have 7-12 young adults participating.
- There is a young adult representative of the 7pm Mass that sits on the Parish Pastoral Council.
- The opening Mass for Fall 2016 included a hotdog BBQ.
- We supplemented our regular hospitality fare for a more elaborate Christmas reception at the last Mass in December of 2016 to celebrate the end of the semester. There is a parishioner-couple who have been a great help with these receptions and are very supporting of young adults.

STUDENT MINISTRY

- Over 25 local churches were involved with the annual U of O Church Crawl as part of Welcome Week for the University. St. Joe's was part of the planning team and was one of the "destination" churches on the crawl. Students from various faith backgrounds participated.
- Parish meeting rooms were made available each day during Study Weeks at the University before Christmas as well as in the spring.
- In Fall 2016 we held our 2nd workshop on helping new and international students to understand proper winter outerwear. We also took a car load of student to a used clothing store to help them get ready for winter. This is always an adventure.
- The 3rd Catholic student week for the U of O was held in February. St. Joe's was on the planning team and the events included an opening Mass at Sacre Coeur with Archbishop Prendergast as well as a closing bilingual Mass with Archbishop Durocher of the Archdiocese of Gatineau.
- Monthly programming continued for student teachers and included teacher-parishioners sharing their faith journey and their profession.
- The Coordinator of young adult ministry, Michelle Miller, assisted in publicizing an annual bursary sponsored by the religious congregation of a parishioner.
- A large and colourful vinyl banner has been hung at the corner of Cumberland and Laurier to call attention to the University Mass.
- The Pastor as well as the Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry share weekly office hours in the Chaplain's office at the U of O as part of the chaplaincy team.



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GENERAL YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

- Young adults are involved in many parish activities and ministries. Supper Table, Refugee Outreach, Liturgy, Music, LGBT, 1st Communion, Children's Liturgy of the Word, Spiritual Seekers, and Men's Circle to name a few. Our goal in St. Joe's YAM is to both program for and with young adults as well as assist in integrating them into the life of the parish.
- Three young adults attended World Youth Day in Poland at the end of July and had a fantastic time. They hosted pancake breakfasts for the parish to raise funds. They were able to raise all the funds that they needed. Upon their return, they offered the parish community a spiritual reflection of their trip as well as a Polish reception after all the Masses.
- Young Adult Ministry Planning (YAMP) meetings were held throughout 2016 for planning and evaluation of programs.
- Eleven young adults attended the Fall 2016 weekend Young Adult Retreat in Quebec.
- Young adults continue to gather throughout the year for a monthly brunch after the 11:30am Mass. During the warmer months, this was a BBQ on the upper deck.
- 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 also a reception for young adults after the 9pm Christmas Eve Mass.
- Young adults were a part of all the Holy Week liturgies and served in various capacities.
- The Coordinator of Young Adults Ministry 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.
- Young adults hosted two winter clothing drives where they collected winter gloves, hats, socks, etc. They then came together to organize their donations and take them to the streets along with hot coffee and sandwiches. This was always followed with a welcome back to the parish to share a meal and reflect on their experience that evening.
- A young adult student hosted a monthly lunch for seniors in the parish which sometimes included programming for seniors.
- During the summer, monthly young adult Happy Hours were hosted and enjoyed by many.
- The St. Joes Young Adult Facebook page continues.
- The local chapter of Oblate Associates invited young adults and the Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry to share about the blessing and challenges of young adulthood and YA Ministry.
- Several young adults were initiated into the Catholic Church over the year as well as some young adults who were Confirmed by the Archbishop at the Cathedral at Pentecost.
- It should also be noted that it is mostly young adults who attend our parish Marriage Preparation. We consider this part of our mission to and with young adults.

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, and to young adults in the working world.

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 did their own fundraising.



Faith Formation & Initiation Cluster

**Infant Baptism Preparation
Males Spirituality Ministry
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
Sacramental Preparation (Children & Teens)
Scripture Studies Ministry
Small Faith Sharing Group (Lent/Advent)
Spiritual Seekers**



Infant Baptism Ministry

Contact: Kathy Crowe

Accomplishments

We continue to offer baptism one Sunday per liturgy per month. The team remains open to discussing options for parents who may need special accommodations.

