



# **St. Joseph's Parish**

## **Annual Report**

June 3, 2018

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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:** Fr. Richard Beaudette, OMI

It is now a little over two and a half years since I was installed as pastor. I continue to be deeply grateful for the call to ministry as pastor of St. Joseph's, and that gratitude arises out of the experience of relating to the many people who are involved in the vastly diverse kinds of ministry here. I thank all of you for your dedication to the life of this community and for the many ways in which you share your gifts and talents.

I am particularly grateful for the staff of the Parish, Women's Centre, and Supper Table. The many ministries under their direction flourish because of their dedication and willingness to share so freely of their talents and gifts. Working with them on a day to day basis is a real gift.

Looking back over the year, there are a few endeavors that I would like to highlight:

- The Dialogue Circle for Renewed Relations has continued to gather and reflect on ways in which we, as a community and individually, can respond to the Calls to Action that came out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We had one major event in January – Aboriginal Awareness Training Day, which was held at St. Paul's University. The turnout astounded all of us who helped to organize the day; over 90 people attended. The day was very fruitful and was certainly a time for having eyes opened and hearts touched.
- Sr. Rosemary O'Toole, CSJ, presented a "Dying Well" workshop in November, organized and sponsored in part by St. Joseph's. The daylong session was held at Sacre Coeur Parish, as we did not have a space available for the day when Sr. Rosemary was free.
- Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR gave an evening session on "End of Life Issues" in January. This presentation was well attended and provoked a lot of thought and discussion. As a result of this evening, a group of people has gathered to explore ways in which we can create a "Community of Care" here at St. Joseph's. There can be many different components to this initiative, and it promises to be rather exciting as it unfolds.
- University Sunday evening celebrations were well responded to during the period from September to April and we look forward to starting again at the beginning of September. Along with Brian Ouellette, I have participated in several discussion sessions for young adults.
- Mass of Anointing of the Sick was a new pastoral/liturgical initiative this past year, with a Saturday celebration on October 28 with about 50 participants and a celebration of Anointing at the 11:30am Mass on February 11, which was the Day of Prayer for the Sick. There was much positive feedback after both of these celebrations.
- Initiative to work toward a Pastoral Plan for our Parish. The response to the questionnaires was excellent, and I thank all who participated.

For the coming year, plans are underway to:

- Develop and implement a Pastoral Plan early in the fall – either September or October. It is most likely that a plan will be developed encompassing the four pillars, with initiatives within each pillar, and Parish Pastoral Council will give priority to a few initiatives for the coming year.



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- Have communal celebrations of Sacrament of the Sick, given the positive feedback after the celebrations in the past year.
- Celebrate the communal form of Reconciliation again, as was done during Lent this year. It was well received and provides an opportunity for the community to gather for Reconciliation.
- Present a number of sessions on such topics as Reconciliation, Laudato Si, Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of the Gospel, initiation Sacraments, ministry as service, seasons of the Church year, social justice, Vatican II Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Role of the Laity, Introduction to the Gospel of Luke (used during Year C, which begins with Advent 2018).
- Lead several walking retreats with the Young Adult Ministry during the summer months.
- Continue to collaborate with Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa to provide teaching opportunities, especially on the land as well as other initiatives.
- Collaborate more intentionally with Canadian Martyrs Parish with regard to formation initiatives as well as sacramental celebrations.

As we move into the summer hiatus, I wish all members of the Parish a very relaxing and rejuvenating summer and look forward to continuing to live and celebrate faith with this community in the coming year.

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

Members of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), at the monthly meetings in 2017, carried on its high-level monitoring of the myriad of activities of Parish ministries and of parishioners themselves primarily to be aware of these activities but also to be ready to respond to requests to provide any kind of support or fill any gaps. At the same time, PPC made a dedicated effort during the past year to ensure that its structure and allocation of responsibilities were aligned so as to provide effective and timely support for the spiritual and community needs and desires of the Parish.

PPC took a “bird’s eye view” of the Parish structural activities over the last year. This included the repairing and staining of the altar platform; fixing a leak in the steeple and the planning for next phase of rook repair; repairing and replacing air conditioning in the rectory; the installation of the stair lift; and the beginning of the new flooring work in the rectory.

Council itself however took an active role in the revisions to its own governance structures. The Liturgy and Music ministries were combined into a single Cluster, with the result that there are now four rather than five Ministry Clusters. Council also decided to have two categories of members, i.e., a representative for each of the four Clusters and five members at large - three of whom are to act as liaison with the three regular weekend Masses. A Standard Selection Process was formulated, which basically provides for the Clusters to select their own representative, and a Nominating Committee to identify candidates for the members at large positions. Persons so nominated would be selected either by acclamation or election by the Parish as a whole. As part of this structural revision process, a one-page document was developed that sets out the roles as responsibilities for each category of member.

Membership on PPC also underwent significant change given the expiry of the terms of a number of members. Departures from Council during 2017 included Jacqueline Dawson, Herman de Souza, Jenine Figurado, and Iyobosa Grace Igbiniedion. As difficult as it was to say goodbye to these treasured members, it was good to be able to welcome Roslyn Brown (member at large), Andrea MacWilliam (Community Building Cluster), Jackie Maurais (member at large), Edwin Okaduwa (University Mass Representative), Bob Orser (member at large), Donna Rietschlin (Liturgy and Music Cluster), Paul Roche (Faith Formation Cluster) and Robert Sykes (member at large). It is noted that PPC elected Bob Orser as Vice-Chair and Roslyn Brown as Secretary. It is also noted that Council will as of this AGM be saying reluctant goodbyes to Terry Byrne, Angela McCanny and Andrea MacWilliam. But we are also welcoming new Council members.

As far as events over the last year are concerned, PPC members either initiated or were enthusiastic supporters in a wonderfully wide range of activities. These included:

- The Community Sunday events for each of the three regular weekend Masses
- The Advanced Care Planning Workshop (Roshene Lawson)
- The workshop on Dying Well (Sr. Rosemary O’Toole)
- Two sessions in the Speakers Series on faith-specific topics (Understanding Early Christians, Fr. Timothy Pettipiece, and “Apocrapha” by Hungarian poet, Janos Pilinszky, Chris Adam)



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- The production of a background document on the context for the Unceded Algonquin Territory Statement that is made before each Mass
- The revival of the Parish Newsletter (formerly The Spirit)
- The One Mass at the end of April where the Kateri Native Ministry of Ottawa played an active leadership role.
- The special seasonal liturgies at Christmas (Children Pageant and the dawn Mass) and Easter (entrance and recessional processions)
- Melanie Forget and her generous establishing of the Financial Coaching Ministry
- The inauguration of Monday night yoga and Friday breathing sessions
- The May Volunteer Appreciation Event
- Terry's tours of the church
- The Supper Table Strawberry Social
- The concert by renowned bass baritone Douglas Renfroe that benefited the Supper Table
- The apple picking event for benefit of the Supper Table at Orleans Fruit Farm.

It is unfortunate to have to add a postscript to this happy and heartening recital, but sadly the Parish gardens at the front of the rectory were purposelessly vandalized over the two summer holiday weekends last year. Also, the situation of St Joe's as a downtown church has made it necessary to arrange for security needs to be met.

Parish Pastoral Council started the 2017 fall season by having teams of members meet with each of the Ministries to see how the Ministry was doing, learn about the forward plans and any new directions, work on succession planning, and what Council could do to support their activities. Council also met with the senior members of the management team over the year. Mary Murphy's presentation contained ideas for the future that Council had hoped to explore. Jamie Loback reported on the marvellous success of the Music Ministry and gave a wish list. Brian Ouellette came to a meeting shortly after he began his assignment to explain what he had already done and what he plans to do in the future.

The Finance Committee presented at each Council meeting, providing reviews of all policies and the steps being taking for more accessible, flexible, and timely financial reports. The Committee has also kept PPC abreast of its studies in respect to the policy regarding reserves and an appropriate investment policy. Council, noting the Committee's success in achieving a balanced budget over the last several years, approved the 2018 budget.

