

**Holy Redeemer Pastoral Council Minutes**  
**January 18, 2007**

**Present:** Claire Cheesman, Tom Dewar, Adam Dupuis, Ray Fournier, Tom Lavrisa, Blair Malis, Sharron Quinn, Dave Roberts, Fr. Paul Shepherd, Anna Marie Young

**Guest:** Melissa Delaney (Youth Ministry Program)

**Opening Prayer**

The meeting started with a prayer led by Fr. Paul, a reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians concerning the importance of cultivating peace in our midst.

**Youth Ministry**

Melissa introduced herself by describing her background and experience in Youth Ministry. She is reviewing the history of Youth Ministry at the parish through Ted Hurley's files and becoming more familiar with the parish and the various groups involved in ministry. Her primary mission is to write the program for Youth Ministry (encompassing all groups involving youth) and her secondary goal is to assist the directors of the two Youth Groups at the parish with their programs this spring. The directors will request adult participation with the Youth Groups by an announcement after Mass and in the bulletin soon. Melissa will recommend speakers and obtain other resources for their meetings, and will develop a theme and direction for the meetings this spring (Feb. to May). In response to a question by Adam, Ray Fournier stated that resources for the meeting could be purchased by the directors, which would be refunded to them upon submittal of their receipts.

Tom Lavrisa reported that the Youth Commission was focussed on two measures of effectiveness: the growth in the number of youth involved in Youth Group meetings and the increase in the number of ministries each youth is involved with. Attendance sheets at the Youth Groups will measure the first, the second by a survey of the leaders of parish ministries. He requested a copy of Microsoft Access to be able to capture and present the data and was told that this program was available on the parish PCs. Tom will ask the parish webmaster for help with setting up Microsoft Access. The parish presently uses Parish Works for tracking purposes, but it was not known whether this additional functionality could be found here. Wayne Gittings is involved with the parish PCs.

**Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of November 23 and January 2 were accepted with the changes sent previously by email. They will be posted on the parish web site.

**Report of Ministries**

**Finance**

Ray Fournier reported that he will bring up the issue of publishing the results of collections in the parish bulletin, to better inform parishioners of the parish's financial needs. This has not been done in the past due to security concerns, but now a safe is used to store the collection until it has been counted and deposited.

**Liturgy**

Fr. Paul reported that the numbers attending liturgies and total collections for Christmas were down slightly due to the change in venue from Scotiabank Place to Holy Trinity High School for the extra Masses. The change in cost of these venues resulted in greatly increased net revenues, so this practice will be continued this year. Parishioners appreciated the effort that went into the Christmas decoration of the church, a task that was contracted to a private firm. Fr. Jude has completed his work in our parish, so Fr. Paul and Fr. Oliver are saying all Masses now. As no baptisms are held in Lent, the font has been drained during Lent in the past. Parishioners have asked that Holy Water be available to bless themselves before and after Masses. Tom Dewar reported that he circulated the Policy on Service Animals to members of Pastoral Council by email. He will obtain the signs indicating that service animals were allowed in the church. Following a discussion, it was decided that parishioners with a service animal may take part in some ministries, a total ban was not required.

### **Education**

Claire reported on the update she received from Joe Leblanc. The RCIA and RCIC programs were very busy with new candidates. The Landings activity has decreased due to a change in volunteers, Claire Cheesman will follow up. The parish library requires a volunteer with library experience to organize and run it. Anna Marie will write a bulletin announcement requesting an experienced librarian to step forward. It was suggested that the library be named the Pat Clemens Resource Library, as she initiated and ran it at our parish.

### **Social Mission**

Dave Roberts presented the minutes of the last meeting. The group is searching for a new leader as the present volunteer has requested to step down. An announcement will be made at the upcoming Ministry Day for a volunteer. Fr. Paul explained that the leader of this group would discern the direction of the parish in social justice and mission matters and direct groups to respond to the needs identified. One example would be to identify specific missions to receive the collections for Parish Missions, rather than a mission charity as at present. Dave also presented an on-line calendar that could be used to track approved events at the parish. A link could be created from the parish web site, to keep parishioners informed. A written report on the Refugee Family was presented to Council, highlighting progress and continuing needs.

### **Parish and Community Life**

Sharron Quinn reported that a Coffee Sunday was being planned after the 11:00 am Mass on Jan. 28 to thank Fr. Jude for his years of service with the parish. He will appreciate donations for his mission when he returns to Nigeria. A music concert is planned for Feb. 24 and the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Feb. 28. Alf MacDonald of the Knights of Columbus is organizing a St. Patrick's Dinner for March 17. The Parish Picnic will be held offsite on either of June 17 or 24, with the Annual General Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The committee is considering having a different Mass time for this picnic, as some parishioners were not aware of the change in venue. Dora Mesec will be organizing the volunteers for these events. A discussion followed on starting a Parish Auxiliary, composed of both men and women, to lead events previously organized by the Ladies Auxiliary. The Pastoral Council then chose the items to be discussed by the small groups at the upcoming Ministry Day.

### **Pastoral Report**

Fr. Paul reported that he has held discussions with the staff about the changes in their responsibilities. This comes about as a result of increased volunteer activity at the parish. Any changes will be documented in the contract for the positions, which will be created by the Finance Council. Changes to the bulletin were deferred to next meeting. Fr. Paul received the recommendation of Council to not approve the proposed boundary changes. The reasons for doing so were: a) it would affect the revenue of the parish and limit its growth, b) we wished to keep communities together, c) the church should have a location which is closer to the center of its boundaries, and d) the wish to spare Bridlewood from a repeat of the distress caused by the previous change in the separate school boundaries.

### **Progress on Goal for the Year**

Pastoral Council has chosen the goal: "Inspire people to acts of service providing for the well being and support of the poor". The following suggestions were made: increase the number of collections for the Kanata Food Cupboard and St. Vincent de Paul, encourage help with the Refugee Family, bring in representatives of social and charitable agencies to speak about what parishioners could do to help. A plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Varia**

A motion to provide a container of hand sanitizer for use by those attending Mass in winters was defeated. The ushers are sometimes not present for the Sunday evening Masses, John Gooch to follow up.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held February 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish boardroom.