Baptism by the numbers:

- Two group Baptism Preparation series' (three sessions per series) were offered - one in March and one in September. Eight families in total attended the preparation sessions
- 16 families requested baptism for a total of 18 children
- 13 children were baptized
- Three families (four children) postponed baptism to 2017 or indefinitely
- One family who attended Baptism Preparation sessions had their child baptized in France

An additional copy of the David Wells' DVD series used at Baptism Preparation has been purchased. This can be made available to individuals who are unable to attend preparation sessions.

Challenges

Having only one volunteer for the Infant Baptism preparation team continues to be a challenge.

Finances

A suggested donation of \$25.00 is requested of families whose are baptized. We are very grateful to the parishioner who continue to supply (at cost) beautiful handcrafted bees wax baptism candles. There are much appreciated by the families.

Year Ahead

- The rhythm of the preparation sessions schedule - spring and fall - is working well and will be maintained for 2017. Additional series may be offered if need arises and when team resources are available.
- We are exploring the option of a "refresher" preparation series/one-time session for parents who have previously attended a full Baptism Preparation series
- We should consider implementing a process for participant evaluation/feedback
- Recruiting of additional volunteers continues



Males Spirituality Ministry

Contact: David Perry

Highlights

Males Spirituality Open Circle

- The “Men’s Circle” brings together men from all-ages (usually between ages 18-78) for expressing and exploring the inner journey of men in the company of brothers.
- The Circle is a weave of drumming, silence, sharing, nature, and contemplation; using the language of archetypes, shadow work, and the good news of liberation in Christ.
- 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.
- We meet year-round on the last Monday of the month, from 7pm – 9pm.
- Our home is out in nature at Bethesda Renewal Centre in Ashton where the walking trails, winter fires, and wood stove Chapel are an ideal setting for what we do.
- **Summer Retreat “Stoking the Fire”** - We will be co-hosting (with Galilee) a Men’s Weekend Retreat with Fr. Jim Clarke; August 18-20 2017. Spots are still available, see the website for details.
- Our website is www.malespirituality.ca

Males Spirituality Open Circle

- This outreach and community building initiative started three years ago and also operates as PSB or “Priore Share et Biere”
- Monthly, during the school year and summer, young adult men gather to prepare and share a meal, engage in some faith sharing around the Sunday scriptures, and enjoy some relaxed fellowship.
- Participation varies from 4-10 guys.



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. Our process is always adapted to the needs of inquirers and candidates.
- In 2016, we were blessed to have two adults received into the full communion of the Roman Catholic church at the Easter Vigil. Three young adult Catholics were prepared at the parish and celebrated their Confirmation at the Cathedral at Pentecost.
- Over the course of the year, 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. These experiences included participating in various ministries, such as the music ministry, the Advent Faith Sharing Group and the St. Joe's Supper Table.

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, Sunday Mass dismissal leader, sponsor, or occasional volunteer. Contact the Parish Front Office if you are interested. An RCIA team member will follow up with you. Inquirers who enter the process are expected to begin attending Sunday Mass 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 & Teens)

Contact: Michelle Miller

Accomplishments

1st Communion

- In 2016 we welcomed 12 children to the Table of the Eucharist on the third Sunday of Easter.
- The group formation consisted of the children and their four 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. Richard 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 9:30am 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 during the Easter season.
- 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. The children and parents worked through the five chapters at home each week and we gathered on a Saturday morning in early June for prayer and reflection while celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Richard 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

During 2016, we celebrated the Confirmations of three pre-teen candidates in spring as well as another program of preparation for six pre-teen candidates in the Fall.

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 9:30am 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 single 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 2016, the Scripture Studies Ministry was able to host one session. The January 2016 session was Psalms (Part 2). This was the second part of a two-part study on the book of Psalms. We had 12 people participate in this session and it ran for approximately 12-weeks. Our proposed fall session (Gospel of John) was rescheduled to allow for another group to run a scripture study series on the books of the Bible. This was a more general study on the entire Bible and was led by the Faith Formation Committee out of Canadian Martyrs.

