

## **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

**Members:** Pat Bremner, chair; Joan Paradee, acting secretary; Colleen Kinniburgh, Charles Valgardson and the heads of all committees and ministries.

**Purpose:** The Parish Council operates under Diocesan guidelines and acts as an advisory voice to the pastor and represents the parishioners of our parish. The pastor must approve all actions and decisions.

### **Activities / Concerns**

- We begin by acknowledging the vitality and optimism Fr Eli has brought to our parish. His unfailing drive has made a huge difference to us, especially in our senior care facilities and schools.
- To improve communication, Parish Council invites the heads of all ministries and committees to attend meetings and actively participate. It has been quite effective in eliminating confusion and misinformation.
- St. Joseph's, Vauxhall, now has its own council. Since the parish has different needs than St. Augustine's a council of its own parishioners is able to serve the community much more effectively. Father Eli's willingness to travel to the meetings made this possible.
- We developed a parish survey to help us discern how best to serve the parish and larger community. These surveys will be issued soon. All particulars will be in both upcoming announcements and bulletins.
- Our November retreat dates are Nov 13, 14 and 15<sup>th</sup>. Leader to be announced at a later date.
- The present leaders of the youth group (Sharon, Rose and Melody) will soon step down to spend more time with their own families and personal lives. We express deep gratitude for their time, example and hard work.
- Youth Ministry: Our youth are not being fed. This is apparent when we look around us during Mass on Sundays. Not only are attendance numbers down, the average age

climbs every year. Church, at least our church, does not attract young people. How many of you have children, tweens, teen agers, and young adults who do not attend church? I know I do; as a point of interest, I am the only active Catholic in my family. When I consider the dynamics, I wonder what will happen to St. Augustine's in the future? I moved here in 2003 and was thrilled to be part of a parish that boasted many young families, teen-agers who were excited about their faith and a church filled with zest and energy. Today, our churchgoers are primarily middle-aged folks or seniors. Of course, I know the creep of secularism is everywhere but we must not give in, we must resist it. To do this, I think we need to invest in a Youth Minister, a person who will help us attract to youth to church and church activities. Other denominations in our town draw young people and I see no reason why we cannot do the same. Youth Ministry may be perceived as expensive but I ask you to consider the cost of a shutter parish church.

Finance Council Report to Parish Council – Year ending December 31, 2016

**St. Augustine's Parish**

- Overall we have seen a 4.6% or \$12,354 drop in revenues over the previous year
  - Sunday Collections were basically static year over year with a minimal increase of just \$231 for the year.
  - One new addition to our statements this year is the donation from the Knights of Columbus, which are the funds designated by them to be given to the parish from the Corn Fest Booth sales. In the past, this was given to us after specific projects were done and paid for and showed up as expense recoveries. This year and going forward, the Knights will donate the funds upon finalization of the Corn Fest income so it can be used as needed by the parish. We have also approached the CWL to follow this same approach with their donation from the fall supper proceeds
  - Sugar Beet fundraising increased marginally this year as well.
  - Other income is down by 30% or \$15,569
    - Most categories showed marginal changes except
      - Youth Ministry collections are down by 49% or \$4,733
      - Expense recoveries down by 65% or \$3,949 – Please note the above item re: the K of C donation.
      - Stole fees down by 53% or \$1,700
      - Religious Education is down by 62% or \$6,405

Looking at operating expenses

- Overall expenses decreased by 3.3% or about \$8,538.
  - Salaries and benefits decreased by 8.2% or \$8,786.

