

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH



ANNUAL REPORT

June 11, 2019

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Pastor's Report	3
St. Joseph's Parish Mission Statement	4
Parish Pastoral Council Report	5-7
Finance Committee Report	8-9
Executive Director's Report	10-11
St. Joe's Supper Table Report	12
St. Joe's Women's Centre Report	13-15

Community Building Cluster	
English Conversation Ministry Report	16
Library Ministry Report	17
Welcome Desk Ministry Report	18-19

Faith Formation & Initiation Cluster	
Sacramental Faith Formation Report	20
Marriage Preparation Ministry Report	21

Liturgy & Music Cluster	
Bread Baking Ministry Report	22
Children's Liturgy of the Word Report	23
Gospel Players Ministry Report	24
Liturgical Environment Ministry Report	25
Music Ministry	26-27
Reflections Ministry Report	28

Pastoral Care & Social Justice Cluster	
Community Healing Service Report	29
Development and Peace Report	30-31
Funeral Ministry Report	32
One-on-One Experience of Healing Touch Ministry Report	33
Pastoral Visiting Ministry Report	34
Refugee Outreach Committee Ministry Report	35-38

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



Pastor's Report

Contact: Fr. Richard Beaudette, OMI

I begin this report with a word of gratitude. I am grateful for all the dedicated members of our parish who so faithfully seek to build community in so many ways. I express thanks in particular to the many people whose ministry continues the mission of the parish, whether in liturgy, leadership, social outreach, faith formation and many kinds of service to our community and to the broader community. I also acknowledge the parish staff who contribute in many and varied ways to the life of the community, ensuring that the more practical aspects of life as a parish are able to continue easily.

We have had an active year in the parish; I highlight a few activities:

- The Dialogue Circle for Renewed Relations has continued to function, gathering with members of Kateri Native Ministry and other city parishes to reflect on our call to foster healing and reconciliation. This year St. Joseph's hosted two major events – a panel discussion evening focussed on the Doctrine of Discovery and its effects on the life of all people of Canada and a prayer celebration of Healing and Reconciliation in which we incorporated various prayer traditions, reflecting on our call to be reconciled with one another and with creation.
- Seven evenings of dialogue entitled "Let's Talk" focussed on many areas of concern, including the sexual abuse issues that arose out of the Pennsylvania Grand Jury report and the gathering in Rome of the presidents of Bishops' Conferences to grapple with the issues surrounding abuse.
- Following up from the evening session given by Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR on "End of Life Issues" a year and a half ago, a Health and Wellness committee conducted a survey to assess the needs of people in the parish; the committee has developed plans to respond to those needs. Several initiatives were put in place for May and June and there are long range plans being developed.
- University Sunday evening celebrations took place from September to April which, judging from attendance, fulfills a strong need in the neighbourhood. Many young people who stay in Ottawa over the summer participate in the Saturday evening and Sunday morning liturgies from May to August. I am grateful for the involvement of many university students in various ministries, especially in the faith formation of our children preparing for sacraments.
- Anointing of the Sick was celebrated at all the liturgies on the third weekend of February. Many people participated in the sacrament and expressed great appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate this sacrament in the context of a community celebration.
- Celebrations of the communal form of Reconciliation were held in Advent and Lent. Attendance has increased, and many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate this sacrament as a community in the context of an adapted Liturgy of Hours celebration.
- Walking retreats with Young Adults during the summer months were enjoyable and an excellent opportunity to explore the wonders of creation in a prayerful context.

As we move into the summer hiatus, I wish all members of the parish a very relaxing and rejuvenating summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Beaudette, OMI
Pastor



St. Joseph's Parish 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 (PPC)

Contact: Roslyn Brown, Chair

The Mission of the parish guides the work of the Parish Pastoral Council.

In looking back at the reporting year, July 2018 through to June 2019, we can see each of the aspects of the Mission fulfilled in the work of each of the four clusters, made up of the individual ministries of the parish (see the remainder of this Annual Report for details of their activities this year). Whether or not parishioners are active in a ministry this year, the Mission is reflected first of all in what each of us, the individuals who make up the parish, do.

People are seen to welcome strangers, at the time of the liturgies and at other, less formal, moments. In this they are also witnessing to Christ. Most ministries have an element of discernment in their work, whether explicit or implicit. And all ministries serve: at times the service is internal to the ministry (we all need help at one moment or another; we also need to be provided with an opportunity to give) and often the service is external (singing at Sunday liturgies, feeding the people who come to the Supper Table, to give two examples).

The work of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) for the 2018 – 2019 year is presented under two broad headings, Pastoral Care, the main thrust of the PPC, and Administration, and can be seen to fulfill the Mission of the parish.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Survey: Much of the work of the Council this year arose in response to the Pastoral Survey which was undertaken in April 2018. On each weekend that April, a new survey for a different Cluster was made available to parishioners attending the masses of the weekend. The questionnaires were also made available on the website. Quite a good response to the surveys was achieved. Below is the breakdown per weekend/cluster of the number of responses.

Number of Surveys returned

CLUSTER	# Returned	Made Available	# Ministries
Formation	93	April 7/8 2018	8
Community	70	April 14/15 2018	9
Prayer	67	April 21/22 2018	18
Service	55	April 28/29 2018	7
TOTAL	285		42

Front Page (Quantitative): The front of each week's survey listed the ministries of that week's Cluster, asking (1) if the respondent was involved in the particular ministry; (2) if the ministry met their needs; (3) if the ministry met the parish's needs; and (4) if changes were necessary. For the most part, for any particular ministry, the response to (1) indicated that the respondent was not involved in the ministry. Those who said that they were involved in the ministry were invited to answer the three additional questions. In most cases, these questions were not answered. In the final analysis, the questions on the front of the survey did not yield particularly useful information.



Back Page (Qualitative): The back of the survey provided open-ended questions, and it is here that more useful and interesting information was provided. The questions pertained to (1) suggested changes, if the respondent had indicated a need for change; (2) should any ministry be removed; and (3) what new ministry they might suggest for this Cluster.