The major forward planning item that PPC undertook last year was the start of the development and implementation of a Parish Pastoral Plan. The preliminary work has been followed, as parishioners know, by a survey of views of parishioners a few weeks ago and it is expected that implementation of a formal plan will begin before the end of the year. The more specific ideas for future action include a Parish retreat, an outreach program to the high-rise condos in Sandy Hill, inviting parishioners to use their gifts to making improvements in the physical structure of the church, arranging for Parish dinners for parishioners to get to know each other, taking special visible steps to welcome newcomers, and making information more readily available to parishioners on Parish activities and issues.



## Finance Committee

**Contacts:** Patricia Malikail (Chair) & Greg Forestell (Treasurer)

### *Accomplishments*

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The Parish finished 2017 in a strong financial position:

- Net assets increased from the previous year
- In both 2016 and 2017, we have balanced our operating budget including an amount equivalent to annual depreciation of physical assets. Bequests helped us achieve this goal.

*Governance was strengthened:* Finance Committee reviewed and updated all financial policies.

*Transparency is being enhanced:* A new streamlined Chart of Accounts was drawn up to enable greater transparency and analysis. This system will be implemented in 2018.

*Contingency Planning for sustainability is clearer:* The allocation of funds to reserves (Capital Asset Renewal, Operating, and Programming) will enable us to see how we are saving for major expenditures on the church, rectory, and program needs. Creation of a new Programming Reserve anticipates accumulating funds for future programming priorities. [Undirected bequests are allocated to the Capital Asset Renewal Reserve.]

Terms of Reference for three new Working Groups (Building and Capital Assets, Financial Analytics, and Sources of Revenue) were completed.

The accumulated contribution to the Supper Table by the Parish will be written off in the 2017 audited statements. The annual contribution will remain recorded in future Statements of Operations and the annual budget. This change should help eliminate the perception that the Supper Table owed funds to the Parish. Supporting the Supper Table continues as an integral part of the Parish mission.

### *Challenges*

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To maintain our current level of programming and staffing, and to provide for future church repairs, the Parish will need to devote attention to increasing revenue. Parishioner contributions now make up just over 40% of overall revenue. We have made good progress in maximizing revenue from our parking lot and church and Hall rentals and will need to identify other sources of revenue.

### *Changes*

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As of June 2018: Greg Forestell assumes the Chair of Finance Committee and Paolo Siraco, John Mark Keyes, and Nancy Keyes join the Committee. John Cuddihy and Patricia Malikail have completed their terms on the Committee.

### *Year Ahead*

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In 2018, Castellum will take over management of Parish investments from RBC.



# Executive Director's Report

**Contact:** Christopher Adam, Executive Director

### *Accomplishments*

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The Parish, from an operational, administrative, and programming perspective, has made progress in several areas in 2017 and in the first months of 2018. In 2017, we received funding through the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a new stairlift, which was then installed in August 2017 in the Parish Hall, making it more accessible to our own community, as well as to our partners and renters. City Councillor Mathieu Fleury and MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers both participated for the unveiling. Also in terms of capital improvements, we installed a new 7.5-ton high efficiency air conditioning unit on the roof of the rectory, which provides for effective central cooling of the top floor of the building, including the Oblate Lounge. Other significant capital improvements included new flooring for the top floor of the rectory in late 2017, as well as the renovation of the Chapel Meeting Room (the main floor meeting room) and the ground floor hallway. Both have a new laminate floor, while the main floor meeting room was also painted, stained glass was installed and the furniture was replaced.

The 2017 year saw some significant changes for the Parish from a staffing perspective. In June 2017, we said goodbye to Michelle Miller, who went on to pursue a new pastoral career with Indigenous communities and we welcomed Brian Ouellette as our new Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry and Faith Formation. Brian comes with years of experience in Catholic education, including years serving as a principal in Catholic schools, in Texas. In November, we also said goodbye to Mary Murphy, who relocated to Edmonton. We hired Andrew Pump as the new Supper Table Manager. Andrew has a PhD and his dissertation focused on the social teaching of the Catholic Church. He also comes with professional experience in meal preparation and NGO work.

In 2017, we invested in security for the Parish, including for volunteers, parishioners, staff, and our guests/clients. We developed a new full-time staff position, namely the Parish Safety Coordinator and ensured that one of the requirements for this role is a valid Ontario Security Guard License, and experience in the security sector. Rather than having a security guard in the traditional sense, hired through a third-party security company, our Safety Coordinator becomes part of our staff team and oversees all aspects of safety and security for the Parish, which also includes chairing a Workplace Health and Safety Committee.

In 2017, I personally placed a greater emphasis on building community connections and new partnerships. We have re-engaged with Mathieu Fleury's office and in fall 2017, I participated in an apple-picking initiative with the City Councillor and his staff, as well as a raffle, both to benefit the Supper Table. In October 2017, the Parish was a co-organizer of a conference on refugee issues held at St. Paul University, alongside the University itself, the University of Ottawa, the Museum of History and several NGO groups. I represented the Parish on this conference's organizing committee. Also in October 2017, in light of my experience in the Parish, I was invited to join Board of Directors of Jewish Family Services (JFS), and I hope that this will lead to opportunities for cooperation.

In early 2018, I participated in a number of outreach initiatives as well, in order to strengthen partnerships in the community. Some of these included attending the annual fundraising gala of the



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Loaves and Fishes Fund of Ottawa-Carleton, hosting a lunch for representatives of the Community Foundation of Ottawa and attending the National Prayer Dinner on Parliament Hill. I continue to attend regional meetings of the Archdiocese (normally twice per year), as well as Diocesan Pastoral Days.

### *Challenges*

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One of our main challenges revolves around the on-going care of this property and continued capital expenditures. In 2018, we are proceeding with the complete replacement of the rectory roof—a project that is estimated to cost over \$60,000. In prior years, we invested in the church roof, as well as the church boiler, but we are aware that the rectory roof is nearing the end of its lifespan. We have hired the services of the BTC Group, an engineering firm, to prepare project guidelines, a tender document, to oversee the bidding process, and to eventually manage the roof replacement project. It is our goal to have this “by invitation only” bidding process completed in June 2018 and have the roof replacement project proceed this year. I will be providing the Parish with an update on this work in the coming months.

We are aware of additional work that will have to be done in the near future, especially around the front steps of the church on Wilbrod, as well as the complete repaving of our parking lot. The need for a more effective fundraising initiative, with parishioners helping to organize such appeals, has been discussed for several years in the Parish and is now increasingly important, especially as we continue to both maintain and improve our facilities.

### *Finances*

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Staff are aware of their important role in finding new sources of revenue, particularly grants, and we are actively applying for these throughout the year. Many of you will also be aware that the Women's Centre did not receive a Summer Student Grant for Service Canada, while the Supper Table did receive a reduced amount.

Our facility rental program and our parking lot continue to be important sources of revenue for the Parish—both have increased markedly in 2017. In 2018, we are working on expanding the Parish's relationship with the local business community.

### *Year Ahead*

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I have been so pleased to see our staff team become increasingly cohesive over the years. I chair monthly meetings with management level staff, which includes the Pastor, the Music Director, the Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry and Faith Formation, the Finance Coordinator, the Office Manager, the Maintenance Manager, the Safety Coordinator, the Supper Table Manager, as well as the Director of the Women's Centre, and the Women's Centre Executive Assistant. Together, this group has worked exceedingly well over the year—some of the more recent projects include new, unified procedures for social media across the entire Parish, as well as the development of a comprehensive HR Manual. Our staff team will be discussing the latter this summer and in the early fall. I also continue to meet with our staff one-on-one on projects and issues relevant to different departments and areas of Parish life. In total, we have a team of 21 staff members—both full-time



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and part-time and in 2018, we look forward to building an even greater sense of community and cohesion through more extracurricular activities for our team.

This is my seventh year as an employee of St. Joseph's Parish and my sixth year as Executive Director. It has been a real privilege to see our community evolve over the years. At a time when many churches in our neighbourhood are struggling and when some have closed, St. Joseph's has remained vibrant. We continue to have a dynamic parishioner community, which includes all age cohorts, we are unique in having a paid, professional staff team and we have moved towards diversifying our revenue streams, in order to keep the Parish sustainable.

