

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	James Murphy – St. John’s
Myron McCormick – Finance – ex officio ABSENT	Sheila Lapierre – St. John’s
Marie Bardswich – St. John’s	Murielle Denis – St. John’s
Sue Quackenbush – St. John’s	Trudy Hinds – St. Bernardine’s ABSENT
Pamela Schofield-Adams – St. John’s ABSENT	John Robert – St. Bernardine’s

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, June 10th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

PRAYER: We prayed one decade of the Rosary for peace, and then prayed a Litany for Summer.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) Parish Spring Events – Parish Breakfast; Parish BBQ – A review
- (2) Parking lot - Skead
- (3) Broken window – repaired

NEW BUSINESS:

- (4) Application for the use of our kitchen – Sue and Mike Richards

ONGOING BUSINESS:

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

Re: (1) The reviews for both events were positive. Some disappointment over the low turnout (many parishioners just left after Mass rather than attending the breakfast or the BBQ), but that seems to be a normal pattern. About 30-40 at both events. There was some discussion about the possibility of alternative times or types of functions, but overall, it was agreed that we would just continue to offer the best possible social events and not stress over numbers attending. Going forward, we will make an extra effort to ensure that the Parishioners of both St. John’s and St. Bernardine’s are aware that “everyone welcome” means everyone from BOTH parishes.

Re: (2) John reported that it was best to purchase the needed aggregate for the parking lot, and to have a parishioner, rather than a contractor, spread it with his own grader. As long as the Finance Committee in Skead agrees, that is not a problem. It will be done in June or July. There are a number of other maintenance issues being addressed at St. Bernardine's (insulation, water damage, window cleaning) that will be looked after by parishioners this summer.

Re: (3) Upon the advice of a window contractor, Fr. Michael did the window replacement (4 panes) himself. He also installed screens in the three windows that open in the Church so that they can remain open in the evenings when it is cooler. He will look into some sort of protective barrier so that falling ice does not break the windows in the future.

Re: (4) Fr. Michael explained to the members who were not involved to date the project initiated by Sue and Mike Richards, who bring hot meals and other needed comforts to the homeless population living in our downtown core. They have been in contact with St. John's CWL, who have encouraged and supported their efforts. They have been looking for a certified kitchen that would allow them to continue their work. Our kitchen has now been officially certified by Public Health Sudbury. Fr. Michael has consulted with Ted Hargreaves, the Financial Administrator of our Diocese, regarding insurance, and has been assured that our own insurance is sufficient, as long as this is considered a parish ministry. PPC has agreed to accept the work of Sue and Mike as a parish ministry, and to allow them to use our kitchen to prepare hot meals for the homeless as part of our outreach to the poor. Both are in the process of providing a police records check, and Fr. Michael will provide a contract outlining the parameters of the ministry we are beginning to offer from St. John's in support of the poorest members of our community.

Re: (5) Sheila indicated that the number of registered clients at the Garson Foodbank continues to climb. They are grateful for our ongoing support.

Re: (6) There were a few questions asked for clarification of various line items, but no concerns raised regarding the financial situation of our Parish. Both St. John's and St. Bernardine's are able to carry out the various maintenance and repair projects that are necessary without worrying about financial restraints.

Our meeting ended with a prayer, led by Fr. Michael, at 7:10pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 14th at 6pm in the Parish Hall.