Below is a summary of the "amount" of comments received, admittedly a subjective analysis. As can be seen by the combination of "minimal comments" and "more extensive comments," approximately half the respondents had one or more comments to add to their survey.

Ratings: 0 = No comment; 1 = minimal comments; 2 = more extensive comments

CLUSTER

Formation	Total Count "0"	Total Count "1"	Total Count "2"	SUM	COMBINE '1' and '2'
	45	40	8	93	48
Community	Total Count "0"	Total Count "1"	Total Count "2"	SUM	COMBINE '1' and '2'
	39	15	16	70	31
Prayer	Total Count "0"	Total Count "1"	Total Count "2"	SUM	COMBINE '1' and '2'
	32	20	15	67	35
Service	Total Count "0"	Total Count "1"	Total Count "2"	SUM	COMBINE '1' and '2'
	28	22	5	55	27

Some themes were noted in the comments throughout all Clusters. Major Themes: In various ways, people asked for more information about the particular ministries, about the parish and about the parish in the world. A second theme, again found throughout all Cluster responses, was the desire to develop opportunities for community building and for social gatherings. A third theme was the request for (more) opportunities to involve older children and teens both in the Sunday liturgy and in social/physical activities. Minor Themes: Frequently people spoke of their concern about stretching too thin the time and energies of ministry volunteers, which then lead to suggesting that adding "new" ministries would further this burden. Particular note was made of the of Welcome Desk ministry and the Funeral Preparation ministry, both being praised for the fine and important work they do. Pastoral Visiting (Sandy Hill and hospitals) was mentioned several times, positively and asking for additional volunteers. Overall, the comments section provided very positive feedback, both in terms of compliments and of practical suggestions, with almost 100% of comments being of this nature.

The work of the Parish Pastoral Council this year, after examining the results of the surveys, was addressed to some aspect(s) of the first two themes, i.e. the need for information and the desire for more social and community building activities.

Information: Interest in knowing about the various ministries of the parish was addressed in a significant way by the February 2019 "St. Joseph's Ministries: Ours to Discover." Held in the parish hall, each ministry was invited to be represented by ministry volunteers and handouts. While a few ministries were not represented, the majority were. In addition to the ministry tables, an area in the center of the room was reserved for children's activities, with volunteers present to oversee and manage the children, allowing the parents/caregivers the opportunity to browse the tables.

Interest in knowing more about the Roman Catholic faith was responded to by Fr. Richard who offered once-a-month evening sessions on various topics. Seven of these sessions were offered over the year with good attendance. Another vehicle for providing information covering topics ranging from theological to spiritual, to social justice is the New Spirit Newsletter. Published monthly, it is coordinated by Fr. Richard.



The Parish Guidebook was brought up-to-date this Spring and is found on the parish's web site (<http://www.st-josephs.ca/publications/parish-guidebook/>).

Community Building and for Social Gatherings: On Sunday October 14, 2018, a tremendous opportunity for gathering together was provided by a Harvest Fair and this proved to be both a time of community building and a social time. The two Sunday masses were combined into one and festivities started half an hour after the conclusion in the Parish Hall. In that half hour, parishioners were invited to participate in what was called "Community Sunday," a time for getting to know each other over coffee at the back of the church before heading downstairs for the subsequent celebration.

In January, the Council decided to provide a "mini-social" one weekend a month for each of the masses. The aim is to keep it simple and attractive to parishioners. While it was hoped that this initiative would begin in the Spring of 2019, already scheduled events conflicted with this, and it was decided to postpone this until the Autumn.

On May 2, 2019, a very well attended Volunteer Appreciation Night was put on by the Parish Pastoral Council. While providing an opportunity to thank the volunteers for the many spirit-inspired hours of self-giving, it also was very clearly a community building activity as people moved between tables, chatting with a different set of volunteers at each table.

Administrative Work

Finances: The Parish Financial Council (PFC) Treasurer, through monthly attendance at the Parish Pastoral Council meetings, kept the PPC apprised of the state of the parish's finances. Working closely with the PFC, the Parish Pastoral Council provided input to the PFC concerning the draft budget prepared in the Autumn; the PPC ultimately approved the finalized budget for the year 2019 (see Financial Report).

Membership in the Parish Pastoral Council: At this time, we bid goodbye to two members of council, Robert Orser and Paul Roche. Both are thanked with tremendous gratitude for their presence and their work provided to the PPC and ultimately to the Parish.

The PPC also has had the opportunity to look at its remaining membership and to determine the need for new members. The results of the examination this year are as follows:

- **Continuing members:** (1 year left in term) Tim Phelan – member at large; Joan O'Connell – Pastoral Care and Social Justice Cluster representative; Brian Lee – University Mass representative.
- **Members returning:** Roslyn Brown – member at large; Robert Sykes – member at large; Donna Rietschlin – Liturgy Cluster representative.
- **Nominees:** Brian Ouellette – member at large; Mireille Brosseau – member at large; Marian Kisas – Community Building Cluster representative; Renee Siraco – Faith Formation and Initiation Cluster representative.

As there are four open positions and four nominees, these nominees are acclaimed.

I would like to thank all the current members of the PPC for their continuing support and assistance that makes my task and the work of the Council successful.

Respectfully submitted,
Roslyn Brown
Chair



Finance Committee

Contact: Greg Forestell

Accomplishments

The Parish finished 2018 in a strong financial position:

- Our Net Assets are slightly higher again this year while our surplus of revenue over expenses is lower than last year reflecting the amortization of our significant investment in both the Roof and Rectory HVAC.
- Again this year our operations are balanced providing a small surplus after amortization.
-

Management of Investments: In July 2018, we transferred our GIC investments from our banker to Castellum. While the investments remain very conservative, we have already noticed performance improvements.

Capital Planning and Building Working Group incorporated: The sub-committee of Finance Committee conducted a thorough inspection of the physical assets of the Church and Rectory prioritizing much of the work needed. In 2019, the highest priorities will be costed and a long-term strategic plan for maintaining our physical plant will be developed.

Sources of Revenue Working Group: Another sub-committee of Finance Committee began the work of developing strategies for enhancing revenues to cover increasing operating costs and preparing for the investments needed in our physical plant. A preliminary report will be made in 2019.