Thank you to all of you who contribute to the life of the community in so many ways.



## St. Joe's Supper Table

Ministry Contact: Andrew Pump, Manager

### *Accomplishments*

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The Supper Table Ministry - with its three key programs of the Meal Program (nightly dinner service), Food Bank, and Community Garden – continued its on-the-ground, front-line help to the poor in our community.

At the end of 2017, Mary Murphy left us to be closer to her family in Edmonton, but she continues doing the same amazing work for an organization called the Mustard Seed. We want to thank Office Manager, Brandon for taking on the task of Interim Supper Table Manager until Andrew Pump was able to join us in the new year. Andrew has now been in the role for over five months and things are running smoothly.

#### Annual Figures:

**Total Number of Meals Served:** 26,483

**Total Number of Food Bank Visits:** 3,051 visits by 619 registered individuals and families

### *Challenges*

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2017 saw a continuation of the deficit that the Supper Table's been running. By limiting our food costs and staying within budget, as well as implementing an annual fundraising calendar and strategy, we hope to reduce or eliminate the deficit this year.

### *Finances*

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Briefly, the Supper Table brought in a total of \$146,925 in revenue. This figure includes both regular donations as well as grants received. Grants were mostly used to hire temporary staff including a cook, grant writer, assistant, and summer student. The total number of expenses came to approximately \$188,828, with the largest expense incurred by hiring staff.

### *Year Ahead*

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- We continue to work hard, feeding approximately 100 guests each night, while operating within the parameters of our monthly budget of around \$1,500. This is made possible by making sure perishable donated food is used in a timely manner while planning meals accordingly - supplementing what we need with what we purchase. We always have both a regular meal and a hearty vegetarian option (not just a side dish).
- The Food Bank is sustainable and, with the help of our community partners and various food drives, does not require the use of any funds from our budget.



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- The Community Garden experienced three cases of vandalism last summer. But, the community response was amazing as people came together to donate produce and help fix and replant the Garden. Thanks to funds from the Parish, we were also able to install several security cameras to mitigate the risks of further vandalism.
- We will not be hiring any additional staff except for a summer student that we received a grant specifically for.
- A new annual fundraising strategy is being put into effect this year. This includes maintaining the events that were still ongoing – such as the Ottawa Children's Choir and Ottawa Regional Youth Choir spring fundraiser, the Strawberry Social in June, the summer concert featuring Doug Renfro, and the Bytowne Catering charity golf tournament in August – and revisiting older fundraising opportunities that have been discontinued like the annual Ottawa Little Theatre show and the fundraiser at the Ottawa Racetrack. Our biggest fundraising venture this year is our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Harvest Dinner being held on September 27. This is the pilot run of what will hopefully become an annual fundraising dinner.

In summary, our main task this year is to make the three aspects of the Supper Table program sustainable: both financially and operationally. This means (1) narrowing down the Community Garden venture by keeping it focused solely on the gardens currently within the Parish property; (2) streamlining grant writing by focusing on grants that fund operations and not ones that require new, expensive, and time-consuming projects; (3) planning meals that are less prep-intensive, simple, healthy, and that contain more vegetables and less meat; (4) along with this last point, we continue to ensure that each main dish is accompanied by a healthy side dish or two; and (5) working with the Ottawa Food Bank to make sure we receive the groceries our clients need while minimizing/eliminating the purchasing food items for our program.



## St. Joe's Women's Centre

Ministry Contact: Marsha Wilson, Director

### *Accomplishments*

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Below are approximate statistics that reflect the timeframe of January 2017-December 2017:

**Total Visits:** 11,458

**Total Meals Served:** 11,379

**Total Amount of Grocery Hampers:** 2,084

**School Snack Program, "Snack in my Pack":** 498

**Pet Food Cupboard Distribution:** 348

**Back to School Backpack Program:**

- Elementary Bags: 30
- High School: 21
- Total: 51

**Christmas Sponsorship Program:** 24

**Summer Camp/Waupous Family Farm Sponsorship:** 3

### **New and Existing Community Partners:**

A New Day  
AIDS Committee of Ottawa  
Around the Rainbow – Family Services Ottawa  
Caldwell Family Centre  
Canadian Association of Music Therapy  
Centre 454  
Centre 507  
Cornerstone Women's Shelter  
Immigrant Women's Services  
Minwaashin Lodge  
National Art Gallery – Art Therapy Program  
Ottawa Food Bank  
Ottawa Humane Society  
Ottawa U  
Royal Ottawa Hospital  
Sharing and Caring Exchange  
Shepherds of Good Hope  
Shoebox Project for Shelters  
Sophie's Place  
St. Joe's Supper Table  
St. John's Ambulance – Pet Therapy Program  
St. Joseph's Parish  
St. Luke's Lunch Club



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Stepping Stones  
The Well/La Source  
Tungasuvvingat Inuit  
Youville Centre  
And many more.....

### **2017 New Program Initiatives:**

- Music Therapy (Canadian Association of Music Therapy)
- Art Therapy (National Art Gallery – Art Therapy Program)
- Indigenous Traditional Teachings & Crafts (Minwaashin Lodge)

### ***Challenges***

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HRDC - Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) is an initiative of the Summer Work Experience program, through Service Canada summer student grant. It provides wage subsidies to employers to create employment for secondary and post-secondary students. The Women's Centre was unfortunately unsuccessful in securing the grant this year.

We rely heavily on these funds to hire a contract position throughout the summer. The summer months bring in higher participation, more children in the Centre, and additional programs and outings. This position will be funded through general program expenses.

We continue to strive to provide the best possible services to our ever-growing diverse population. Identifying these needs can be a challenge. We are addressing these needs by expending community partnerships and programming.

### ***Finances***

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**2017 City of Ottawa Grant Funding \$342,587**

**Quality of life Awards: \$12,846.14**

- Honoring Colleen Westeinde, Michael O'Byrne, and Marlene Shephard

**Inspire & Ignite Gala "A Return to the Roaring 1920's": \$25,000**

### **2017 Major Contributors:**

- Tony Graham Toyota - \$15,000
- Relators Care Foundation Grant - \$6,500

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

### ***Year Ahead***

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- The Women's Centre will start soliciting for Back to School donations in early June. Please keep an eye out for an announcement in the Parish Bulletin. Some of our most needed items include backpacks, calculators, lunchboxes, and pencil cases.



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- Our annual Quality of Life Awards will take place on Thursday, November 8, 2018. Recipients are to be determined and will be advertised in the Parish Bulletin.
- In collaboration with several other local Women's Organizations, St. Joe's Women's Centre hosted an International Women's Day event with over 150 women and children in attendance.
- **2018 New Program Initiatives:**
  - New Beginnings (an eight-week 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)
  - Pet Therapy Programming (Ottawa Humane Society & St. John's Ambulance – Pet Therapy Program)
  - Seniors Tea (monthly programming designed to meet seniors' specific needs)
  - Mentorship Program (connecting motivated participants with affluent women in our community to assist them in reaching their goals)



## **Community Building Cluster**

LGBT+ and Straight Alliance  
Marriage Preparation  
Parish History  
Resource Library  
Social Group  
Welcome Ministry  
Young Adult Ministry



## LGBT+ and Straight Alliance

Ministry Contact: Ewelina Frackowiak

### *Accomplishments*

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In 2017, we continued to meet monthly to share our faith and life experiences. Our group comprises LGBT+ Christians, parents, siblings, and allies of LGBT+ persons. Some of us met bi-monthly to discuss LGBT+ themed books. We launched a support group for maintaining active hope - hope that transforms concerns and fear into compassion and action.