- Maintenance increased by 16.7% or \$8,331
  - Church Repairs up by \$1,953
  - Rectory repairs up by \$8,108
  - Hall repairs up by \$775
  - Balance of items were just marginally higher or lower
  - We may have an additional expense carried over from Direct Energy for natural gas, as there had been an issue with our billings back in August. At that time we addressed the issue with them but now realize we have not been billed from them since August. I fully expect we will have a large outstanding bill with them for the last half of 2016. Pat F is discussing with them to get this corrected.
- The rectory costs were up by 83.5% or \$4,503
- Admin/Office expenses were up by 3.9% or \$2,423. Items of note were:
  - Clergy Auto Expenses were up by 54% or \$3,516. We expect these to be back down in 2017 as Fr. Moreno had incurred a lot of travel expense trying to deal with his immigration challenges.
  - Advertising expense was up by 288% or \$725 due to a large newspaper ad placed to announce the Year of Mercy at the end of 2015, which was subsequently billed and paid for in 2016. Some of this was recovered from St. Joseph's parish and shows in advertising income. The actual cost to us was about \$350.
  - The balance of expenses showed decreases as they were well controlled and helped offset the above increases marginally.
- Finally, program costs fell by 45% or \$15,000. Of note we see:

- Religious education supplies fell by \$11,626 as 2015 saw a large expense to send a delegation of people to the Stewardship conference. This was not repeated in 2016.
  - Confirmation supplies fell by \$1,345
  - Ministry Training fell by \$1,160
  - The rest of the items were up or down marginally to make up the difference.
- Comments, observations:
- What we see is that on a strictly operational basis, if we exclude the income and expenses for the brother's house, we are not meeting our operating expenses. Now what compounded this marginally in 2016 was the significant repair work done to both the church sacristy as well as the rectory. Had these stayed normalized for the year, we would have seen our expenses down by probably another \$10,000. While we can think that these items were extraordinary and we should see things more normalized for 2017, the fact is we have an older church that will require ongoing maintenance and upkeep and additional expenses could easily become the norm as opposed to the exception. Perhaps the biggest concern around all of this is the fact that our overall incomes, particularly our most significant income – collections from our parishioners, are flat or falling while we know expenses will not likely stay flat or fall!
  - If I can editorialize somewhat on this issue, it is one of demographics. Our faithful parishioners are either aging to a point where they are no longer able to increase their donations to even meet inflationary pressures, or worse, they are passing away. This impacts us in more ways than just financially as those who are left to meet the ongoing needs of the parish get stretched in ever increasing ways. If we do not find a way to attract our young families and our youth to our parish, we will not likely see much improvement here. This then becomes a vicious circle of trying to do more with less,

impacting what we can hope to do to try to attract those younger people. The more they stay away, the worse the situation gets.

- So what does the future hold financially for the parish? There are 2 fairly significant projects being proposed to finance council – the first is fairly straightforward.
- We will see that in the report from the Parish Property Advisory Committee they will be mentioning the need to replace all the windows in the nave of the church within the next few years. As this will be a fairly large expense, we are applying to set up a building fund to raise the needed funds. It is anticipated, based on quotes received, the cost will be between \$30,000 and \$40,000. As it is a future expense, likely happening in 2020 or sooner if we can raise the funds before, the exact dollar amount is hard to determine due to such things as inflation and uncertainty around material costs at that time. However, once approved by the diocese, we will be coming to you, our parishioners, to commit to helping us reach our goal by 2020. The goal will be the larger amount of \$40,000 for the windows. Once the building fund is established, all funds going into it will have to go towards that specific purpose. More to follow on that but we will keep you informed of our progress.
- The second item is one that has come up before and has been touched on by Pat B in her presentation, the need for a youth minister in our parish. I won't go into the reasons or the rationale but will just discuss here the financial aspects of this need. Currently, we are trying to decide on whether we need a full time or part time youth minister. Here are the potential annual costs, including Salaries, benefits and program expenses.
- Full time    Salary \$36,000    Benefits    \$7,500    Program costs    \$10,000  
Total = \$53,500
- Part Time    Salary \$20,000    Benefits    \$4,000    Program costs  
\$10,000    Total = \$34,000
- Now this would be for both parishes so St. Augustine's share is typically 75% of the totals so \$40,125 for full time and \$25,500 for part time.
- I am hoping that these figures are at the top end of what our costs could be but, if we as a parish see the need, we will have to support it, spiritually and financially.

