

St. John the Evangelist Parish

255 Church Street, P.O. Box 510

Garson, Ontario P3L 1S6

Phone: (705) 693-2032 Fax: (705) 693-9725 Email: stjohnsgarson@gmail.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Minutes

Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio
Rachel Charette – St. John's
Barb Pineau – St. John's
Pamela Schofield-Adams – St. John's

Marie Bardswich – St. John's
Sue Quackenbush – St. John's
James Murphy – St. John's
Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine's (ABSENT)

Welcomed Guest(s): Sheila Lapierre

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 @ 6pm in the Parish Hall

PRAYER: We prayed a decade of the Rosary together

Following this, the PPC met to discuss the following pastoral issues:

OLD BUSINESS:

(1) Update on maintenance/repairs

ONGOING BUSINESS:

(2) Social Concerns, Worship, Future Planning, Youth, Pastoral Care, Faith Formation & Spirituality

(3) Parish Financial Update

NEW BUSINESS:

(4) Hall Kitchen (cleaning)

Re (1): Fr. Michael reported that the maintenance/repairs to both the Sacristy and hall kitchen storage room have been completed. The CWL donated \$1,000 towards the work done in the Sacristy. The front railings will be sanded and painted (where needed) this summer.

Re (2): Under **Social Concerns**, Fr. Michael reported that \$2,130.00 was donated towards the Memorial Easter Flowers. It will all be donated to the Inner City Home. In response to a question relayed from a parishioner, this is not an ongoing project (won't be repeated for

Mother's Day/Father's Day). It may be a regular Christmas and Easter project, but that will be decided on a yearly basis.

Barb and Pam reported on the work of the Garson Food Bank, the various issues they face, the people they serve, and the way our Parish contributions are helping them. A request relayed by a parishioner to continue the bulletin highlights of specific food needs each week was agreed upon, and Barb will look after this. Barb had previously distributed a summary of various points, one of which indicated that the Garson Food Bank covers Garson, Falconbridge, Skead, Wahnapiatae and Hagar. They serve approximately 350 families.

Regarding the proposed Giving Tree project for Christmas, Barb indicated this was discussed with the Garson Food Bank coordinator (Sue), and that this will be something helpful to them. We will finalize the plans for this new project at our September meeting, which will give our members time to coordinate this initiative with the Garson Food Bank.

Under **Worship**, James indicated that he has exhausted the various avenues he pursued in seeking musicians to help us at our Sunday Liturgies. There has been no positive response. For now, we will continue to use recorded music for our Liturgies. On that note, a concern was raised regarding the acoustics in our Church that make it difficult to hear the words of the Psalm, so that repeating the refrain is difficult. Given that the active participation of parishioners in singing is essential to good Liturgy, Fr. Michael indicated appreciation for the feedback and suggested the best solution may be to return to having the Lectors read the Psalm with its response.

Under **Future Planning**, now that the snow and ice have melted, Barb indicated she will soon contact the city about addressing the large dip from the South entrance driveway to the roadway. Fr. Michael followed up on the comments he made at the previous meeting referring to the latest Census Canada data; at the priest's meeting before the Chrism Mass 2 weeks ago, Bishop Thomas gave a lengthy breakdown of some of that data and how it will likely help the Diocese decide where best to deploy our resources for evangelizing. Most of the follow up discussion revolved around our current reality in terms of the missionary priests serving us (almost 75% of our clergy are missionaries), the various challenges parishes are facing (both pastoral and financial), and the vision of our Bishop in terms of seeing what is positive around us, working together with everyone of good will, and rebuilding the trust necessary to evangelize effectively.

Under **Youth**, it was simply noted that the younger parishioners of our Parish will be celebrating Holy Eucharist for the first time this month, and the Sacrament of Confirmation next month.

Under **Pastoral Care**, it was reported that there is an increasing number of home bound parishioners who are receiving Holy Eucharist from their spouses (after being mandated by Fr. Michael). Fr. Michael indicated he had just received a notice of a "study day" for priests next month, addressing what seems to be an overwhelming number of requests

from parishes to receive help in both the pastoral and financial realms. Fr. Michael will have more to say about this, presumably, after attending the study day.

Under **Faith Formation & Spirituality**, there are now a dozen or so parishioners participating in the Friday Chit Chat sessions. Fr. Michael continues to keep an open heart regarding a possible Fall program/teaching session of some sort, although nothing concrete has been planned. He mused out loud that he was curious how many of our parishioners took advantage of the excellent Lenten series "Call to Holiness". After some discussion, it was decided that a survey of parishioners might be a helpful tool to determine what, if any, needs or interests there are in our community. Fr. Michael will put a survey together, and present it at our next meeting. This may be a useful tool of the PPC to help inform our next possible steps.

Re (3): Myron distributed a sheet showing the breakdown of the costs for the maintenance/repairs of the Sacristy and kitchen storage room - \$2,595.67 for the Sacristy and \$972.11 for the storage room. He also distributed a spreadsheet showing our first quarter financials, compared to our budget. The donations for Development and Peace have not yet been forwarded, but show up as revenue; so, once they are dispersed, we are tracking pretty close to our budget at this time.

Re (4): One member requested a discussion regarding the hall kitchen, and a need to have it cleaned. It has been neglected for some time. After some discussion directed at trying to determine the scope of what was needed, it surfaced that the issue is related to the inability of our parishioners to clean the inside of cupboards/cabinets before dishes/cups/etc. are returned, due to the physical limitations our volunteers are facing (cabinets too low to the ground and cupboards too high above, requiring excessive crouching and use of a ladder). With this information, Fr. Michael indicated he will take care of the problem.

The meeting ended at 7:50 pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, June 14th at 6pm – Parish Hall