### *Year Ahead*

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- Hosting two-spirited Anishinaabeg who teach us about the experiences of two-spirited Indigenous persons in North America before and after colonization
- Co-operating with St. Joseph's Refugee Outreach Committee
- Organizing a spiritual retreat for LGBT+ Christians

## Marriage Preparation

Ministry Contact: Brian Ouellette

### *Accomplishments*

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- Fall 2017 Marriage Preparation Course had 12 couples
- Spring 2018 Marriage Preparation Course had eight couples
- Five Parish couples volunteered as "facilitator couples" during the weekends
- Four FOCCUS Facilitators worked with couples on their FOCCUS Inventories

### *Challenges*

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- Finding new couples to help facilitate sessions during the weekends.
- Increasingly, couples are mix of religious/non-religious
- Participating couples commented on "datedness" of workbook
  - May begin looking at other resources to use for couples
  - Elicit input from facilitating couples
  - Contact surrounding parishes to see what they use

### *Year Ahead*

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- Fall and Spring Marriage Preparation Weekends will go on as usual.
  - Fall Weekend is scheduled for October 20/21, 2018
  - Spring 2019 Weekend will be either March 30/31, 2019 or May 4/5, 2019
- Look into possibility of new workbooks
  - Will use remaining in-stock workbooks for Fall 2018 Weekend



## Parish History

Ministry Contact: Terry Byrne

### *Accomplishments*

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- Significant effort has occurred with parishioners in obtaining photos and determining dates and names of parishioners in the photos. This project will capture photos and any new historical information not previously outlined in the book "A History of St. Joseph's Parish".
- The Storytelling Session was postponed until the fall due to inclement weather in April. The aim of the Storytelling Session is to capture more of the stories about our parish not found in books or newspaper articles. We are outreaching to parishioners and former parishioners to attend this session.
- Currently capturing the history of Sisters of the Holy Cross and their role in the Parish.
- Newspaper articles on current events in the Parish continued to be maintained.
- Started process of digitizing Parish records.

### *Challenges*

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Looking for new members. Currently only one member in this Ministry.

### *Year Ahead*

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- Capture history of LGBTQ community at St. Joe's beginning this fall.
- Continue with photo history of Parish
- Arrange Storytelling Session
- Updating newspaper articles and search for new articles from the past.
- Continue to digitize our Parish records

## Resource Library

Ministry Contact: Elizabeth Behrens

### *Accomplishments*

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- The Library continued to grow, with the addition of 236 donated books and DVD's, for a total collection of 2,242 items.
- Promotion of awareness of the Library continued weekly through the "Library News" entries in the Parish Bulletin.
- Circulation of the collection included 39 book loans and approximately 56 in-Library uses.

### *Challenges*

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Additional shelving will be required, along with the weeding of some older items in order to accommodate new materials.



## Social Group

Ministry Contact: Terry Byrne

### *About the Ministry*

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Our aim is to build community in our Parish. Our major focuses are the bi-annual Community Sundays, and on Saturday evening, our bi-annual Pot Luck Dinner.

We encourage everyone to join us and to wear nametags so people get to know one another. We try as well to provide a fun activity to accompany the Community Masses. To this end, we asked parishioners to identify where they live in National Capital Region and on another occasion, we asked you to identify your country of origin.

### *Accomplishments*

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Two of our group members, Dianne Taylor and Sharon Gravelle, were lead organizers for the farewell celebration for Mary Murphy. They were supported by most members of the Social Group as well as several parishioners.

### *Challenges*

---

We are always looking for new members to our group.

### *Finances*

---

We had placed boxes out at our events for financial support to cover our costs. This met with minimal financial contributions. As a result, members of the group paid for costs out of their pocket. As such, starting this fall, we ask the Parish for some funding to cover any expenses we incur.

### *Year Ahead*

---

Continue with the Community masses and Pot Luck Dinners on a bi-annual basis.



## Welcome Ministry

Ministry Contacts: Maria Virjee & Kerri Power (Welcome Desk)

### *About the Ministry*

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- Greeters at the doors at all four Masses (University during school year)
- New parishioners who have completed a Registration Form receive a welcoming letter on Parish stationary. 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, etc.
- Keeping statistics on welcoming letters, successful follow-up meetings, welcoming dinners, and parishioners involved at those dinners.
- Guest Book entries are followed by an email or phone call and some new parishioners join the Parish using this route.
- Welcome Desks at all three Masses (University Mass not included) provide information to newcomers, visitors, and parishioners. Various binders help the Welcome Desk volunteers stay informed and organized.

### *Accomplishments*

---

- The communication between the Welcome Desk and Front Office has been much more efficient with the system set-up this past year (ie. Notes in the front of the binder at the Welcome Desk and forms that are signed off).

#### Figures:

- Welcoming letters sent: 34
- Welcoming meals: 4
- New parishioners are welcoming meals: 9
- Welcoming parishioners at meals: 25

### *Challenges*

---

- Ensuring that there are an adequate number of regular greeters at all three Masses (University Mass coordinates student volunteer for that Mass).
- Recruiting more parishioners to help with welcoming letters, personal follow-up, and hosting welcoming dinners.
- Raising awareness among established parishioners to look beyond their usual circle of friends to include newcomers and visitors.
- Ensuring that there is an adequate rotation of volunteers present at the Welcome Desk.
- Finding effective processes to communicate with the Parish Office are always needed.
- Recruiting new volunteers for the 5pm Saturday Mass Welcome Desk, which will cease to function after July 1, 2018 if no volunteers are found. There has been no response to notices in the bulletin thus far.



## St. Joseph's Parish Annual Report – June 3, 2018

### *Finances*

---

No Parish funds used so far for hospitality expenses, and there is no plan of doing so in the foreseeable future. Money to pay for the stamps for welcoming letters is provided by the Parish and the letters are mailed out directly by Maria.

### *Year Ahead*

---

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

## Young Adult Ministry

Ministry Contact: Brian Ouellette

### *Accomplishments*

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- University Masses every Sunday, September-April.
  - Average attendance about 100
- Young Adult Game Nights:
  - Attendance ranged from 4-6 people
  - Dinner served
  - Great social activity
- Young Adult Brunches/Easter Feast
  - Attendance between 4-18 people
  - Great social event
- Young Adult Evenings of Reflection
  - Advent
  - Lenten Soup Suppers
  - Easter
  - "God and Pizza" after University Mass
  - Attendance between 4-8 people
- Young Adult Discernment Retreat
  - Galilee Centre
  - 10 people
  - Positive Experiences
- Church Crawl
  - Great event
  - Attendance about 100 students
  - Wonderful Parish volunteers
- Catholic Student Week
  - Collaboration with Sacré Coeur and Catholic Christian Organization at uOttawa



## St. Joseph's Parish Annual Report – June 3, 2018

- Great Street Outreach at St. Josephs (12 people came out)
  - Closing Mass at St. Joseph's
- Young Adult Resume Writing Workshop
  - Led by Mr. David Cook
  - 10 people came out
- New Student Winter Weather Workshop
  - No attendees
- Weekly chaplaincy office hours on uOttawa campus
  - Shared between Fr. Richard and Brian Ouellette
- Monthly Senior's Luncheon
  - The young adult who has overseen these luncheons will be leaving as her schooling is complete. Thanks to her for all her work.
  - Another young adult will be taking on the duties of organizing this event beginning in September.
- St. Joe's Young Adult Social Media Footprint
  - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Weekly Young Adult Email Sent out

### *Challenges and Means of Addressing*

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- Increasing attendance at events
  - Formation of Young Adult Advisory Council
- Diversity of Events to draw in young adults
  - Survey of current young adults
  - Young Adult Advisory Council
  - Work with other Parish groups to help draw support
  - Utilize campus presence more effectively
- Funding for retreats and other initiatives
  - Parish sponsors
  - How to increase initiatives without having to charge young adults, especially students
- Catholic Student Week
  - How to engage more students?
  - St. Joe's role during the week
    - Do events on our own?
    - Continue collaboration with other organizations

### *Finances*

---

- Freewill donations asked for at various events to off-set costs
  - Students lack finances makes donations very limited
- Private donation helps defray some costs of retreat registration

### *Year Ahead & Items Under Consideration*

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- Continue with University Masses
  - Encourage more Young Adult Ministry Volunteers
- Form Young Adult Advisory Council