Supper Table Accounting: This year began the process of clearly identifying the Parish's financial contribution to the Supper Table. The contribution has continued to grow and this year reached over \$56,000. Beginning in 2020, the Parish contribution to Supper Table will be a budgeted item.

Finance Committee Membership: This year we said good-bye to long standing members of PFC who have been key to ensuring a strong financial position for the Parish: Patricia Malakail and John Cuddihy. New members to the committee are John Mark Keyes, Nancy Keyes and Paolo Siraco.

Challenges

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 are just under 40% of overall revenue. In recent years our financial position has been helped by growing Parking and Rentals revenue. However, rentals are at the point they cannot be improved by more rentals and in 2018 we saw a significant decrease in Parking revenues which we anticipate continuing now that the LRT and other major construction projects are ending. This increases the importance of finding new sources of revenue.

The Parish has promoted the use of automated banking donations over the past several years. This helped improve revenue initially. It has become apparent that, while those parishioners who use envelopes tend to provide annual increases, we are not seeing similar increases from parishioners who use automated donating. We are considering ways to prompt them to review their donation levels.



Changes

Early in 2019 we lost Marcus Hewitt as a member and our Financial Analytics lead. In October 2019, Greg Forestell will finish his second term and stepping down. Replacements for them are being sought.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Forestell
Treasurer and Interim Chair



Executive Director's Report

Contact: Christopher Adam, Executive Director

This past year represented a period of staffing changes at St. Joseph's Parish, as well as major capital investments in our church, new programmes and renewed partnerships.

Staffing Changes

At the end of 2018, Brian Ouellette left his position as Coordinator of Faith Formation and Young Adult Ministry. We were fortunate to have Andrew Pump on staff as Manager of the Supper Table, but with a background in the Church's social teaching and an active member of our church community, he was able seamlessly to assume the leadership of our young adult and faith formation ministry. We advertise all Parish positions on our website, in the Friday Facts newsletter of the Archdiocese and on Charity Village as well. Yet the present demographic realities of the Catholic Church in this part of the world mean that building a qualified pool of candidates for many positions within the Church, especially for those requiring a knowledge of the Sacraments, liturgy, Church teaching and pastoral care, is challenging.

In autumn 2018, Brandon Rushton, our Office Manager for three years, also left the Parish to pursue a new career. While the Parish hired new part-time front office staff, David Trepanier, who has worked within the front office for a number of years, has done a commendable and conscientious job of assuming this new and expanded role.

In January 2019, the Parish hired a new Manager for the Supper Table. Ryan Mitchell came with experience in mission and outreach work serving the margins of society. As he began learning the complexities of what is ultimately a very challenging, detail-oriented and labour-intensive position, he also launched new initiatives, including a movie afternoon for Supper Table guests, as well as jam sales. Both of programs were a success. Additionally, Ryan has been successful in building new partnership—including greater cooperation with and funding from the Parkdale Food Centre.

In Spring 2019, the Parish, responding to a recent survey of parishioners and the work of the Health and Wellness Working Group chaired by Roshene Lawson, launched a Health and Wellness program, which is presently unfolding in our community. We were pleased to hire, on a contract basis, Michelle Miller, our former Coordinator of Faith Formation and Young Adult Ministry, to coordinate this program in May and June 2019.

At the end of June 2019, we will be saying goodbye to our Finance Coordinator, Saul Mendoza, who has worked in the Parish for nearly four years. We are in the process of hiring for this position.

Our team of management level staff, which includes 12 employees, meets monthly to discuss questions of broad interest to all departments, as well as to provide departmental updates, while smaller groups of staff meet separately as part of different working groups or at a departmental level.

Capital Investments

In 2018, the Parish replaced the entire roof above both the rectory and the sacristy for a cost of \$90,000. Over the past three years, the Parish has invested more than \$335,000 on roof replacement, including above the church. Over the last five years, our two largest capital investments, namely the roof and the upgrade to our HVAC system (specifically the replacement of one of two boilers), carried a cost of nearly \$700,000. We have been able to proceed with these major capital investments thanks to a large bequest



received ten years ago and generous parishioner contributions to capital funds over the years. Additionally, parishioners who use our hall will have noticed that in 2018 and in early 2019, we continued to replace the chairs and tables with more comfortable and user-friendly furniture. Other significant capital projects in the second half of 2018 and the first part of 2019 included the replacement of the rectory deck, thanks to work by Dan Handfield and Nick Cacciato, as well as new windows for the Women's Centre.

New Events

The 2018 year saw two new community events in the Parish, both with a fundraising and community-building component. The first was the 40th anniversary Supper Table dinner in the Parish hall; based on much positive feedback, we will be making this an annual dinner and an opportunity to thank volunteers in the Supper Table. The second new event was the Harvest Fair, which drew in not only our parishioners, but local Sandy Hill residents, artists and family businesses as well.

Partnerships

In 2018 and the first months of 2019, we have built on some of our existing partnerships, including that with the Community Foundation of Ottawa and with the Loaves and Fishes Fund, both generous funders of our Parish programming. As well, in 2018 and 2019, I have endeavoured to reach out to other churches and community groups in the hopes of new partnerships. In 2018 and early 2019, Image Sandy, the local print paper, offered the Parish free or heavily discounted advertising space on several occasions. As well, I have met with representatives of churches engaged in work similar to ours, most recently with the pastor of St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Vanier. Additionally, I continue to work with Jewish Family Services.

Closing Thoughts

In my seven years as Executive Director of St. Joseph's Parish, one of the things that I have come to appreciate the most about working in this position is the pastoral, caring and affirming approach I see every day in the workplace and in our church more generally. While differences in opinion will occur and workplace challenges do arise, the ethos that serves as the foundation of what we do as a Parish--the belief in the dignity of everyone and that our colleagues, guests and partners are all created in the image of God--compels us to respond with thoughtfulness and patience, even in difficult circumstances. These values help to create a collegial and caring environment for our team.