Challenges

- Have not been able to host event at St. Joe's due to lack of a co-leader from St. Joseph'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 2017 – Ran Gospel of John, again 10 participants, approximately 12-weeks in length.
- Fall 2017 – Topic TBA; looking to see if hosting at St. Joe's is an option.



Small Faith Sharing Group (Lent/Advent)

Contacts: Joy Heft and Lolita Walsh

Highlights

- Lent 2017 marked the twenty-first season of Small Group Faith Sharing. Attendance during Advent was particularly robust again as we were joined by some new members and the return of some former members. A few younger parishioners were present for some of the sessions, a welcome new experience for all.
- Sharing was marked by insightful, thoughtful, thought-provoking, and 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 it always a pleasure to welcome newcomers for the season or just one session.
- A set meeting place providing a degree of intimacy and comfort contributed to the ease of sharing, prayerfulness, and contemplation.
- The new start time of 7:15pm to ensure that people were not locked out upon arrival has worked well.

Challenges

During Lent a number of people had conflicting commitments or were off on winter holidays but participation was still substantial enough. Though there were fewer reported parking problems this year, there was at least one instance where a difficulty arose.

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 fifth 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 regular session, about 35 attend. In the past year, we've been pleased to welcome more young adults.
- 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).



Music & Liturgy Cluster

**Celebrant's Assistants
Liturgy Committee
Music Ministry**



Celebrant's Assistants

Contact: Bob Part

Accomplishments

- The CA Ministry has functioned consistently at all three weekend liturgies throughout the 2016. 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, and we are currently seeking to train two or three more CA's for this liturgy. The 9:30am 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 11:30am Sunday liturgy and again who perform this ministry on a rotational basis. CA's 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

With the change of Pastors, there were minor adjustments over the year to accommodate individual presider-styles. This transition has been fairly smooth, with the CA's 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 continues to 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 2017, as last year, 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.



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 2016, the Committee 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, and 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 revitalize the work of the Committee to complete some unfinished business and to move ahead with policies relating to our liturgical practice for all ministries. Revised documents for the liturgical ministries were produced and training sessions held to update the various ministers. The mandate of sub-committee (formed several years ago to study and make recommendations with respect to the General Instruction on the Roman Missal) was renewed. The sub-committee presented its report in early 2016 and the report was reviewed and the recommendations accepted by the Liturgy Committee.

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, conscious and active participation of the whole community as the prime directive from the Second Vatican Council in the Constitution on the Liturgy.



Music Ministry

Contact: Jamie Loback, Music Director

Accomplishments

The Music Ministry achieved the following goals:

- 1) **High Liturgical Seasons:** Easter 2016 and Christmas 2016 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 the Easter Vigil and Christmas as well as Jim McIntyre who accompanies the choir beautifully on guitar. The Music Ministry is also supported by Kathleen Allan, who serves as Choir Librarian. Kathleen and her team have contributed enormous amounts of time maintaining the organization of our resources. Nancy Keyes is also to be thanked for filling in for the Music Director when he is away.
- 2) **Fundraising:** Our Christmas Concert in December 2016 raised nearly \$3,000. Proceeds from this concert were donated to St. Joe's Supper Table.

Challenges

- **Recruitment:** The Music Ministry in general continues to experience some difficulty in recruiting new members to the choirs. Its membership in 2016 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 2017. Given the size of each mass community, the size of each choir is roughly proportional.
- **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 keep 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 2016 (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 2017-2018).

Finances

- The Music Ministry was within budget in the 2016 fiscal year.
- To date, the Music Ministry remains under-budget for the 2017 fiscal year. It is likely that the Ministry's 2017 expenses will be well within the approved operational budget.

Fund-raising Initiatives (2016)

Music Ministry Concerts:

- **Music Ministry Concert #1:** Spring Concert – May 2016: The Music Ministry successfully raised \$1,000 (gross proceeds) from its Spring concert for the St. Joe's Supper Table.