## St. Joseph's Parish Annual Report – June 3, 2018

- Help with recruitment of young adults
  - Plan initiatives that will draw young adults
  - Connect more with the University of Ottawa through advertisements, word of mouth
- Continue with Game Nights/Monthly Brunches
- Find funding sources to supplement:
  - Young Adult Events
  - Young Adult Retreat Registrations
- More Evenings of Reflection
  - Invite outside speakers in for these evenings
  - Elicit ideas from Young Adults as to themes of evenings
- More retreat opportunities
  - Overnight and weekend retreats
  - Fundraising to help defray registration costs
  - Parish sponsorships to help defray registration costs
- World Youth Day 2019
  - Fundraising for those interested in attending
  - Parishioner sponsorships?
- Explore expanding social media footprint
  - Young Adult Blogs
- Welcome Week
  - Pancake breakfast for students
  - Evening of worship and praise for students
  - Hamburger lunch one day
  - Use current students to spread the word about St. Joe's on campus
  - Ottawa "Information" evening
- Catholic Student Week
  - Look into organizing events at St. Joe's during the week
    - Pancake breakfast
    - Movie Night
    - Praise and Worship evening
    - Care packages for students? (parishioners provide)
- Winter Weather Workshop for International Students
  - Advertise on campus
  - Advertise online
  - Donations from parishioners
- More street outreach events
  - Fall sandwiches and socks/essentials
  - Winter coffee and winter clothing
  - Spring sandwiches and socks
- Outdoor events
  - Gatineau park hiking
  - Trips out of Ottawa for the day
  - Barbecues at St. Joe's
- Student-led events
  - Weekly study help?
  - Monthly support for those stressed/homesick



## St. Joseph's Parish Annual Report – June 3, 2018

- Conversation groups
  - Teacher/student teacher evenings
  - Job search help
- Monthly evenings of worship
  - Evening prayer and praise
  - Rosary evening
  - Benediction?
- Outreach opportunities
  - Look for more outreach opportunities
  - Tutoring for young people?
  - Helping our older congregants
  - Supper Table
  - Women's Centre
- Parish partnership
  - Partner new students with parishioners during the year
    - care packages
    - occasional dinners, esp. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter
    - be "family away from family" for the students



## **Faith Formation & Initiation Cluster**

Adult Initiation

*(R.C.I.A.)*

Christian Meditation

*(Monday, 9:30am)*

Sacramental Faith Formation

*(1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Confirmation, 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation)*

Small Group Faith Sharing



## Adult Initiation

*(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult - R.C.I.A.)*

Ministry Contact: Michèle Babin

### *Accomplishments*

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- Christian initiation is a period of reflection, prayer, instruction, discernment, and growth. We do not have a pre-defined program at St. Joe's and there is no set timetable. Our process is always adapted to the needs of inquirers and candidates. At St. Joe's, we want the Parish to be the primary curriculum for inquirers. We encourage learning about discipleship and community by attending Mass, serving with others in the community and engaging in prayer and fellowship in various ways.
- In 2017, we were blessed to have two adults received into the full communion of the Roman Catholic church. We also engaged with several inquirers, meeting with them on a regular basis, encouraging their questions, and providing some information about life in Christian community.

### *Challenges*

---

Challenges include cultivating our connections with the Parish to make it easy for inquirers and candidates to get to know Catholicism by getting to know Catholics. This can mean, for example, inviting inquirers and candidates to come and see what volunteering at the Supper Table can be, or gardening for the Parish, or attending Christian Meditation, or taking a prayerful walk with a Parish group.

### *Year Ahead*

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- In 2018, we will emphasize building opportunities for inquirers and candidates to connect, so that they can learn and discern by experiencing community life and discerning moments of grace.
- There are various ways to get involved in Christian initiation, as a team member, Sunday Mass dismissal leader, welcome buddy, sponsor, or occasional volunteer.
- Inquirers who enter the process are expected to begin attending Sunday Mass if they are not already doing so, attend a weekly or biweekly RCIA session, and participate in the wider church community in whatever ways they are most called.



## Christian Meditation

*(Monday, 9:30am)*

Ministry Contact: George Martin

### *Accomplishments*

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- Provided opportunity for parishioners and non-parishioners to gather every Monday morning at 9:30am for Christian Meditation practice and faith sharing.
- Functioned every Monday with the exception of holiday Mondays when the Church and Office were closed.
- Meditators participated in Ottawa Regional events presented by Regional Co-ordinating Committee (Advent and Lent Retreats, Presentations and Workshops by local and visiting leaders.)
- Welcomed visitors interested in learning more about Christian Meditation as a way to grow in personal spirituality.

### *Year Ahead*

---

Continue providing weekly opportunities for group Christian Meditation sessions on Monday mornings at 9:30am.



## Sacramental Faith Formation

*(1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Confirmation, 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation)*

Ministry Contact: Brian Ouellette

### *Accomplishments*

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- Confirmed three young people at the University Mass on January 14, 2018
- Nine young people received First Eucharist on April 8, 2018
  - Children were paired with Eucharistic Ministers during Mass
  - Children were actively engaged in First Communion Mass
  - Parents of children also participated in Parent catechesis
- Three young people received First Eucharist on May 20, 2018
- 12 young people received First Reconciliation on May 19, 2018
- One Adult received Confirmation at the Cathedral on May 2018 (RCIA)
- Four young adults helped as catechists for Confirmation, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation.

### *Challenges*

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- Finding catechists for different programs
  - Young Adults volunteer but need more
- Finding good time for Confirmation Catechesis
  - This year was held on Tuesday evenings

### *Finances*

---

- Registration fees helped offset cost of supplies.

### *Year Ahead*

---

- Confirmation registration will again take place in October/November
- Confirmation preparation will take place November/December
- Will try to get a January 2019 date for Confirmation
- First Eucharist and First Reconciliation will take place as usual:
  - First Eucharist preparation will take place during the Lenten Season
  - Celebration of First Eucharist will take place during Easter Season
  - First Reconciliation preparation will remain Family Catechesis
  - First Reconciliation retreat/celebration will take place after First Eucharist



## Small Group Faith Sharing (Lent & Advent)

Ministry Contacts: Joy Heft & Lolita Walsh

### *Accomplishments*

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- Lent 2018 marked the twenty-third season of Small Group Faith Sharing which occurs each year during Lent and Advent – four sessions in Advent, seven during Lent. Attendance during Advent was particularly robust again this year as we were joined by new members for some of the sessions as well as the return of some former members.
- Sharing was once again marked by insightful, thoughtful, thought-provoking, reflective expression of members' reactions to the Sunday scripture readings of the season or reminiscences of seasons past. A pervasive spirit of trust and mutual respect prevailed as well as an appreciation for the stories and perspectives of other members. The prayerful conclusion to each session provided an opportunity for support of participants experiencing particular concerns.
- Participants and facilitators alike appreciate the opportunity to mark these seasons in a deeply reflective way while enjoying the conviviality of the group. This year was no exception. One newcomer confessed to having experienced the richest Advent of their experience. The group is happy to integrate new members and adept at achieving an atmosphere of inclusiveness.
- Our meeting space allowed for the required degree of intimacy and comfort and contributed to the ease of sharing, prayerfulness, and contemplation. Early arrivals shared in the setting up and facilitated the clearing up afterwards.
- The start time of 7:15pm begun last year continued to ensure that people were not locked out upon arrival and allowed for a more relaxed conclusion of the sessions within the desired time frame.

### *Challenges*

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Once again, this past year, participation was more robust during Advent than during Lent; this is likely because of the nature of the winter weather and/or the fact that many people travel during the winter; however, the average of eight participants per session continued to provide viable numbers.

### *Finances*

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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 photocopying needs.

### *Year Ahead*

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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. As long as our numbers remain consistent and the feedback is positive, we will continue to facilitate these sessions.



## **Music & Liturgy Cluster**

Celebrant's Assistants  
Children's Liturgy of The Word  
Gospel Players  
Lectors  
Music Ministry  
Prayers of the Faithful



## Celebrant's Assistants

Ministry Contact: Bob Part

### *About the Ministry*

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2018 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Celebrant's Assistants (CA) Ministry in the Parish.