Thank you to all staff, to volunteers and parishioners for sustaining the mission of our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Adam
Executive Director



St. Joe's Supper Table

Contact: Ryan Mitchell, Manager of the Supper Table

In 2018 the St. Joe's Supper Table continued in its mission to provide healthy home-cooked meals to all those who come to our doors. Our numbers were relatively the same as in previous years serving approximately 2100 meals a month. Our Food Bank saw an increase in usage among the residents of the Sandy Hill neighborhood and for the year we helped meet the grocery needs of around 200 families each month.

We have also grown closer to meeting our goals developed in partnership with the Food Service Providers Network and Ottawa Public Health, of ensuring healthy meals based off Canada's updated nutrition guide. On top of that we have continued to provide vegetarian alternatives at every meal as well as meals that comply with religious and cultural requirements.

With ensuring the quick use of all donated food and prioritizing the purchasing of vegetables over meat, we were able to shrink our deficit by approximately \$20,000. Operating costs remain larger than our revenue, but through your generous support every year, the donations from the community and parish, and the help of St. Joseph's Church, we are still able to feed everyone who comes to us in need.

In the Fall of 2018 we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Supper Table with a fundraising dinner which brought in an additional \$20,000 dollars. The Supper Table is an important aspect of the community of St. Joe's and of the over 90 volunteers who come every week to help serve and cook for our guests.

Ryan Mitchell took over as Supper Table Manager in January 2019. Over the past few months, the Supper Table continues to serve an average of 70 guests per night.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Pump
Former Manager of the Supper Table



St. Joe's Women's Centre

Contact: Marsha Wilson

Accomplishments

Below are approximate statistics that reflect the timeframe of January 2018-December 2018:

Total Visits: 10398
Total Meals Served: 11239
Total Amount of Grocery Hampers: 2011
School Snack Program, "Snack in my Pack": 487
Pet Food Cupboard Distribution: 375
Back to School Backpack Program:

- Elementary Bags: 29
- High School: 16
- Total: 45

Christmas Sponsorship Program: 22
Summer Camp/Waupoo's Family Farm Sponsorship: 5

Thank you to the Ottawa Food Bank for their generous support towards our grocery and meal programs.

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
Kids Up Front
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
Shoobox 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
Stepping Stones



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

2018 New Program Initiatives

- New Beginnings (an 8-week holistic program that teaches a combination of Life skills and employability skills to women of all backgrounds, thus assisting 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)
- Mentorship Program (Connecting motivated participants with affluent women in our community to assist them in reaching their goals)
- Hair Cut Program (available every second Tuesday)
- We have developed a greater Partnership with The Well/La Source, which included conjoined activities, outings and shared holiday meals. (The Well/La Source delivers programs that support women in meeting their basic needs, making their life choices and participating in their community)

Challenges

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 and conducting program surveys.

Finances

2018 City of Ottawa Grant Funding \$352,659.00

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support The City of Ottawa.

Quality of Life Awards: \$9,430.97

- Honoring Garry Janz, Karen Baker-Anderson & Dr. Jeff Turnbull

Inspire & Ignite Gala: \$25,000

2018 Major Contributors:

- Estate \$15, 000
- 2Keys \$1,000
- Royal LePage Shelter Foundation: \$5,000
- Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception: \$5,000
- Ottawa Community Foundation (Mentorship Program): \$7,950

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

Year Ahead

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



St. Joseph's Parish Annual Report - June 11, 2019

- Our annual Quality of Life Awards will take place Thursday November 7th, 2019. This year marks our 20th Anniversary of the Quality of Life Awards!
- In collaboration with several other local Women's Organizations, St. Joe's Women's Centre once again will host an International Women's Day event with over 150 women and children in attendance. This past year's theme being Health & Wellness.
- 2019 New Initiatives:
 - This year we will be concentrating on completing a 3-5-year strategic plan. Lise Clement, from Lansdowne Consulting Group Strategy, will be assisting us as a Strategy Facilitator Consultant to guide us through the following activities:
 - An environmental scan and SWOT analysis to better understand our strategic context
 - The review of our mission, vision and values
 - The identification of strategic areas of focus
 - The setting of strategic and operational priorities for the next year and beyond
 - Agreement on performance measures

Respectfully submitted
Marsha Wilson
Director



English Conversation

Contact: Michael Richard

The group which is supported by St Joe's and a number of other Ottawa Churches has had a very active and successful year. We are very appreciative of St Joe's ongoing support and in particular the publication of information regarding the program in the Church's weekly bulletin.

With the exception of breaks during the Christmas and summer periods, we have met every Wednesday evening at our location at St Paul's University.

We usually have between 12 and 20 volunteers each meeting and an equal or larger number of participants (often newcomers to Canada such as immigrants, refugees, students, etc).

We have continued to focus on our main goal of enabling each participants to have a one-on-one conversation with a volunteer who speaks English fluently.

We have a relaxed, inclusive and friendly atmosphere at our sessions to encourage social interaction and to enable language skills to be improved in a supportive, friendly and enjoyable way.

Challenges

Our greatest challenge remains to have a sufficient number of volunteers to engage in English conversations with participants. There are occasions when there are surges of participants and not enough volunteers so we are always looking for new volunteers.

Finances

There are no expenses incurred by the Group as St Paul's University has very kindly and generously given us space at no cost for our weekly sessions.

Year Ahead

We plan to continue to meet every Wednesday evening from 7 to 8:30 in room L- 142 of La Framboise Hall at St Paul's University, 233 Main St., Ottawa. Anyone wishing to improve his or her spoken English or anyone interested in becoming a volunteer is encouraged to contact Michael Richard by phone at (613) 744-2429 or by email at Michaelrichard2008@hotmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Richard
Coordinator



Library

Contact: Elizabeth Behrens

Accomplishments

- Continual Library growth in 2018 through book donations, for a total collection of 2,382 items
- Circulation rose to 94 loans + in-house use of 108 books
- Weeding of dated materials
- Weekly promotion via "Library Notes" in the "Parish Bulletin"
- Donation of bookshelves + Maintenance construction of additional shelves

Challenges

- Library access before, between and after Sunday Masses, in response to Parish survey comments
- Regular updating of the Library online catalogues on the Parish webpage

Finances

- N/A

Year Ahead

- Liaison with other Parish ministries to promote Library use
- Maintenance construction of additional shelves to house collection expansion

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Behrens
Coordinator



Welcome Ministry

Contact: Maria Virjee
613-234-6000
mvsali2@gmail.com

Accomplishments

- 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 if desired by newcomer – initial meeting over coffee, opportunities to ask questions about St. Joe's, meeting other parishioners over a relaxed meal at somebody's home.
- 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; 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.