## **SSVP PRESENTATION TO AGM IN APRIL 2017**

### **a. Membership:**

In 2016 we had 18 Vincentians from our parish, 3 from St. Joseph's, 2 from the Christian Reformed Church and recently, 2 from the E Free Church. Besides these, we have had assistance moving furniture, from 6 individuals and 3 local businesses.

### **b. Mandate:**

To live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy.

### **c. Presentation**

Thank you for allowing us to participate in this year's AGM.

The mission of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul implies that as Vincentians, we:

- see Christ in anyone who suffers;
- come together as a family;
- have personal contact with the poor;
- help in all possible ways.

There is no work of charity that is foreign to our society. We do not call the poor our clients but Our Friends.

We come together once each month to pray for the poor and chose our weeks to serve in pairs as the front line Vincentians who take calls, arrange to meet with and arrange help for Our Friends. We try to serve the poor of our community, no matter their race or religion, in the best possible way, to help them to meet their spiritual and temporal needs. As you can see from our 2016 Report to the parish in the March 5th bulletin, our largest expenditure has been for rent and security deposits at over \$18,000.00, and second is utility payments at over \$4,000.00. (I have brought a few copies of that insert in case you didn't get it.) The number of requests for our help has gone from about 3 per week in 2015 to 5 per week in 2016.

Our financial situation was made easier in 2016 by a gift of \$15,000.00 from the Cranford Hall Association. Some of Our Friends benefited from the funds received by the group 'Emergency Funds for Emergency Situations' from the Bishop's Dinner in 2015, and we benefited, in turn,

as that group was able to help some of Our Friends with their rent in 2016.

We are so very grateful to all our donors, our parishioners, the Knights of Columbus, the CWL and the Christian Reformed Church for their financial assistance that allows us to continue serving the poor of our community.

This past year, Ray Tymko supplied for us a new storage building, that has allowed much better organization of the used furniture that we accept and store. Beds, dressers and all the necessities of life are what we handle.

We are always ready to welcome new members. Being a Vincentian does not require a huge commitment, only a loving and merciful heart.  
Presented by

Correne Kustersky



## **LITURGY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Our Chair is Jason Baier, our Secretary is Pat Bremner, and our current members are Linda Kinahan, Darla Machacek, Princess Modequillo and Colleen Kinniburgh. Please take some time to pray and discern as God may be calling you to come join us. We gladly embrace new members.

Each meeting we start and end with prayer. We are here to serve the people of the parish, serve the Priest, help with music ministry, help set up and prep for Mass and other liturgical celebrations.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is in September to prepare for the start of our Liturgical year in November.

In November, we have a Memorial Mass and it is also the start of Advent.

In December we focus on Advent and Christmas.

In February, we have a Mass for the sick. This year, Ash Wednesday started on March 1, which is the beginning of Lent. This is when we prepare for our busiest time of the year, Holy Week.

April 9<sup>th</sup> will be Palm Sunday, which will be celebrated by Fr. Eligio. We will then have Fr. Hubka for Holy Thursday at 7 PM, Good Friday at 3 PM, Holy Saturday at 9:30 PM for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday at 9 AM. We also have Divine Mercy the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter.

We wrap up our planning in August with a memorial Mass in the cemetery for the dead.

Ron and Anita Baier hold a Eucharistic and Lector Ministerial workshop once or twice a year, as needed. We highly encourage all ministries to attend once a year for refreshment and in case of changes.

Darla Machacek, Kaime Kuryvial and Trina Baier work well together to have 3 or 4 altar server practices a year, plus 2 fun activities. They made cinnamon buns in the fall, led by a generous parish volunteer. To celebrate the New Year, they went to the gymnastics club and will hopefully have another activity before summer. This year, we had our

first Altar Server installation Mass that was well attended by altar servers and was very appreciated by the parish. Thank you, Fr. Eli, for this wonderful gift.

