

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Marie Bardswich

Rachel Charette

Ivon Chaumont

Mary MacGregor

Myron McCormick

Sue Quackenbush

Fr. Michael Williams

Guests: Doreen Merkas, Cathie Dagostino and Harvey Quackenbush – welcome!

Minutes

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 23, 2018 @7pm

Our PPC met on May 23rd and discussed the following pastoral issues:

- (1) Accessibility to our building;
- (2) Formation of a 5 Year Plan;
- (3) Norms for Parish Pastoral Councils;
- (4) Norms for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion;
- (5) Communion from the Chalice;
- (6) Parish Financial Update;
- (7) The New Evangelization Summit;
- (8) Sacramental Preparation and Evangelization;
- (9) Creating a Baptism Preparation Process according to the new norms of the Diocese;
- (10) Implementing the Financial protocols of the Diocese

Re: (1) Ivon has obtained 3 quotes for building a ramp to the front door of our Church in order to make it easier for our parishioners who have difficulty walking on stairs. He recommends obtaining the services of Laari Construction to build the ramp. The Finance Committee has agreed to this proposal and recommends we proceed with the project. After reviewing the plan on site, and having ample opportunities to ask questions and receive answers for clarity, the PPC unanimously supports the plan, with Laari Construction as the builder. Their quote is \$70,000 plus HST. To clarify: the ramp is not intended to make our Church handicap accessible, but rather is to provide easier access for those who find climbing stairs difficult, and to allow easier access for pallbearers at funerals. Fr. Michael will now proceed to submit our proposal to the Diocese for approval. Once received, Ivon is confident the work can begin in short order, and be completed (engineering and building) in about 3 weeks.

Re: (2) Will carry this over to the Fall.

Re: (3) Marie, Rachel and Sue have agreed to continue as PPC members under the new constitution, beginning their terms in the Fall. Ivon and Mary have decided to step back for now, and so will not continue. Myron (or another member from the Finance Committee) is an ex officio member, along with Fr. Michael. [As an aside, Fr. Michael is attempting to increase the number of members on the Finance Committee]. That leaves 3 openings for positions on the PPC, plus the 2 open positions for St. Bernardine's Parish. Fr. Michael will begin to advertise these openings for those who wish to serve on the PPC; if more than 3 applications are made, elections will be held in the Fall.

Re: (4) & (5) The new Chalices for Communion under both species have been ordered; Fr. Michael will be meeting with the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist soon (June 2/3) to provide them with the necessary training. The Ministers of Hospitality have begun their new role under article #27 related to the prevention of sacrilege.

Re: (6) Myron distributed the financial statements to the end of April. He indicated we are holding our own, financially; about on par or slightly better with where we were last year at this time.

Re: (7) Four of those present had attended the New Evangelization Summit (Myron, Harvey, Doreen and Marie), and they shared their experience of it (was mainly positive) and their ideas for bringing some of it into our Parish life. Some of their plans and/or ideas for the Fall include: meeting weekly in small groups for Scripture reflection and prayer, Arise style prayer, the need for personal conversion, the use of social media, and the use of prayer partners for Confirmation (and perhaps in other ways). Several of those who attended will be meeting in September to discuss other ideas for parish implementation. On Harvey's recommendation, Fr. Michael ordered a few of the recommended books; he already has given them Harvey.

Re: (8) This flows both from the Priest's workshop in Sault Ste. Marie and the New Evangelization Summit. The Bishop has decided that parishes should prepare their children to begin receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist at age 7 (normally grade 2), beginning immediately. Fr. Michael will be working with the parents of these children, while the children receive their own catechesis. Along with the programs for Confirmation and Baptism, we hope to find new ways to reach out to those who have not yet encountered the Risen Christ in their life.

Re: (9) This is related to the previous item, and will see the establishment of a minimum of 3 hours of preparation for parents presenting their children for Baptism, as a Diocesan norm (new policy). Although in the early stages, Fr. Michael has been talking to the Pastors from Holy Redeemer and St. Andrew's about establishing a common program in order to pool our resources.

Re: (10) This is related to the Diocesan and Insurance Company policy which mandates a minimum of 3 unrelated persons to count the Sunday Collection each week. As of now, we have 3 teams consisting of a married couple, and one team consisting of 2 unrelated persons. Although Fr. Michael would like to see us live up to the expectations of the policy, he also indicated it may not be so easy to increase the number of volunteers. The goal, then, is to do it slowly. If anyone has possible volunteers in mind, please let him know.

The meeting ended at 8:35pm.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3rd at 7pm.