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
- Raising 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.
- Recruiting new volunteers for the 5:00 Saturday Welcome Desk. This effort has been going on for quite a while but so far without success. There has been no response to notice in the bulletin so far.

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 **Challenges** give a good idea of what continuous efforts are required to keep this Ministry functioning effectively.



And... just a few figures

Welcome letters sent: 27

Number of welcoming meals: 5

Number of new parishioners at welcoming meals: 6

Number of welcoming parishioners at meals: 22

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Virjee
Coordinator



Sacramental Faith Formation

Contact: Andrew Pump (2018-Brian Ouellette)

Accomplishments

- Confirmed 3 young people at the University Mass on January 14, 2018
- 9 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
- 3 young people celebrated First Eucharist on May 20, 2018
- 12 young people celebrated First Reconciliation on May 19, 2018
- 1 Adult celebrated Confirmation at the Cathedral on May 2018 (RCIA)
- 4 young adults helped as catechists for Confirmation, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation.

Challenges

- 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 (optional):

- Confirmation registration will again take place in October/November
- Confirmation preparation will take place November/December
- Confirmation Mass took place in early February
- 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

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Pump
Coordinator



Marriage Preparation

Contact: Andrew Pump (2018-Brian Ouellette)

Accomplishments

- Fall 2018 Marriage Preparation Course had 11 couples
- Spring 2018 Marriage Preparation Course had 8 couples
- 5 parish couples volunteer as "facilitator couples" during the weekends
- 4 FOCCUS Facilitators work with couples on their FOCCUS Inventories

Challenges

- 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

Finances

Registration fees helped offset cost of supplies.

Year Ahead (optional):

- Fall and Spring Marriage Preparation Weekends will go on as usual.
 - Spring 2019 Weekend was on May 4/5, 2019 and had 13 couples
 - Fall Weekend is scheduled for October 26/27, 2019

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Pump
Coordinator



Bread Baking

Contact: Clara Nasello CND

There are 16 bread bakers who bake bread twice or three times from September to June. Petra Nortier Hughes invited the bread bakers for a social and a bread demonstration on Sun. May 5th. The hope is that the new bread bakers will take advantage of this opportunity and that the usual bread bakers will participate and gain tips to better the bread baking. Unfortunately, only a few were able to attend this.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara Nasello CND
Coordinator



Children's Liturgy of the Word

Contact: Toni Tarasco

Accomplishments:

There have been increasing numbers of children participating in all age groups, with relatively more (new) families attending the 9:30 am mass. The Children's Christmas Pageant (2018) and Children's Stations of the Cross (2019) received positive feedback and were a great success!

Also, we seem to have found a way to successfully manage the previous running issue with the children leaving the church for Children's Liturgy of the Word. By having the leaders display the designated group signs, children are able to gather by the leaders and walk with their group out of the church.

Challenges

- Lack of consistency with availability with current volunteer roster. Possibility of setting a minimum requirement of 2 Sundays/ month to ensure that all positions are filled for the Children's Liturgy gatherings.
- Recruiting new (student, parents, or other) volunteers to get involved with leading and/or assisting at gatherings. Used the University of Ottawa's Michaëlle Jean Centre for Global and Community Engagement online volunteer/ job board to recruit volunteers in the Fall of 2018, but had no success.
-

Finances

N/A

Year Ahead

- Year-end celebration (June 2019)
- Children's Liturgy of the Word begins/ Welcome back celebration (September 2019)
- Children's Christmas Pageant (December 2019)

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Tarasco
Coordinator



Gospel Players

Contact: Sr. Connie Goulet cgoulet58@gmail.com

About the Ministry:

The Gospel Players are children who help bring the Gospels to life by acting them out. In this way, the message of Jesus becomes more alive for them and helps spread the Good News. These children present the Gospel dramatization from the Children's Lectionary at the 9:30 Family Mass the 3rd Sunday of each month and often participate in the Christmas and Good Friday Service.

Two short practices usually 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

Accomplishments of the Gospel Players are best highlighted by their comments:

- It's fun, good use of time, and I learned more about the bible.
- I like being involved in the Church. And I like helping the little kids to do it too.
- It makes the Church more of a community. It allows more young people to get involved.

Challenges

A challenge we experience is that many children are involved in sports, dance etc. on Sunday mornings. As a result, it can be difficult to find "actors," especially if the Family Mass falls on a holiday weekend.

Year Ahead:

Anyone interested in joining the "Gospel Players" or in learning more about this Ministry, please see 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Tarasco
Coordinator



Liturgical Environment

Contact: Dorothy Collins & John Weir

“The Liturgical Environment Committee works in collaboration with the Liturgical Planning Committee, designing and installing large scale, multi-media installations in the liturgical space at St. Joe’s. These installations attempt to harmonize with The Music, Reflections and other St. Joe’s Ministries in reinforcing The Word as presented in the Gospels.”

<http://www.st-josephs.ca/liturgy-music-cluster-2/>

Accomplishments

We, Dorothy Collins and John Weir, have coordinated this ministry for fifteen years.

With the help of many, we have grown into the space and have become comfortable and familiar with it.

We have collected a wealth of experience and materials and have enjoyed and appreciated the challenges the space has given us. We are grateful for the encouragement and support that the St. Joe’s community has extended to us.

Challenges

The time has come to pass on the leadership of this committee. We are looking for new coordinator(s) who would be ready to prepare the space for the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the 2019-2020 liturgical year.