Going forward, we are recruiting new members and plan on holding installation Masses every spring and fall for all new-comers. Please be patient as we train our rookies and leave the direction to Fr and the coordinators. Please pray for our youth and invite them to become servers as we are always in need.

We are always looking for help throughout the year in different ministries. If you feel called or would just like to help, let us or the parish office know.

## **PARISH PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PPAC) REPORT**

Members: Chair, Frank Sitter, Secretary, Beatrice Ell, Art Kustersky, Mike Cudrac, Paul Cyr, Paul Thibedeau

### **Present Projects:**

- Replace ceiling in church. Ray Tymko donated scaffolding. Rivers Electric did the installation.
- Fixing rear exit. Cement work worn away from the building. Venture Holding will do the work. Tentative cost is \$6500.
- Surveillance cameras and monitor. Purchased at Home Hardware at "on sale" price. Art and Paul will install.
- Entry to rectory from garage; Art will replace the door and frame casing
- Basement bathrooms: both were painted. Art put in new sink and vanity in men's.
- A request to establish a windows replacement fund as been forwarded to the Diocesan office.

## **CWL REPORT**

My name is Darla Machacek and I am the current President of our St. Augustine's CWL Council. I am reporting on the CWL activity in our parish this year. Our new national CWL theme for 2017 – 2019 is "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call," and our CWL Council is striving to live up to this call.

Our Council continues to be busy and active. We have 109 members at our last count and all ladies of the parish are welcome to join. Our meetings are held once per month on the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM with approximately 30 – 40 members attending regularly. Our meetings are comprised of 1/3 spiritual, 1/3 business and 1/3 social. We often have guests speaking on a variety of topics from sharing a faith story to provident information about a relevant topic of learning a craft.

Our regular activities include: sponsoring a Mass every other month and hosting coffee after Mass on the second Sunday of the month. We have a dedicated group of ladies who provide funeral lunches and, when requested, our ladies hold an Honour Guard for CWL sisters who pass away.

Throughout the year we host a Father's Day brunch, Stations of the Cross, 12 hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, a Parkside Senior's dinner and, of course, the fall supper. We participate in the World Day of Prayer each year and this year we held a Catch the Fire Workshop. Along with the Knights of Columbus we provide refreshments for the Easter Vigil, Parish mission, Memorial Mass, etc. We also have a large part to play in the Knight's of Columbus booth each summer.

The CWL sponsor a couple of awards at St. Mary's School and provide gifts for our parish children receiving the sacraments. New moms and babies also receive a visit and gift from our Council. These are just some of the activities of our CWL Council as we strive to support the ladies and our entire parish.

Finally I would just like to mention that this year marks the 90<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of our St. Augustine's CWL Council. We will be holding a special Mass on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5PM, followed by a banquet and program at the Legion Hall. Tickets for our ladies and guests will go on sale just before Easter. We are all looking forward to celebrating this momentous occasion. God has blessed us with 90 years of dedicated Catholic women who believed in and supported our parish family and I pray that with God's guidance we will continue strong for the next 90 years and more.

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS REPORT**

Mike Cudrac is the current Grand Knight.