The CA functions as the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for Liturgical functions at St. Joseph's Parish. In ecclesiastical terminology, this is the Ministry of Acolyte. The mark of a good MC in liturgical celebrations is one who is as invisible as possible, yet one who ensures that the whole of the Liturgical ceremony functions smoothly and efficiently. The role of the CA includes preparation before the Liturgical celebration, as well as a vigilant eye from the beginning to the end of the celebration. It requires that the CA be able to foresee difficulties and ensure that any difficulties that may arise are dealt with in a manner that is as invisible as possible to the congregation.

The continuation of this Ministry over the last 30 years is a testament of its value to the whole community who call St. Joe's their spiritual home.

The Ministry is composed of a cadre of well-trained and dedicated volunteers who serve the community so that our weekend Liturgical celebrations (and all other 'Special Celebrations') at St. Joe's run smoothly and with dignity. Each weekend celebration is somewhat unique and the CA's who are assigned to a particular celebration are able to adapt to the variances without visible effort. They are all to be commended and thanked for their dedication and commitment to this Ministry. Many of the current CA's have been ministering in this manner since the inception of the Ministry.

The current goal of the Ministry is to reflect the gender and multi-ethnic nature of the whole Parish. This is slowly taking place through attrition.

The Ministry has an overall coordinator who represents the Ministry at Liturgy Committee Meetings, which is a standing Committee of the Parish Pastoral Council. Each weekend Liturgy has a coordinator who is responsible for training and scheduling. The 9:30am and the 11:30am Sunday Liturgies are functioning very well under this arrangement. CA's generally serve in this function once every six weeks.

### *Challenges*

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The Ministry does however face a particular challenge for the 5:00pm (Saturday) Liturgy where there is currently only one CA who serves faithfully every weekend. The Ministry Coordinator and the Liturgy Committee are attempting to remedy this situation but so far, without success. If parishioners have any ideas as how this situation could be rectified, all input is welcomed.



## Children's Liturgy of The Word

Ministry Contact: Toni Tarasco

### *Accomplishments*

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It was Toni's first year as Coordinator for Children's Liturgy of the Word, taking over from Erin Anderson in September 2017. There has been increasing numbers of children participating in all age groups, with relatively more (new) families attending the 9:30am Mass. The Children's Christmas Pageant (2017) and Children's Stations of the Cross (2018) received positive feedback and were a great success!

### *Challenges*

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- Trying different approaches to prevent children from running both upon exiting and re-entering the church for the Liturgy of the Word gatherings. Running has become worse and poses as both a safety concern and an interruption/disruption to the service
- Recruiting new (student, parents, or other) volunteers to get involved with leading and/or assisting gatherings

### *Year Ahead*

---

- Good Friday Family Service: Children's Stations of the Cross (March 2018)
- Year-end celebration (June 2018)
- Children's Liturgy of the Word begins/Welcome back celebration (September 2018)
- Children's Christmas Pageant (December 2018)

## Gospel Players

Ministry Contact: Sr. Connie Goulet

### *About the Ministry*

---

The "Gospel Players" are children of the Parish about 5 to 16 years of age who enjoy bringing the Gospel to life for themselves, their families and the whole congregation. Traditionally they present the Christmas Story at the 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve, the Passion Story at the 10:00am Service on Good Friday and they dramatize the Gospel on the third Sunday of the month from September to June.

On the third Sunday of the month the 9:30am Mass is Family Mass when the Gospel Players dramatize the Gospel Reading for the little children sitting on blankets at the front of the Church, and for the congregation. The Gospel Players are also responsible for proclaiming the Reading and the



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Prayers of the Faithful. And our Parish is blessed in having a number of people gifted at preparing Gospel Reflections easily understood and appreciated by everyone--little children, youth and adults!

Usually two short practices take place--one after the 9:30 Mass the preceding Sunday and the other at 9:10 just before the Family Mass. Many of the parents help prepare their children for these practices.

### ***Accomplishments***

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- Regarding the Christmas Pageant, parents often make comments similar to the following one. *"The kids always love the pageant. I think it truly makes the Gospel come alive for them! The thought that they put into what it really must have been like, for example, to be an animal in the stable, is always touching for me. And as a parent, it really adds to the beauty of the Christmas Eve celebration to see all those little people pouring their hearts into this activity. I am so grateful that our Parish does this each year."*
- For the Good Friday Family Service the annual Passion Pageant was changed to be the Children's Stations of the Cross. This was decided upon due to time restraints to prepare and also because previous years have proven a challenge to find consistent participants, especially since the rehearsals coincide with First Communion preparations. The Stations were fairly simple, brief, and easy for the children to follow along with and listen to as we moved around the church. We had a number of participants, including the children, parents, grandparents and other parishioners present. We had three volunteers, plus myself, (Toni), reading the summary of events and leading a moment of silent reflection/prayer at each station. The Stations of the Cross were followed by the Adoration of the Cross.
- As the Good Friday service received such wonderful feedback, we will definitely be continuing with this for next year's service with a few additions, such as prayers being read at each station, an exclamation being sung or read between each station, music played, booklets for the children and families to follow along with, as well as to continue their reflection at home and/or having one volunteer read per station.

### ***Challenges***

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One of the challenges we are experiencing is the busy lives of many families involved in sports, dance etc. on Sunday mornings.

### ***Year Ahead***

---

Anyone interested in joining the "Gospel Players" or in learning more about this Ministry, please see Robyne Warren, Toni Tarasco or Connie Goulet at the 9:30am Mass. We warmly welcome interested children, their families and anyone who would like to volunteer in this Ministry.



## Lectors

Ministry Contacts: Dick Gunstone, Ann Kelly, and Mary Rudy

### *About the Ministry*

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The Lector Ministry is a group of over 30 members of the Parish of all ages and backgrounds. This year we welcomed many new members and said farewell to a few long-time members. Lectors organize weekly sessions to practice and reflect on the readings for the coming weekend with the guidance of a long-time member who acts as a leader for the session.

### *Challenges*

---

This past year the long-time leader of Lector Ministry, Katherine Laundry, was unable to fulfil her commitment to the Ministry due to health concerns (Katherine is on the mend and we pray for her full and complete recovery). The members of the Ministry stepped forward to fill Katherine's shoes: Dick Gunstone took over scheduling responsibilities, while Ann Kelly and Mary Ruddy field any questions from the members of Parish about the Ministry in general.



## Music Ministry

Ministry Contact: Jamie Loback, Director

### *Accomplishments*

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The Music Ministry achieved the following goals:

- 1) **High Liturgical Seasons:** Easter 2017 and Christmas 2017 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 Allen who serves as our 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 2017 raised nearly \$1,500. Proceeds from this concert were donated to St. Joseph's Supper Table.

### *Challenges*

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- **Recruitment:** The Music Ministry in general continues to experience some difficulty in recruiting new members to the choirs; its membership in 2017 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 2018. 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 potlucks) and the Music Director will continue to work with each of the choirs to incorporate a larger social dynamic within the Music Ministry.
- **Budget:** As is the case with all the ministries of St. Joseph's Parish, the Music Ministry is working to maintain sustainable funding in order to maintain a balanced budget while continuing ongoing development of musical quality as well as the introduction of new repertoire in the liturgy and concerts. In order to assist in the overall Parish effort to maintain a balanced budget, the Music Ministry did not incur any significant capital expenses in 2017 (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 2018-2019).

### *Finances*

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- The Music Ministry was within budget in the 2017 fiscal year.
- To date the Music Ministry remains under budget for the 2018 fiscal year; it is likely that the Ministry's 2018 expenses will be well within the approved operational budget.



## St. Joseph's Parish Annual Report – June 3, 2018

### Fundraising Initiatives (2017):

- **Music Ministry Concert:** Christmas Concert - December 2017: The Music Ministry raised approximately \$1,500 for the Supper Table.

### *Year Ahead*

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#### Fund-raising Concerts:

- Music Ministry Christmas Concert (December 2018) – 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 2018.