If desired and needed, Dorothy and I would transition with the new coordinator(s) providing mentorship and support as they become familiar and grow into the St. Joe’s liturgical space.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Collins and John Weir
Coordinators



Music Ministry

Ministry Contact: Jamie Loback, Music Director

Accomplishments:

The Music Ministry achieved the following goals:

1. **High Liturgical Seasons:** Easter 2018 and Christmas 2018 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, Risa Tonita, Deborah Dorner, and Jillian Beacon are also to be thanked for filling in for the Music Director when he is away.
2. **Fund-raising:** Our Christmas Concert in December 2018 raised \$2000. Proceeds from this concert were donated to St. Joseph's Supper Table.

Challenges:

- **Recruitment:** The Music Ministry in general continues to recruit new members to the choirs; its membership in 2018 has remained relatively stable. The Saturday 5:00pm is experiencing a shortage of members but we have a faithful and dedicated group who continue to serve the 5pm community. 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 2019. 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 or picnics) 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 2018, the Music Ministry was required to spend a moderate sum on score/hymnal replacement, but it should be noted that no significant expenses in this regard have been incurred for several of the preceding years.

Finances:

- The Music Ministry was within budget in the 2018 fiscal year.
- To date the Music Ministry remains under budget for the 2019 fiscal year; it is likely that the Ministry's 2018 expenses will be well within the approved operational budget. Any additional expenses such significant maintenance on our grand piano will be address through fundraising.

Fund-raising Initiatives (2018):

Music Ministry Concerts:

- **Music Ministry Concert:** Christmas Concert - December 2018: The Music Ministry raised approx. \$2000 for the Supper Table.



Year Ahead:

Fund-raising Concerts:

- Music Ministry Christmas Concert (December 2019) – estimated revenue: \$2000

Programming Considerations:

- Recruitment and orientation of new members
- Each year we introduce new hymns into our liturgy. We will continue this in 2019 in order to keep our music relevant.



Reflections

Contact: Eleanor Rabnett
rabnete@gmail.com
613-241-0964

Accomplishments

As members of St. Joe's Reflections Ministry, we who are lay parishioners and ordained clergy, attempt to illuminate new dimensions of the Sunday Readings through reflections that are engaging, relevant, thought-provoking, true to the values and mission of our parish and Church and which respect the spirituality of our community.

Currently we are a team of 16 (including our Pastor, Fr. Richard Beaudette, OMI) with one who is being assessed.

We meet as a team regularly throughout the year for ongoing formation, prayer and discussion.

Challenges

The choice of and continued involvement of individuals in the ministry is based on rigorous assessment and discernment which is made up of the pastor, the Liturgy Director and the Reflection Ministry Coordinator.

Finances

N/A

Year Ahead

N/A

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Rabnett
Coordinator



Community Healing

Contact - Clara Nasello CND

One on One Experience of Healing Touch:

This is held on the First Friday of every month. Norah McMahon, Helena Robb, Colette Chartrand and Clara Nasello are available for those who sign up.

Most months, one person signed up. Three times 1 person signed up. Twice, 2 persons signed up. Regardless of numbers, one of us was always happy to be there. (See below)

Other:

- **Healing Prayer** First Sunday of every month, the healing team - Colleen and Brian Kerr, Elaine Rankin, Norah McMahon, Helen Robb and Clara Nasello - offer healing prayer after the 5 p.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. masses. We are available for those who wish to come and the numbers vary from between 1 and 10.
- **A Candle for Peace** Norah McMahon introduced the idea that we light a candle for peace throughout Advent to the New Year.
- **Lamentation for The Earth** Norah also introduced the idea of having a Lamentation for the Earth on Good Friday morning in the hall. It was beautifully set up with a labyrinth and tea lights around it and the Earth in the centre. This was prepared by Maureen Bosch, and Donna Coulterman and her husband Florian. There were 50 persons in attendance. Maureen and Donna led us in prayer, song and walking the Labyrinth. It was a very moving experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara Nasello CND
Coordinator



Development and Peace

Contact: Larry Martin

About the Ministry

Being involved with this social justice, environmental and international organization of the Canadian Catholic Church gives parishioners an opportunity to put their faith into action and do what Jesus asks of us all in the Bible. By doing parish education and helping to raise funds for Development and Peace partners, members and supporters can help support struggling sisters and brothers in the Global South. With our participation in education and action campaigns here in Canada, we help to raise awareness about the reality of social injustice in the Global South, our complicity in it and how we can be agents of change. Development and Peace operates on a budget of around \$40,000,000 annually, a large portion of which comes from the annual Share Lent collection on the 5th Sunday of Lent, known as Solidarity Sunday.

Accomplishments

The theme of the 2018-19 Share Lent campaign was "Share the Journey" which focused on the world-wide situation of refugees, migrants and immigrants. We had a successful Stations of the Cross, in partnership with the Adult Faith Formation ministry, based on this theme during Lent with about 12 participants after each 11:30 mass reflecting on Jesus' passion through the lens of forced migrants. As well, several people from the parish participated in a five kilometer "Share the Journey" walk in April focusing on refugees and migrants, beginning in Gatineau and finishing in Ottawa and which terminated with a mass at Notre-Dame cathedral. They walked with other members and supporters from the Ottawa and Gatineau dioceses. Finally, and as has been the tradition at St. Joe's for a number of years, the reflection on the Sunday prior to Solidarity Sunday was offered by a member of the Development and Peace committee.

A very important education and action campaign which Development and Peace continues to work on with other Canadian non-governmental organizations is the establishment of an independent ombudsperson to receive complaints of people in the Global South whose lives, livelihoods and environments have been harmed by the operations of Canadian mining, oil and gas, and garment sector companies. Urging the federal government to instigate an office of the ombudsperson to enable harmed people and communities to seek redress has been a major focus of Development and Peace in three education and action campaigns over the last ten years. The Government of Canada created the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE) office in 2018 and recently appointed its first ombudsperson. But Development and Peace and other like-minded NGO's are concerned that the office is not independent and may lack the powers and resources to be effective in bringing justice to the people of the Global South who have been harmed by the activities of Canadian companies. Many parishioners at St. Joseph's have participated in the education and action campaigns on this topic and the committee will continue to keep parishioners informed on developments.