### Activities:

- We supply all the “fixings’ and do all the cooking for the Annual Parish Picnic
- We serve three breakfasts: one on Mother’s Day ( or close to it ). Proceeds from one breakfast are given to SVDP.
- Worked two days at the Food Bank last year to hand out Christmas hampers
- Oversaw the Cornfest Food Booth. In 2016, we raised \$12,000 for our church groups.
- We set up tables and chairs at the civic center for the Parish Fall Supper and Remembrance Day services.
- We hosted Easter Vigil wine and cheese
- We hosted one Station of the Cross
- We host coffee Sundays after Mass
- Supported various charities financially. In 2016, we shared \$20,000
- Assisted Linden View Resident Hearts Society and St. Mary’s grad class with raffles.
- Six members manned the telephones at the Taber Hospital Foundation telethon.
- Supported our schools with programs such as:
  - Student of the month, St. Mary’s
  - St. Mary’s Awards night
  - 4 scholarships to graduating high school students
  - St. Pat’s kindergarten
- Help SVDP move furniture, etc
- We enrolled two new members
- Four members reached the 4<sup>th</sup> degree, in

## **YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

Originally, Dyane had set up the Senior High youth group for grades 10-12, attempting to draw the older youth to something at the church. With that in mind, and following the same format Dynae had set up with the senior high, two years ago Sharon Dunn, Melody Vienneau, Maryanne Going and myself decided that we needed to try to reach the Gr 6 – 9 age group. This age group wasn't being reached as once the youth received the sacrament of confirmation in grade 6 or 7, there was nothing drawing them to the church.

This current year, Sharon, Melody, Monique Huvenaars and myself have planned the youth evenings and activities with the them being, "God's Love.

We have been planning two events per month; one catechetical and one fun event.

Some of the events we undertook: going to Linden View in Oct to carve pumpkins with the residents, making scarves for the homeless, tie-dying-t-shirts, attending the play at St. Joseph's Hall in Vauxhall and we will be going to the climbing wall as our last event at the end of May.

Parents or members of the parish provide snacks for the evenings. Drivers to /from the church and events are usually limited to the leaders at our own expense as the paperwork required to do such a thing for others is cumbersome.

Two parishioners pray for the youth in the church while the evenings are happening.

Melody has been our hands and feet at St. Mary's, reminding the youth of our events as well as asking the senior students to help out. Thank you, Melody.

Fr. Eli has been very supportive and has attended most youth evenings as he is able.

Preliminary discussions to this AGM rotate around the growth of our parish and how that will happen if the youth and younger families are not attending. We feel it's imperative to have a Youth Minister that can minister to the young in our parish and get them to church.

I would encourage everyone to pray for our youth and that the Parish Council begins the process of hiring a Youth Minister.

Rose Ginther



## **AGM REPORT: ST PAT'S SCHOOL**

Our Mission: St. Pat's, in partnership with our community, empowers, nourishes and challenges our students to be proactive learners and responsible citizens who live and share their faith.

Our Motto: Learning to love and loving to learn.

### About Us:

- 180 students this year
- we are 40% Catholic

### How do we share our faith?

- Religion classes
- Faith permeations within each subject
- Celebrate feast days of saints
- School liturgies
- Mass
- Father visits on Thursdays
- Weekly prayer group for students
- Weekly staff prayer
- We are teaching the sacraments to all of our grade 2 & 3 students.
- Faith formation team; they are in charge of bringing our faith to our students and leading our staff in their faith formation (for example: on the Monday of Holy Week, they have planned a faith filled morning)

### Holy Spirit School Division:

- 3 year plan called GIFT (Growing in Faith Together)
- This year, our theme is Rooted in Christ
- At St Pat's we have Rock Time, weekly, where we hear the Sunday gospel
- DREC (Directors of Religious Education Council) ...our member is Mehgan Calder and she interacts with Joann

Bartley and the other directors from all 15 schools in the division.

*Bridging the school and church:*

- Annie Lieverse, a regular substitute teacher, has written a plan to help connect students between the two communities.
- Father's regular visits are very important.

*Renovations:*

- Due to start July 1, 2017
- We will be in a temporary school in the field of St. Mary's for the 2017 - 2018 school year.....modules will include washrooms, halls, teacher's room, heat, lighting, etc. They will share the gym and library with St. Mary's but there will not be a cut to anyone's gym time.

