

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

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| Fr. Michael Williams – Pastor – ex officio | Pamela Schofield-Adams – St. John’s |
| Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio | James Murphy – St. John’s |
| Marie Bardswich – St. John’s | Sheila Lapierre – St. John’s |
| Sue Quackenbush – St. John’s | Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine’s (ABSENT) |
| Barb Pineau – St. John’s (ABSENT with regrets) | |

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 18, 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) Review of the results of our survey on “Possible Adult Learning Opportunities”.

NEW BUSINESS:

(2) Review of “Norms for Parish Pastoral Councils” as it pertains to our purpose.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

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

(4) Parish Financial Update

Re (1): Eight surveys were returned (7 from St. John’s and 1 from St. Bernardine’s). Prior to the meeting, all members were sent a summary of the responses (attached to these minutes). With only 8 responses, and no clear consensus suggesting a topic of interest, it was obvious that there is no need or desire for educational opportunities at this time in either of our Parishes. There was some discussion about other programs offered around the city (Alpha at Christ the King; Christ Life at St. Kevin’s), but even those types of programs cannot function with so few people. Further discussion led to the conclusion that, perhaps, what we really need are simply community building events. This topic was moved to “Ongoing Business” under Social Concerns.

Re (2): All members were asked to review the document “Norms for Parish Pastoral Councils” which is the official norm for all PPCs in our Diocese (it is on our Parish website). This was more an exercise in reminding ourselves of our main functions and goals: that we represent the entire parish, and not particular groups or committees within it; that our purpose is to foster pastoral activity within the parish; that our primary role is to assist the Pastor in fulfilling his pastoral responsibilities; that we may establish committees in order to help us achieve our goals. Most of this is achieved through the lens of the six areas which we always keep on our agenda as “Ongoing Business”.

Re (3): Under **Social Concerns**, Pamela reported a very successful fundraiser for the Garson Food Bank this summer. We are grateful to her, Barb and Sheila for their commitment to this important agency in our community. We are also most grateful to all our parishioners who respond so generously to support those in need.

As to the “Advent Giving Tree”, it was decided to pursue gift recipients through St. John’s School, rather than through the Food Bank (with 300 clients at the Food Bank, it was getting too difficult to manage the numbers). Fr. Michael will contact the School to see if we can get around 30 individuals who are in need of an extra gift at Christmas. Parishioners will be invited to take a tag on the First Sunday of Advent, and to return with a gift on the Third Sunday of Advent. Since our next meeting is not until December, the PPC will proceed with organizing the various details by communicating through email and person to person contact.

Regarding the “community building” that was raised under item (1), it was suggested that the Knights of Columbus are eager to assist us in any meal project we might propose. After some discussion, it was decided to have a parish dinner on the Sunday before Lent begins (February 11th), and to invite the Knights to serve the meal, but also to join us in enjoying it. We decided to purchase the dinner (chicken and pasta) from the Caruso Club and to gather our parish family around this meal at no charge. Marie will contact the K. of C. to see if they are interested in this, and we will discuss this further at our December meeting.

Fr. Michael indicated that he will host a movie and pizza day once again during the Christmas Season. As before, there will be no charge for this event. All these activities should be viewed as community (family) building events, rather than fundraisers.

Further discussion centered around other activities (like skating) this winter. Pamela agreed to pursue this idea further and to bring her ideas back to us at our December meeting.

Under **Worship**, there was little discussion, other than to mention that the Mass schedule for Christmas and Mary, Mother of God has been set (and is posted on our website), and that the weekly Rosary on Wednesdays continues through November. There was also a brief discussion on other worship opportunities, but nothing concrete was decided at this time.

Under **Future Planning**, nothing was raised; there are no major projects on the horizon at this time.

Under **Youth**, there was also nothing raised. Children's Liturgy is running again, but we have had nothing for the older youth since our failed attempt to minister to them with a hired youth minister in partnership with St. Andrew the Apostle Church.

Under **Pastoral Care**, Marie mentioned 3 recent deaths of parishioners who had been ministered to at home. As always, we will respond to any parishioner in need, but we need to be made aware of those needs. There are about 7 homebound parishioners who currently receive Holy Eucharist at home.

A discussion followed on the Parish Prayer Line. Fr. Michael wondered if it might be helpful to publish in the bulletin two items related to it: First, what it is and how to use it, for those who might not know. And second, an invitation to join the Prayer Line. Fr. Michael will reach out to the organizers of the Prayer Line first, to see if they would see this as helpful or not.

Under **Faith Formation & Spirituality**, we had discussed this at length under (1), and there was nothing else to add to that discussion.

Re (4): Myron had previously distributed a spreadsheet showing our financials to the end of September, compared to our budget. There was a brief discussion, but no concerns raised about our financial situation.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 7:45pm.

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

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY

“POSSIBLE ADULT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

SURVEYS RETURNED: 8

| # | Topics | Time | Season | Added Comments |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Revelation/Psalms/Mystery of Evil | Thur. am or Sat. afternoon | Advent/Lent/Fall | “If offered in Skead, could attend at other times.” |
| 2 | Eternal Life | Evenings | Lent | “I found St. Paul Center’s presentations a little hard to follow; they were a little deep for me.” |
| 3 | None checked | Daytime | Advent/Lent | “In preparation for the upcoming Sunday” |
| 4 | Revelation/Nature of God | Daytime | Advent/Lent | |
| 5 | Psalms/Holy Spirit/Hot Topics | Daytime | Advent | |
| 6 | Revelation | Daytime or Evenings | 12 Fall sessions | |
| 7 | Psalms/Song of Songs/Epistles/3 of basics/3 of teachings/spirituality | Evenings | Advent/Lent/12 Fall sessions/12 Winter sessions | |
| 8 | Gospels/Holy Spirit/Bible/Hot Topics/Annulments | Evenings | Lent | |

Areas of interest for more than 1 person:

- 3 Interested in Book of Revelation – only 2 could attend (in daytime).
- 3 Interested in Psalms – 1 daytime only; 1 evenings only (Psalms already offered here).
- 2 Interested in Why & How Should I Read the Bible – both in evenings.
- 2 Interested in What Does the Holy Spirit Do – 1 daytime only; 1 evenings only.
- 3 Interested in Hot Topics – 1 in daytimes only; 2 in evenings only.
- 2 Interested in Eternal Life – 2 in evenings only.

Other:

3 had not taken any online or in person courses; 3 had taken one or two online courses; 2 had taken most or all of the online courses and 1 or 2 of the in person courses.