Challenges:

At St. Joe'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 led solidarity with people of the South. We also try to focus on issues of poverty and indigenous peoples in Canada.



Finances:

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 \$1000 go to Development and Peace.

Year Ahead

Regular bulleting announcements give information on the organization, work, partners and emergency appeals of Development and Peace. Information on the organization is available from Larry Martin at ldmartin@sympatico.ca and from the national website www.devp.org

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Martin
Coordinator



Funeral Ministry

Contact: Sharon Gravelle

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 to 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 a wake and the reception in the church.

Accomplishments:

The funeral ministry team assisted 14 families with funeral preparations in 2018.

Since we began the funeral ministry in 2010, the team has provided assistance for over 100 funerals. Families express much gratitude for the help and dedication of our ministry. When we reached the 100-funeral mark we had a wonderful pot luck dinner in the summer to celebrate our service and everyone received a certificate of appreciation for their work and dedication to the funeral ministry.

We held our memorial service on November 10th and the team served their homemade baking at a reception following the service. A sense of community and healing was present.

We had some other requests from people wishing to pre-plan their own funeral or that of a loved one. Eighteen parishioners signed up for a Funeral Preparation workshop for May, 2019.

Challenges:

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

Year Ahead:

We will continue to minister with compassion to families who have lost loved ones. We plan to have the annual memorial service in November.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon Gravelle
Coordinator



One-on-One Experience of Healing Touch

Contact Clara Nasello CND

This is held on the First Friday of every month. Norah McMahon, Helena Robb, Colette Chartrand and Clara Nasello are available for those who sign up. Most months one person signed up. Three times 1 person signed up. Twice, 2 persons regardless of numbers one of us was always happy to be there.

First Sunday of every month the healing team: Colleen and Brian Kerr, Elaine Rankin, Norah McMahon, Helen Robb and Clara Nasello offer healing prayer after the 5pm, 9:30am and 11:30am. We are available for those who wish to come and the numbers vary from 1 – 10.

Norah McMahon introduced the idea that we light a candle for peace throughout Advent to the New Year.

Norah also introduced the idea of having a Lamentation for the Earth on Good Friday morning in the hall. It was beautifully set up with a labyrinth and tea lights around it and the Earth in the centre. This was prepared by Maureen Bosch, and Donna Coulterman and her husband Florian. There were 50 persons in attendance. Maureen and Donna led us in prayer, song and walking the Labyrinth. It was a very moving experience. Clara Nasello CND Co-ordinator.

Respectfully submitted
Clara Nasello CND
Coordinator



Pastoral Visiting

Contact: Kathleen Allan

Accomplishments

Our visiting ministry is three-fold:

1. Residents at Rideau Place: the only retirement home in Sandy Hill. Each Thursday we bring communion to the residents and spend some time visiting with them. Attendance has gradually dwindled. We used to regularly have seven or eight, now it is one or two residents, occasionally more. As in most residences, staff changes are frequent as are the level of activities and the interest provided. For this reason, we go year round as we feel constancy helps remind people to come to the chapel each Thursday at 2:30 pm.
2. Sandy Hill residents: currently we have no regular home visits. For many years two volunteers brought communion to the private homes of two residents. Both elderly parishioners passed away in 2018, one at ninety-two, the other at eighty-eight years of age. Our volunteers attended both funerals and were appreciated by the families for the difference the ministry had made to their loved one's quality of life and peace of mind.
3. Roman Catholic patients in the Civic hospital: two days each week. As well, one volunteer takes communion to 2 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."

Challenges:

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.

Our biggest challenge:

- 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.

Year Ahead:

To work hand in hand with the Health and Wellness committee to serve our parishioners.

Respectfully submitted
Kathleen Allan
Coordinator



Refugee Outreach Committee

ROC Leadership Team and Membership

John Weir, Angela Murphy and Margie Cain have served as the ROC Leadership Team for this past year, with Deborah Dorner as secretary. Our roster of ROC members consists of: Robyne Warren, Chris Gillen, Connie Goulet, Dona Bowers, Ariat Abala and Jane Armstrong. Ági Vezer and Radamis Zaky were on leaves of absence.

Our work with the ROC is often intense and time-consuming. We have formed a Settlement Team consisting of individuals who team up with ROC members to help with activities such as ESL tutoring, school registration, finding accommodation and employment, refugee hearing preparation, household tasks and acquiring furniture. Other tasks include accompaniment to legal, medical, government and settlement worker appointments, as well as assistance with applications for Permanent Residency, SIN #'s, Ontario ID cards, OHIP, etc. All members require police checks, signed acknowledgement of the Pastoral Code of Contact, and familiarity with the ROC Terms of Reference and its confidentiality clause.

Accomplishments

Currently we are working with 11 families consisting of 14 adults and 15 children in different stages of sponsorship application, settlement and integration processes.

Hosting

For the second year, at the request of the Catholic Centre for Immigrants, we have hosted a single mother of four children ages 7 and under who arrived in Canada as Inland Claimants. We are delighted to report that in March 2019 the family was successful in obtaining Protected Person status and is thus able to remain in Canada. Many members of the ROC and Settlement Team have supported this family in numerous ways: in preparing for the hearing, weekly skating with the children, weekly library visits, household tasks, facilitating a week at Waupoos Family Camp, etc. Perhaps most critically, we paid the fees associated with seeking Permanent Residence, worked with the assigned lawyer, filled out paperwork, and provided moral support throughout the process. Some of us were pleased to attend recently the First Communion of the two older children, while others ensured they had everything they needed for such a momentous and happy occasion.

The committee is updated regularly and we will continue our involvement for as long as it is needed.

Assisting and Advocating

We have more good news to report. For over three years, we have accompanied a newcomer as he succeeded in becoming a Permanent Resident. A momentous event recently occurred when his wife and the three-year-old daughter he had never met arrived in Canada. He graduated from the Ottawa Mission's Food Services Training Program and is currently employed at an Ottawa restaurant.