#### Programming Considerations:

- Recruitment and orientation of new members



## Prayers of the Faithful

Ministry Contact: Dick Gunstone

### *About the Ministry*

---

In the Prayers of the Faithful, the members of St. Joseph's community respond to the Word of God and to their baptismal commitment to the Christian way of life. Prayers of the Faithful are included in each weekend Eucharistic celebration. Time is required to reflect on the Word of God for the particular celebration of the Liturgy and to develop an awareness of current needs that require prayer and petition. This task requires writing prayers which are sober, composed in few words, and are expressive of the entire community

### *Challenges*

---

This past year was a year of renewal for the Ministry. Two long-time members decided to give their attentions to other areas of the Parish, one member has had to step back for health reasons. A call for volunteers to the Parish community has given us two new members. We currently stand at five active members.



## **Pastoral Care & Social Justice Cluster**

Development and Peace  
Funeral Ministry  
Pastoral Visiting  
Refugee Outreach Committee



## Development and Peace

Ministry Contact: Larry Martin

### *About the Ministry*

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Share Lent is the high-profile education and financial support for **Development and Peace**. A St. Joseph's member usually gives a reflection on Solidarity Sunday towards the end of Lent to highlight our mission and national campaign. For 2017-18, our theme is **"Together for Peace"**. We include information about some **Development Programmes** in 36 countries and 202 long-term projects which focus on agriculture, health, education, water, sanitation, climate, and community leadership. Our work also focuses on shorter-term **Emergency Responses** such as the internal/external refugee situations in Syria and its neighbours Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey. Other projects focus on drought in the Middle East, the Sahel in West Africa and the Horn of East Africa, and reconstruction projects after earthquakes (Haiti, Mexico, Nepal), hurricanes (Haiti) and typhoons (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 Council of Catholic Bishops**, diocesan bishops, clergy, parishes, and the 10,000 **Development and Peace** volunteers/members in Canada. The overall budget/programming of **Development and Peace** is \$44 million of which \$8.3 million comes from the Share Lent campaign. **Development and Peace** is a significant Canadian non-governmental organization providing support for projects in the Global South. The current federal government is planning to increase their financial support for our work.

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

### *Accomplishments*

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- We had a visit from Agnes and Awak, two women working with the **South Sudan Council of Churches** who work on the situation of women in their society. An interesting dialogue after Mass took place in late November. The South Sudanese people need our prayers given the ongoing conflict, threat of famine, corrupt government, and recruitment of young male and female soldiers who better need an education and agricultural skills and people fleeing as refugees.
- 2017 marked the **50th anniversary** of **Development and Peace** and a special mass and celebration was held at Notre-Dame cathedral in March with several hundred attending.

### *Challenges*

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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 has about eight members committed to faith-



## St. Joseph's Parish Annual Report – June 3, 2018

led solidarity with people of the South. We also try to focus on issues of poverty and Aboriginals in Canada.

### *Finances*

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St. Joseph's has the reputation of generosity every year during the **Share Lent** campaign. We have a number of "Share Year-Round" monthly donors, occasional and emergency response donors. We sell Fair Trade coffee after mass and the profits annually of over \$1,000 go to **Development and Peace**.

### *Year Ahead*

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Regular bulletin announcements give information on the organization, work, partners and emergency appeals of **Development and Peace**. Information on the organization is available from the national web-site [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org).



## Funeral Ministry

Ministry Contact: Sharon Gravelle

### *About the Ministry*

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Funeral Ministers are privileged to help the families of deceased loved ones as they come to us with overwhelming pain. We enter the lives of families at one of the most difficult and sorrowful times of their lives when the ache of loss is so profound. We strive to be attentive to the pain in their hearts as we walk them through the funeral preparations. Our goal is to ensure that grieving families are welcome, accepted and comfortable as we help them prepare the funerals of their loved ones. We strive to bring compassion, comfort, and support and ensure that funerals are meaningful, positive, healing experiences for families.

We guide the family in the selection of the readings, the prayers of the faithful and their choice of music and logistics of a funeral. We are present to support, guide, and assist the family at the funeral with all that a funeral entails. We are often called upon to assist the family for the wake in the church and the committal.

### *Accomplishments*

---

Since we began the Funeral Ministry in 2010, the team has provided assistance for 98 funerals. Families express much gratitude for the help and dedication of our Ministry.

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.

### *Finances*

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Due to the many activities happening at St. Joseph's Parish and the renting out of the church and Hall, it is sometimes difficult to schedule funerals when the family wants them and they sometimes have to have funerals on a day or at a time that is not always best for the family. Three families had to go to another church because we were not able to accommodate their preferred day or time for the funeral.

### *Year Ahead*

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- We will continue to minister with compassion to families who have lost loved ones. We plan to have another memorial service on November 10, 2018 at 10:30am.
- When we reach the 100<sup>th</sup> funeral we have helped since 2010, we will have a celebration for the team members.



## Pastoral Visiting

Ministry Contact: Kathleen Allan

### *About the Ministry*

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Our Ministry is three-fold:

1. Residents at Rideau-on-the-River; the only retirement home in Sandy Hill. Each Thursday we bring communion to the residents and spend some time visiting with them. We are often invited for their birthdays and special occasions.
2. Sandy Hill residents; regular home visits to two elderly parishioners in the Sandy Hill community (despite the four-month absence of one volunteer who was recovering from difficult surgery). At times another parishioner is able to visit.
3. Roman Catholic patients in the Civic hospital; two days each week. One takes communion to two parishioners on her way home from the Civic, another drives to visit parishioners (outside the Sandy Hill area) upon request.

The requirements for each site are different, the people we visit not so much: they are no longer able to take part in parish life as they once did. As one volunteer put it, *"I find it life-giving and faith-strengthening because these people have kept the faith...very humbling."*

This year, one of the elderly parishioners became terminally ill and had full palliative care in her home; the volunteers continued "to visit, to pray and sing hymns twice a week even though she is no longer able to receive communion." They were called "special angels" and mentioned at the funeral.

### *Challenges*

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- We visit those parishioners in the Sandy Hill community who are unable to participate in parish life; we live in Sandy Hill and usually walk to our visits.
- Two of our long-standing Sandy Hill volunteers faced with urgent family challenges have retired. This leaves our Parish with two volunteers who, for six years, have provided service every week all year round to parishioners in Sandy Hill.
- Our biggest challenges:
  - to get you to assist in this very special Ministry which we feel privileged to serve
  - to reach out to the elderly, shut-ins, bed-ridden, and lonely in Sandy Hill.
- As a St. Joe's outreach:
  - to recruit Spiritual Care volunteers for The Ottawa Hospital.



## Refugee Outreach Committee

Ministry Contact: John Weir, Chair

### *About the Ministry*

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The Refugee Outreach Committee (ROC) Terms of Reference outlines our objectives and goals and our relationships with like-minded groups, agencies and the Parish community: *The Committee reaches out to newcomers and refugees, welcomes them and responds to their needs by offering support and friendship. Its support is manifested through hosting, sponsorship, advocacy for refugee rights and ad hoc responses to situations.*

Our report is intended to respond to the following question: *What are we doing and how are we translating our principles and aspirations into action?*

#### **ROC Leadership Team and Membership:**

Our roster now consists of 14 actively contributing and dedicated members who have submitted police checks; read and signed the Pastoral Code of Contact; and have become familiar with the ROC Terms of Reference and its confidentiality clause.

John Weir, Angela Murphy, and Margie Cain have served as the ROC Leadership Team for the past year and will continue for the year ahead. John serves as Treasurer and Chair for communication purposes. Ariat Abala has been helping with our bookkeeping. Secretary Deborah Dorner assumed additional responsibilities as back-up for the Leadership Team in February and March. Our ROC membership includes: Robyne Warren, Rado Zaky, Chris Gillen, Frank O'Brien, Petra Eperjesi, Claire Mac Ewen, Connie Goulet, Ariat Abala, Dona Bowers, and Ági Vezér.

We meet, as needed, with Chris Adams, Executive Director and Fr. Richard Beaudette, Pastor. We are very appreciative of their support.

Louise Lalonde, who has served on ROC since its inception 30 years ago, was honoured at a beautiful farewell celebration in late January.

