

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio
Rachel Charette – St. John's **ABSENT**

Marie Bardswich – St. John's
Sue Quackenbush – St. John's
Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's **ABSENT**

Minutes

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 @7pm in the Meeting Room

Our PPC met to discuss the following pastoral issues:

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Accessibility to our building – project complete – a final report
- (2) Veronica (Chalice) – very good response ... should we sponsor a second child?
- (3) Reduction in garbage – greening the Parish – a progress report
- (4) Summer building projects report – and the status of the sale of our surplus property

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- (5) Parish Financial Update (Myron)
- (6) Social Concerns, Faith Formation & Spirituality, Pastoral Care, Worship, Youth, Future Planning

NEW BUSINESS:

- (7) ALPHA – a new effort for the New Evangelization
- (8) New members – ideas for recruiting parishioners to the PPC

Re: (1) The ramp project is complete, along with all the upgrades to the old railings and the landscaping that was done by volunteers. The PPC is very pleased with the final product. Fr. Michael mentioned how wonderful it is to see Parishioners with walkers (and without) using it, as well as a number of people at yesterday's funeral, in wheelchairs, who were able to use it to access the Church.

Fr. Michael will send a “thank you” card to Ivon Chaumont, the project manager for our Parish who saw the work done through completion, and to Craig and Judy Chaperone, who did all the landscaping work.

Re: (2) The cost of sponsoring Veronica is \$444.00/year. In about 5 months, the donations received through the Divine Mercy votive candles have been \$450.00. At the end of the year, donations received in excess of what is needed to support Veronica will be given to the Garson Food Bank. Fr. Michael asked the PPC if they wanted to sponsor a second child, since it seems we will have the means to do that. PPC felt it best to defer that decision until our winter meeting, once we have a longer time frame in which to evaluate the incoming donations.

Re: (3) So far, we seem to be on track in our efforts to keep our garbage to the minimum, primarily through the increased use of the Green Bin. There is a steep learning curve for some, but we are hopeful the trend toward garbage reduction will continue.

Re: (4) The June 7th open meeting regarding building issues resulted in a substantial list of items needing to be addressed over the summer. Fr. Michael reported he was pleased with how all these issues were addressed. The ramp and landscaping is complete. The chimney is repaired. The front steps were repaired and the parging on the Church done. The hall and kitchen floors were stripped and waxed. The Church carpets were professionally cleaned. Some graffiti was removed from the Church. Some window capping was repaired. The Annex repair was completed. A leak in the Rectory roof was repaired. An electrical short was repaired and new lights were added to the front entranceway of the Church.

Three items remain: The parking lot was not resealed, as the contractor had equipment malfunction. This job will be put over until the Spring. The storage room off the kitchen will be cleaned and repaired by volunteers this Fall/Winter. And the sale of the surplus property North of the old Rectory is still pending. The Diocese is working on this for us, to determine the legal status of that property. The PPC is pleased with the work that was done, and especially the work done by volunteers.

Re: (5) Myron presented the Financial Statement for the Parish for the first $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year. Of special note: the generous response to the Building/Heating/Utilities Fund, the elevated cost of Church Maintenance and Repairs due to all the summer projects, the elevated GST rebate due to the payments made for the ramp project, chimney project, and Annex project, and the Liturgy supply cost increase, due to the cost of liturgical wine and votive candles – both new for this year. All that being said, we are in good financial shape and the Finance Committee is pleased with how our budget for this year is being closely matched by both revenues and expenses.

Re: (6) Some discussion followed around Faith Formation (Alpha – see #7), and Worship – the options we have regarding music at our Saturday night Mass (we anticipate Mariette Hickey’s return after Thanksgiving). Also, we discussed our attempt at Youth Ministry (Sonny) and the other ways we are trying to address youth issues in our parish. Fr. Michael indicated he will match prayer partners to candidates for both Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Comprehensive Youth Ministry (connecting youth to a particular ministry like Lector, Hospitality, Music, etc.) is still the ideal way to reach out to youth.

Re: (7) Fr. Michael outlined the genesis of the Alpha program in our parish and region. It is an attempt to move from talking and reading about the New Evangelization, to doing something concrete. Currently, seven parishioners are participating in order to form them as leaders. In January, Alpha will be open to participants from the entire region/city. Alpha is a proven means of evangelizing those who are seeking the truth or answers to deeper questions. It may not be so effective addressing the issues of complacency, since those suffering from complacency will not likely be the ones to come. Ideally, parishioners will experience Alpha in the winter and then invite friends, neighbours and even family members, who are seeking answers to deeper questions, to the next Alpha. The way we are doing Alpha (ecumenically and rotating the sessions between 5 Churches) is somewhat unique. More information will come as we transition from leadership training to the invitation for others to participate.

Re: (8) Our full complement of PPC members is 10. That includes the Pastor and Finance representative as ex officio members. Our constitution calls for 6 members from St. John's, and 2 members from St. Bernardine's. Since we are shy 3 members from St. John's and 1 member from St. Bernardine's, Father Michael asked about ideas to recruit. Any Baptised and Confirmed Catholic from our respective parishes may serve on the PPC.

A couple of ideas were offered over and above a simple bulletin invitation to apply. One is to publish what the PPC has actually done over the past year or so, in order to give a concrete view of what it is we do. The second is to invite parishioners to submit the names of those they think would make a good candidate. Fr. Michael will proceed, over the next few weeks, to follow up on those ideas, with the hope that we can add to our Council before the next meeting in December.

The meeting ended at 8:40pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at 7pm