One Inland Claimant we have been assisting succeeded in becoming a Protected Person and is now able to apply to be a Permanent Resident; another family of two is awaiting a decision on Protected Person status and; a third individual is waiting for a hearing date.



The ROC and the Settlement Team have assisted each of these individuals with basic needs and connections to services and resources. Like others in fear for their lives who are unable to return to their countries, they amaze us with their resolve to become self-sufficient and to contribute to community life and ministries at St. Joe's.

Sponsorships

1. As part of its annual immigration planning, the Government of Canada approved 1,500 refugees to be resettled to Canada through the BVOR (Blended Visa Office Referred) program. Through a partnership with Jewish Family Services, we applied to be part of this program and were matched with an individual who arrived in Canada in January 2019. All resettlement costs are being covered by the Shapiro Foundation and private individuals. While we did not have to provide the start-up costs, because the federal stipend is rather insufficient, we provided some additional financial support.

Our role is to carry out the many activities associated with all aspects of life for the newcomer's first year in Canada. Specifically, we provided what is called a "soft landing"—accommodation in the home of a ROC member for the first six weeks in our country. Among other things, we also helped the newcomer find an apartment and a roommate to share costs, sign up for OHIP, attend English classes, have dental work done, and become familiar with our public transit.

The Catholic Centre for Immigrants, in partnership with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese—a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH), has set aside 13 spaces for St. Joe's ROC sponsorships and co-sponsorships. Applications have been made and we are awaiting decisions for the following three families:

2. A co-sponsorship application for a family of three, relatives of a Syrian family we previously hosted at the request of the Catholic Center for Immigrants, is in process. St. Joe's will release the funds provided by the Muslim Association of Canada, kept in trust, once the family arrives. Settlement support is being provided by the sponsoring family and friends.
3. A sponsorship application is in process for a family of six (soon to be seven), currently in Jordan, who are close relatives of a family previously sponsored by St. Joseph's. We will be doing the settlement for the first year in collaboration with the family here and taking responsibility for all costs associated with the resettlement. See Finances for more details)
4. A co-sponsorship application is in process for a family of four Eritrean refugees living in Israel who are unable to safely remain there or return home. The ROC is holding the sponsorship money in trust, contributed by a family member, to be dispersed upon the family's arrival. The sponsoring family member will assume responsibility for the settlement plan.

Collaborations

- Joan O'Connell, our new cluster representative for pastoral care and social justice, attended the ROC's April meeting to learn more about our ministry's work. We are very appreciative of the support and interest we have received from Parish Pastoral Council.
- Once again ROC members organized St. Joe's participation in the Amnesty International Write for Rights 2018 in December.
- ROC offered expertise and support to the Bytown Beavers who were part of the BVOR sponsorship with Jewish Family Services.
- We participated in St. Joe's Ministries: Ours to Discover, with the goal of educating parishioners about our work and to recruit new members.
- Parishioners have been very supportive of the OMRA grocery card program coordinated by Donna Rietschlin. The OMRA Shelter Alternatives Corporation is a small non-profit working with Ottawa Mennonite Community and other groups to help provide safe, clean, affordable housing for



refugees settling in Ottawa. Donna sent the following update in March 2019: "I want to share exciting news about OMRA (this is their name not an acronym) with you. One family we have supported with rental subsidies for three years will no longer need our subsidy beginning April 1. They are moving to a new place and the father is working full-time. The school-aged children are doing well in school and the twins born last fall are growing and healthy. And, in March we welcomed one new family to the rental subsidy program and are in conversation with two additional families. At the end of April, we may be subsidizing the rent of 13 families! If you recall in my earlier emails, we planned to offer rental subsidies to 12 families within this time frame. We are delighted to have the resources to do more than planned."

•

Participation in Community Events

All or some ROC members availed themselves of the following educational opportunities:

- Refugee Sponsorship Training Program's eight-part online training;
- Capital Rainbow Refuge training, over four in-person sessions, on all aspects of private sponsorship of refugees, with an emphasis on the intricacies of the settlement issues specific to LGBTQ refugees;
- Refugee 613 three-hour housing workshop;
- Refugee 613 full-day workshop on welcoming newcomers to Canada and the challenges they face;
- Refugee 613 evening information fair on the resources available to anyone working with refugees in Ottawa;
- Catholic Centre for Immigrants workshop on Trauma Informed Care.
- Without exception all of these educational opportunities were found to be very useful. ROC members are committed to keeping their knowledge up to date as challenges evolve.

Challenges

As stated earlier, we draw on the time, talent and treasure of the St. Joe's community, our ROC members, our Settlement Support team and the organizations we collaborate with to satisfy the needs of newcomers who appear at our doorsteps or come through referrals from parishioners and the Catholic Centre for Immigrants.

ROC interview guidelines are used to ensure a good fit between ROC goals and needs and potential members expectations, time and talents.

Finances

Besides providing the time and talent, parishioners have been very generous in sharing their treasure which has paid for living expenses, application fees, legal costs, children's car seats, translation services, loans, dental work, groceries, winter clothing, accommodation, etc.

Through parishioners' generosity we have raised \$35,750 for a family of seven from Syria presently in Lebanon. They are expected to arrive in about a year. Another \$2,450 remains to be raised to cover their monthly expenses and start-up costs for a year. If there is a desire to help with other expenses for this family, funds for interpreter costs and their travel loan repayment would be appreciated.

A link has been established on the St. Joseph Parish Canada Helps website for The Refugee Outreach Committee:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/131771990RR0006-saint-joseph-parish/>



Monthly or one-time donations can be made by credit card. Choose Refugee Outreach Committee from the drop down menu under APPLY YOUR DONATION TO A SPECIFIC FUND SET UP BY THIS CHARITY. Complete the Donor, Tax Receipt and Payment information and receive your receipt immediately. Contact John Weir jhnwr99@yahoo.ca for more information.

The Year Ahead

We are deeply committed to continue working with our 11 families. It is challenging and often unpredictable, but always gratifying. We are extremely grateful to our St. Joe's Parish, The Supper Table and The Women's Centre whose support allows us to respond to those who most need our services.

Respectfully submitted
Refugee Outreach Committee Leadership Team,
May 2019