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- **Music Ministry Concert #2:** Winter Concert - December 2016: The Music Ministry raised approximately \$3,000 for the St. Joe's Supper Table.

Year Ahead

- **Fundraising Concerts:** Music Ministry Christmas Concert (December 2017) – estimated revenue: \$2,000.
- **Recording Project:** Plans are beginning to be put into place to produce a new CD for the parish. Recording session are tentatively booked for Autumn 2017.
- **Programming Considerations:** Recruitment and orientation of new members.



Pastoral Care & Social Justice Cluster

**Development & Peace / Caritas
Funeral Ministry
Pastoral Visiting
Refugee Outreach Committee**



Development and Peace/Caritas

Contact: Larry Martin

Accomplishments

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 2016-17 our theme is **"Women at the Heart 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 Middle East, the Sahel in West Africa and the Horn of East Africa, internal/external refugee communities in Syria and their neighbors Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, reconstruction projects for the 2010 earthquake and October 2016 Hurricane Matthew in Haiti and climate-induced disasters such as the typhoon in the Philippines.

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 10,000 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 Si** 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.

2017 marks the **50th Anniversary of Development and Peace's** work in Canada and activities have been planned for the diocese and nationally. A new book, *"Jubilee, 50 Years of Solidarity"*, chronicling the past 50 years of work and partners has been published.

Challenges

Here at St. Joseph's Parish, we strive to highlight the needs of our brothers and sisters in the South and the relation to our Christian faith through prayer, reflections, educational activities, financial support and the monitoring of Canadian foreign policy. Our group is small (about eight regulars), but it is very committed to faith-led solidarity with people of the South. We also try to be aware of issues of poverty and Aboriginal concerns here in Canada and how they relate to our work.



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Finances

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 annually of over \$1,000. 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, Coordinator; Christine Libon; Patrick Shaughnessy; and Dianne Taylor

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 third 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 had some other requests from people wishing to pre-plan their own funeral or that of a loved one. Because we did not have a pre-planning workshop this year, this was done on an individual basis.
- The team of other volunteers who help set up for the liturgy and put away all materials afterwards was a great addition to our team. This enables the Funeral Ministers to focus on the family needs at the funeral.

Challenges

- Due to the many activities happening at St. Joseph's Parish and the renting out of the church and Parish 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. Families sometime have to go to another church because we were not able to accommodate their preferred day or time for the funeral.
- Funeral homes and families sometimes set the date for the funeral at St. Joe's before checking to see if the church and personnel are available. It is important for families to check with the church prior to setting a date and time for a funeral.

Year Ahead

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



Pastoral Visiting Ministry

Contact: Kathleen Allan

Accomplishments

- There are currently three volunteers rotating visits to a few people in Sandy Hill. In addition, two volunteers make visits to people at the Civic Hospital, two days each week. Kathleen Allen also coordinates the Roman Catholic Spiritual Care Volunteers at the Civic Hospital.
- We currently have three parishioners rotating visits to Rideau Place on the River, the one remaining retirement complex in Sandy Hill. Up to six or seven residents attend a small service in the Chapel, every week, year round and receive the Eucharist. In addition, a few are also visited in their homes, again with the Eucharist. There are also two volunteers who visit patients at the Civic Hospital, two days each week. Kathleen Allan also coordinates the Roman Catholic Spiritual Care Volunteers at the Civic Hospital. *"We find it life-giving and faith-strengthening because these people have kept the faith...very humbling."*

Challenges

- We limit our visits to Sandy Hill where our people live and walk; there are fewer and fewer new requests for home visiting



Refugee Outreach Committee

Contacts: Louise Lalonde and Robyne Warren

Highlights

Hosting

- We continued hosting an Iraqi family of three: the mother, Sabah, and her two young adult daughters, Samar and Susan, helping with resumes and job search.
- We helped Nathalie, a young woman from Cameroon, with her application for permanent residency, with furnishing her apartment and in finding work.

