

St Michael's Parish Pastoral Council Minutes, December 14, 2017

Present: Fr. Murray Sample, Pastor; Fr. Glen Ball, Parochial Vicar; Deacon Gaston Mabaya; Peter Valiquet, Past Chairperson; Wayne Wolanski, Chairperson; Donna Thompson, Vice Chairperson; Mark Thompson, Financial Committee Representative; Larry McKenzie; Lucia Lehman; Lola Gualtieri; Marinette Laureano; Daniel Yurkewich; Dorothy Solomon, recording secretary.

Regrets: Yana Adkinson, Pastoral Minister; Syl Patry, Coordinator of Youth Ministry; Darlene MacKenzie.

Opening prayer and reflection was based on Sunday's Gospel – John 1:16-23
Minutes from November 16 were adopted as presented.

New Business: Council's input was requested with regards to initiatives for opportunities to develop parishioners' prayer lives. Women of Grace is scheduled to resume in January, the C.W.L. prayer request cards will once again be included in our Lenten practice, LIFETEEN will launch in January, further information to be announced.

Discussion around other possible programs included: offering Oremus again - teaching us how to pray, and "The Bible and the Virgin Mary" Bible study series.

Celebrations: The bazaar raised over \$8 000.00 for designated causes. This is an outstanding example of dedicated teamwork.

Forty F.I.A.T. students and leaders were involved at the 10:30 Sunday Liturgy taking on roles of service as greeters, altar servers, lectors and ushers. The parents attended with their children which strengthens the family and the whole church community. Positive feedback from parishioners reinforces the benefits of the various aspects of public service and social skills. The F.I.A.T. will continue to serve monthly at different masses.

The diversity of nationalities, ages and families of differing numbers of members is an indicator of our welcoming presence. One council member commented, "I felt like I was at the United Nations Assembly."

The C.W.L. bake sale was another great success and the homemade apple pies were quickly sold along with many other baked delicacies. Money raised helps designated causes. This is another example of dedicated teamwork.

The recently formed SMUGLEES (St. Michael's Ukulele –Glee Club) entertained for the Hospitality North Supper attendees with wonderful sing-a-long support from diners and servers. Hospitality North provides a hot nourishing meal, a social outing and recognition that everyone belongs.

The SMUGLEES were most welcome at the Kensington Village Long Term Care Facility and had the residents singing along with familiar tunes.

The St. Vincent de Paul Giving Tree resulted in a special shopping experience for the registered families who requested assistance to provide toys and coats for their children. All donated items were sorted and parents were invited to shop, have some social time with refreshments and a wrapping station allowed them the choice of doing it themselves or getting assistance while chatting with volunteers. The sincere gratitude from these parents was heartwarming. This manner of assisting grants more dignity to families than having volunteers deliver presents preselected.

Financial Report: bank account balance \$60 000.00; balance on loan to the Diocese \$273 900; Capital update – the Give to Grow Campaign continues to receive donations in 2017. The bathroom renovation project appears to be behind schedule. There is a meeting planned with the contractor on December 15. The finance committee has approved a parish budget for 2018 with a projected deficit. The finance committee is looking at ways to message that deficit to parishioners sometime during the weekend masses in February.

Pastoral Team Reports:

Yana Adkinson:

- Organized and coordinated **First Reconciliation Celebrations for 124 children**, which took place on **December 5, December 7 and December 9**. Prepared programs, handouts for children and parents to use as well as crosses for each child who made their First Reconciliation.
- Visited Grade 2 students in all four of our feeder schools to continue teaching them about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Planned and lead RCIA sessions. We discussed various topics: “*What is Advent, The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Saints, Why do I need the Church, etc.*” Met with all of the candidates and catechumens before Rite of Acceptance and Rite of Welcome to discuss their faith journey. “**Breaking Open the Word**” with RCIA candidates started on Sundays during 10:30 am Mass.
- Prepared Christmas Liturgy Sign-up boards for Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Gift-Bearers. Helped to coordinate Christmas and New Year’s Masses.
- Added new Eucharistic Ministers to the **Ministry Scheduler Pro**. Worked on new Ministry Scheduler Pro schedule for various ministries for January-March.
- Interviewed Potential Volunteers for Children’s Ministries. Coordinated families for each Sunday of Advent to light Advent Candle and do a Special prayer at 10:30 am Mass.
- Met with the Leader for “Women of Grace” program, coordinated bulletin and mass announcements for “Women of Grace”.

Syl Patry:

- grade eight class visits for sacramental preparation
- continuous work on Lifeteen and Edge; recruiting, training, and promoting our Youth Groups
- organizing new workshops for team for Lifeteen masses
- designed and ordered all promotional material for both groups including new T-shirts for leaders and participants
- 25 T-shirts available for grade 5-8 for Edge; available at \$10.00 each
- organized Christmas masses for schools
- networking with Pure Life staff to promote St. Michael’s
- working with Mother Teresa Secondary School Chaplain for new events and networking

Fr. Glen:

- celebrated Advent Mass with St. Mark's students and staff.
- all schools will celebrate an Advent Mass
- planned Advent Mass celebration with Mother Teresa High School next week
- celebrated first Reconciliation with grade two students over a three day span
- the Bible Study participants had a full house for study and a pot luck supper
- Baptism preparation for parents is scheduled for next week and parents from the Right of Christian Initiation for Children are invited to participate which will change the focus of infant Baptism to a larger range of ages.

Deacon Gaston:

- participation in the Oremus study sessions has been a good experience and he highly recommends parishioners to get involved in the prayer learning series.
- the Social Justice continues to encourage volunteers to look at a broad array of issues, select a few, and challenges them to find workable solutions for these.
- Holy Family parish hosted a Mission and the guest speaker was an American Deacon who spoke on "Making Disciples and having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ"; This deacon would be a great speaker for an upcoming St. Michael's Mission.

Fr. Murray:

- Christ the King Parish received a two year extension on their lease of the chapel at Windermere on the Mount
- all day confessions on Wednesday did not have as many people as might have been expected because there had been a large snowfall; there are still opportunities to partake of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Tuesday and Friday.
- Fr. Murray and Fr. Glen celebrate Eucharist once a month at each of four senior's centers; McGarrell Place, Chartwell, Richmond Place, and Masonville Manor. Amica is also within the Parish boundaries but there are priests who live in residence who offer liturgies. Also, Extendicare Nursing Home, but St. Peter's Cathedral cares for these residents.
- will speak with Syl regarding using the Oremus Prayer series with the Youth Group or High School

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Wayne adjourned the meeting at 8:40 and we had a shared closing prayer. This was followed by a social.

Next scheduled meeting: January 18, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.