### *Accomplishments*

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#### **1. Hosting**

- a. Outreach to an Iraqi family of three concluded in the fall of 2017.
- b. Participation in a CHEO Pilot Project with a Syrian family of seven is winding down as the support mechanisms for their intense needs are largely in place.
- c. Contact has continued with a young woman from the Cameroon referred to us by the Catholic Centre for Immigrants. She has obtained permanent residency and she is anticipating the arrival this summer of her young daughter. The ROC has contributed \$1,000 towards the cost of that airfare and two parishioners have each offered contributions of \$200.



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### 2. Inland Refugee Claimants

- a. We responded to a request from the Catholic Centre for Immigrants to host a single mother of four children ages six and under. She arrived in Canada as an Inland Claimant and is awaiting a hearing on her case. Our committee members are engaged weekly, actively assisting and advocating for this young woman. We have provided both in kind and financial assistance for basic needs and living expenses.
- b. For over two years, we have accompanied a newcomer as he succeeded in becoming a Protected Person. He awaits the acceptance of his permanent residency application which will pave the way for his wife and two-and-a-half-year-old daughter to join him in Canada. He has worked at two jobs for nearly a year and a half and will graduate from the Ottawa Mission-Food Services Training Program in late June.
- c. Two other Inland Claimants, also awaiting hearings, who have become parishioners, have been assisted by ROC financially with basic needs and connections to services and resources. Like others who fear for their lives, unable to return to their countries and the support of family and friends, they constantly amaze us with their resolve to become self-sufficient and to contribute to community life and ministries at St. Joe's.

### 3. Sponsorships

- a. Our settlement and financial support for a Syrian family of five who arrived in late March 2017 was officially concluded at the end of March 2018. Unofficially, ROC has kept contact with the family as they are awaiting the birth of their fourth child in mid-June. We continue to pay pre-natal interpretation costs for medical appointments. In addition to monthly settlement review meetings that the Leadership Team held with the parents throughout year one, a small group of ROC members have kept up weekly volunteer roles providing the family with language skills enrichment and piano lessons for the two oldest children.

We have developed wonderful friendships with this family through the array of settlement support activities provided since their arrival. It was a joy to mark their first anniversary of arriving in Canada at a late March afternoon gathering. It was hosted by one of the three couples who provided the financial resources needed to realize this sponsorship. The three children are doing well in school and community recreation activities and the parents have been committed to their half day ESL classes. This July, the father will begin the six-month Ottawa Mission-Food Services Training Program.

### 4. Co-Sponsorships

- a. A Syrian mother (a dentist and aunt of two orphan girls who received help from the ROC three years ago) and her 11-year-old daughter in Lebanon and an 18-year-old son from Germany continue to wait for action on their file. Their applications for permanent residency and visas were sent from Canada to Beirut in March 2017. Louise Lalonde, who remains the contact person, has sought information regarding the delay and is hopeful that visas may be granted by year's end. A family friend provided the finances for the sponsorship.
- b. A co-sponsorship application for the daughter of the Syrian family we assisted through the CHEO project and her husband and child has been submitted.
- c. We are in the process of applying for a co-sponsorship which will assist an Ottawa resident to resettle his brother, sister-in-law, their seven-year-old child, and a newborn in



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Ottawa. They are Eritrean refugees living in Israel, unable to safely return home or to safely remain in Israel. The sponsoring family member will assume responsibility for the settlement plan.

### 5. Collaborations

- a. Our LGBT+ and Straight Alliance has helped us with some of our settlement needs.
- b. Angela McCanny, Cluster Representative for Pastoral Care and Social Justice, met with the ROC Leadership Team to learn more about our Ministry's work and to inquire about our needs.
- c. ROC members Claire, Petra and, Rado organized an early February, Visioning Day for ROC with Joe Gunn, Citizens for Public Justice (CPJ), as facilitator. We identified our successes and challenges and suggested that a similar follow-up day could be held before summer to revisit the visioning, connect with new members, prepare for summer, and revise and update our Terms of Reference. We are also presently circulating a CPJ petition asking the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to fully exempt resettled refugees from travel loan repayment.
- d. The ROC is supporting St. Joe's participation in the Ottawa Mennonite Refugee Assistance Program's (OMRA) grocery card program which has been successful in creating another opening for a refugee family in need of a rent subsidy. Thanks to OMRA Chair, Maria Rigby, and Donna Rietschlin for bringing this program to our attention.
- e. Deborah and Louise launched the Amnesty International Writes for Rights 2017 at St Joe's in December. The campaign attracted the interest of many in the Parish community who signed petitions and prepared letters and cards for persons and groups whose rights are being denied and to those in positions to assist vulnerable people gain protection and freedom. Many community members chose to write during one of the several scheduled gatherings. Approximately 50 letters of support were sent to individuals and 100 letters advocating for them were sent to officials.
- f. The Leadership Team, other ROC members, and interested newcomers viewed individually or met as small groups to view webinars provided by the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP), an example being Private Sponsorship of Refugees: Supporting Settlement and Integration. Over the past one to two years, several ROC members have completed the RSTP online training which is delivered over eight sessions.
- g. On June 29, 2017 ROC partnered with Diversity and Equity Research Group in organizing a Building Cultural Bridges. This event, attended by 300 people, was organized to welcome Syrian refugees. Some Syrians spoke of their experiences as newcomers and Robyne and Louise delivered a presentation outlining ROC's contributions to the refugee cause.
- h. John and Deborah attended the St Paul's University Conference "Flight to Freedom" which gave an excellent historical perspective began in 1956 with the acceptance of Hungarian refugees. Angela and Margie attended a public panel segment which was hosted at the Museum of History, during which the 10-year-old daughter of the family we welcomed in March 2017 received a bookstore gift card award for her art work. ROC tutors encouraged her and her brother in creating their contest submissions.
- i. In February, Deborah and one of our supported persons attended a panel discussion and showing of the documentary, *"I Didn't Know Freedom Would Be So Cold: Gambian LGBTI Newcomers in Ottawa"* produced by Rainbow Haven, filmed and directed by Radamis Zaky, with support from the University of Ottawa's Refugee Hub. Discussions are



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- underway with the LGBT+ and Straight Alliance to bring the film and discussion to the Parish in the near future.
- j. Earlier this month Angela and Margie attended the screening of the film Human Flow which was presented by Amnesty International at the Mayfair Theatre to raise awareness of the forced mass displacement of populations on the global scale. ROC members in general show willingness and desire to access learning opportunities that equip us to “think global and act local”.
  - k. Louise has served as the guardian of ROC history over the decades in maintaining an archive of documents. We need to discern how we build on this historical record. Rado is involved in preliminary conversations with professors at Ottawa University regarding a process to make this history more accessible.

### *Challenges*

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We use a ‘three legged’ (time, talent and treasure) support model to continue our work in sponsoring and co-sponsoring, and, in particular in assisting the present significant increase in the newcomers who have literally appeared in desperation at our doorsteps or come through referrals from parishioners and the Catholic Center for Immigrants.

So much of our Ministry's work is on-going, often unpredictable, challenging and always gratifying.

With increasing workloads, new member recruitment is vital in providing the time and talent legs. The ROC Leadership is using an interview process to ensure a good fit between ROC goals and those of potential members.

To provide the 'treasure leg' of our support, we are grateful to the many parishioners who have answered our call on behalf of the people who have and continue to approach us for help.

In April after a Bulletin announcement, seeking financial resources, to meet our Refugee Claimants' financial needs to cover living expenses and basic needs, not available through any other means, parishioners generously contributed just over \$5,000. Half has already been spent on a child car seat, internet access, rent, food, clothing, cell phone access, transportation, diapers, medical examinations, bus passes, etc. The rest will quickly be accessed.

Words of thanks from the people we have supported include:

- "I don't know how to thank you and the Committee for doing this for me and my daughter.”
- "Please give my love and immeasurable appreciation to the Committee. God bless you all.”
- "ROC, you have my unquantifiable appreciation for life for helping me.”

### *Year Ahead*

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We were approached by the Syrian family we supported last year to sponsor family members. Preliminary steps are being made towards sponsoring their sister, brother-in-law, and four children, presently in a refugee camp in Jordan. Application forms are being filled out and \$10,000 has been raised towards the \$33,700 to \$40,000 required. More details to follow.