Sponsorships

Our Syrian family of five arrived on March 21 and was welcomed into the home of a Canadian family until May 1 when they moved to their town house which was furnished with donated furniture and purchases made with donated gift cards. All formalities related to registering for services were accomplished in record time – two months. The children are delighted with school and are participating in extra-curricular activities such as soccer and other sports. The parents are attending ESL classes. Our support has moved on to tending to medical and dental needs and ongoing coaching in money management and daily life.

Our second Syrian family, Maysaa, and 10-year-old daughter, Leila, presently in Lebanon and Mowaz, the 17-year old son in Germany, could be arriving before the end of the year. They were informed on April 9 that their application for permanent residency and visas to Canada had been submitted. The mother, a dentist, is the aunt of the two orphan girls the ROC had helped to sponsor in February of 2015. ROC received a \$21,200 donation from an unrelated Muslim family as part of the funding for Maysaa's sponsorship.

CHEO Pilot Project

Members of ROC are visiting a Syrian family of seven with two handicapped pre-school children complementing the team of specialists, medical and other, involved in providing services, support and encouragement to the family.

Person in Need of Protection

For the past ten months, our members have accompanied a non-status person in Ottawa by providing legal aid, financial support, living accommodations, transportation, health and dental care, job training,



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and companionship during the process of acquiring the status of protected person and moving to that of Permanent Resident. The person is now gainfully employed and doing remarkably well.

Registrations for Further Training on Refugee Issues

June: Primary Care for Refugees at The Bruyère Centre
November: Expectations & Ethics – RSTP Training at OCISO
December: Settlement-Integration: The Journey – RSTP/Refugee613 training at Terry Fox Centre
May: Accessible Justice & Community Navigation – Connecting Ottawa at 300 des Pères
Blancs RSTP Sponsorship 8-Unit on-line course

Participation in Local Community Events

- In October, Refugee613 offered a workshop on refugee issues at St. Joe's to participants of One Young World International. ROC members made the opening presentation to the workshop then went from table to table serving as "Live Books" to "be read" by those around the table. Local and provincial dignitaries were "Live Books" at other tables. The workshop ended with a speech by Attorney General of Ontario Yasir Naqvi, familiar with St. Joe's for having once been engaged to marry an ROC member, in his remarks thanked the parish and ROC for their long history of involvement with refugees.
- In November, the ROC was present at St. Joe's International Day Festival celebrating the parish's 160th anniversary and gave a speech presenting its work with newcomers.
- In December, a member attended a dinner on Parliament Hill, an event co-hosted by Canada, UNHCR and the Open Society Foundation as part a one-week a conference to launch the Global Private Sponsorship of Refugees Project. The objective of the Project was to promote the Canadian model of private sponsorship of refugees in other countries. Among the guests of Governor General and the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, were persons with lived experience of the sponsorship model and people from different parts of the world who came to Canada as privately sponsored refugees.
- In January and February, one of the ROC's co-chairs replaced Julie Salach-Simard, coordinator of the diocesan sponsorship program, during Julie's leave of absence. It was an opportunity to see and experience the federal government bureaucracy involved in sponsoring newcomers.

Internal ROC Matter

- In March, the Terms or Reference were updated with the inclusion of a confidentiality clause
- The membership stands at twelve members.

Finances

- The treasurer created an elaborate Excel spreadsheet for the ROC's bookkeeping – an important tool for the Committee and a learning experience for the treasurer.
- The ROC is grateful for recently-received donations of \$1,500 from parishioners for sponsorships
- Thanks too for the non-monetary donations such as sewing machines, bicycles, and furniture which have provided newcomers with independence, new experiences and comfort. Two sewing machines were given to young Syrian men who want to pursue a career in tailoring. One proceeded to design and sew his own clothing while another continues to learn how to do alternations. Four bicycles and helmets were donated to three children and one adult – joy and smiling faces! Finally, donated furniture served to furnish a home for a single person and a family of five creating warm, welcoming spaces. ROC receives many offers of furniture donations



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but unfortunately with no storage space available these have to be declined except in cases where there is an immediate need.