Michelle Nevil

## **PARISH AGM REPORT FROM ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Jodie Gross**

- Student population is 235 students with approximately 50% Catholic
- Very pleased with Fr's presence in the school and his connection to students
- School begins each day with prayer. On Thursdays, the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday is read over the intercom so that students and staff have an opportunity to hear the Gospel prior to Mass, giving some time for personal reflection before the Mass
- Friday's start each week with a liturgy that is attended by the entire school population
  - A different staff member leads each Liturgy each week, giving our school community the change to see each of us as faith leaders.
  - Many times, the staff member who is organizing the liturgy will have students participate in the leadership as well
- We are grateful to our Knights and CWL for their generous support with the faith development of our students
- Continuing to work with schools and parish to grow a closer connection between the two
- Weekly prayer of the faithful to pray for our school communities is read at Sunday Masses: *"Let us pray for our Catholic school communities of St Patrick and St. Mary's, that the students, staff and parents may continue to grow in faith in their learning environments and that they continue to flourish as gifts of God."*
  - The above ties in with our 3 year faith plan of Holy Spirit School Division (GIFT- Growing in Faith Together and being "Rooted" in Christ)
- Working to deepen the student attitudes of social justice and giving many opportunities for them to have ownership in the charities they support
  - Most recently, the Junior High School dance raised over \$750 that will go towards STARS Air Ambulance

- In addition, the Second Annual Chalice Cup (Students vs Staff / Alumni) Hockey Game), raised \$1326 that will be given to SVDP
- Holy Spirit School Division recently had the Spiritual Development Day in which all staff in the division comes together to deepen our faith through a keynote speaker, a variety of sessions to choose from and a Mass celebrated at the end of the day. This year, our new Bishop was able to join us for Mass.
- RECongress..Jodie Gross (along with 10 other Holy Spirit employees) attended this Catholic Conference in Anaheim on Feb 24, 25 and 26. Attended by approximately 40,000 people and was an amazing faith opportunity for anyone wishing to go.

## **PASTOR'S REPORT AFOR AGMK, FATHER ELI**

1. "Lord, it is good to be here. " Do you remember these words from Peter during the Transfiguration event in Tabor?
2. Truly, when we see and experience the presence of Jesus in our lives and in our faith-community, we are strengthened to make a firm resolve to continue to live in Jesus Christ, share Him to others and bring Jesus closer to our families and homes.
3. Today, April 2, 2017, Sunday, is exactly my 5-month stay in our parish. Taber has been already my home away from home. I am so much blessed because the Lord has sent me here to witness how you, as the people of God, continue to live your faith and offer yourselves in the service of our Church and our community
4. We truly have an amazing God who continues to make all things new, even though God has the power to change everything., God chooses you, God chooses me, God chooses us to bring change and transformation in our Church and in our community.
5. When the I becomes WE, the journey becomes meaningful and fruitful. When the I becomes WE, each one of us slowly discovers and recognizes that every member of our community has a unique gift, talent, time, treasure and mission that we can offer to God and to our Church. Each one of us matters most in the building up and growing more of a better parish.
6. Fr. Patrick Petyon said, " the family that prays together , stays together." Let us pray, walk, work, celebrate and journey together as a family. We are connected to one another through the Holy Spirit. We are the arms, legs, hands, eyes and feet of Christ here in this parish.
7. When one member of the body of Christ suffers, we all suffer and when one member rejoices, we all rejoice.
8. This year, together with the Parish Pastoral and Finance Council Members and with the Ministry Heads and other representatives, we will hold EVALUATION AND PLANNINGS to come up with a STRATEGIC 3 YEAR PASTORAL PARISH PLAN that will serve as a

road map in our journey as a community. We expect that our concerns for the youth and families will be discussed, among others, as well as some parish concerns.

9. Thank you for your help, support and prayers. May we continue to work together for our parish, knowing that, Like Mary, we say, “the Mighty One has done great things for me and Holy is his Name.”