

**Holy Redeemer Pastoral Council**  
**Minutes**  
**November 23, 2006**

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

**Guests:** Mary Lou Hakansson (Refugee Committee), Julie Selecte Simard (Catholic Family Immigration)

**Opening Prayer**

The meeting started with a prayer led by Fr. Paul: a reading of the Gospel (Sower planting seeds), parallel to our work on Council to build up our parish, and playing of the song “Earthen Vessels”.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of October 19 were adopted without changes.

**Refugee Committee**

Mary Lou addressed the Council concerning the needs of an extended family who are refugees from Sudan. Six persons ranging in age from 22 to 10 were brought to Canada by a government program. The program meets their basic financial needs, but they require household items such as blankets, clothing for our winter, kitchen items, and knowledge of budgeting, shopping and transportation. Mary Lou would like to make a request for parishioners to help this refugee family. Our St. Vincent de Paul conference can offer them a voucher for items available in their store. They live in an apartment in Vanier and one of them has started to attend the Adult High School. Our present refugee family from the Congo will not be able to arrive in Canada for another 18 – 24 months due to processing of visas. The total financial requirement for this family is \$27K, with the parish having raised \$10K, and a relative pledging \$10K. A motion was made to allow the committee to help this new family from Sudan, seconded and was passed unanimously. A discussion followed on how to address issues that come up between our meetings and the latitude allowed to the Chair for decision-making in these circumstances.

**Reports of the Permanent Committees**

**Liturgy Committee:** Fr. Paul reported that the committee met October 29 and finalized the Advent and Christmas liturgies. Music is still required for the 11:00am Mass at the parish, with some Senior Choir members looking into what could be organized for that. Art Lamarche will organize the decorations in the school, and Greg Maloney for the church. A security guard will be hired to help with organizing the parking lot for the crowds expected for the Masses at the church. On the third Sunday in Advent, the Christmas tree will be displayed. A parish Penitential Service will be held Dec. 13 with extra priests available to hear confessions. Extra priests will help with confessions on Saturdays until Christmas.

**Youth Representative:** Adam reported that both Youth Groups have had good attendance for the activities held to date, with over 20 participating every evening. The themes will reflect a more religious theme for the rest of the year. The reception to honour Ted Hurley’s years of service went well.

**Social Mission Link:** Dave Roberts reported that this month’s meeting was cancelled due to Bernie Hartlin falling ill. He checked with the groups and made the following to report. St. Vincent de Paul group will be giving out socks for parishioners to fill with items for needy people for Christmas. The Shepherds of Good Hope sandwich-makers are continuing their ministry to the poor, funded by their annual collection. They also baked 60 pies for the Thanksgiving meal. The Pro-Life group will be selling the Christmas cakes to support Campaign Life Coalition and collecting the Pennies for Life jars. The Life Chain was held in October.

**Youth Commission:** Tom Lavrisa reported that the Youth Commission discussed the proposals for measuring the effectiveness of Youth Ministry in the parish. Due to the great number of factors and measurements, the group would like to meet with the newly hired Co-ordinator of Youth Ministry to prioritize a few of them to start with. Fr. Paul interviewed the candidates for the position, and a contract was offered to Melissa Delaney who accepted the offer. In reply to a question from a Council member, the CYM role does not include visiting the schools at present.

**Parish & Community Life:** Due to a mix-up in the office, the volunteer forms were not distributed as planned. The Knights of Columbus have offered to help with bringing parishioners who don’t have access

to suitable transportation to Sunday Mass. Responsible Ministry will need to be involved to screen the volunteers. Council members volunteered to represent Pastoral Council at the Coffee Sunday at the upcoming weekend. A seminar discussing Dementia and Alzheimer's is planned for December 14. An announcement will be placed in the bulletin reminding parishioners that due to cold and flu season, it is not necessary to shake hands, a simple greeting is sufficient. A reception will be planned for Fr. Jude to thank him for his service with the parish.

**Finance Link:** The feature wall to the Blessed Virgin Mary (including 75 votive candles) will be blessed on December 8. After many years of faithful service by Ehman Aguinaga, the Church maintenance will be taken over by Paul Skaracas.

**Education:** No meeting was held this month. The Alpha program will not be hosted at our parish this year.

### **Policy and Procedures Committee**

The committee discussed whether the hall rental should fully cover the expenses of the hall. **ACTION:** Ray Fournier will report on expenses that can be traced to hall usage. Every event in the hall should be covered by \$2M liability insurance. All parish functions are covered by our diocesan policy provided that Fr. Paul has given approval for the event to take place. A contract will be drawn up, to be filled out for all events, including receptions after funerals.

### **New Business**

Dave Roberts reported that the parish library requires a librarian to run it. A notice will be placed in the bulletin requesting volunteer help from an experienced librarian. Tom Lavrisa reported that a new Privacy Policy for the parish web page was drafted, announcements were requested for after Sunday masses and the bulletin, following which the minutes would be posted. Tom Dewar reported on the policy regarding service animals in church. The policy covers the definition of service animals, control and behaviour of the animal, where it can stay during Mass, the owner's involvement limited to worship, and consideration of others in vicinity who may be allergic to the service animal. Tom Dewar will post the policy in the church and have plaques made informing parishioners that service animals are allowed. Ray moved to accept the policy, Blair seconded it and it was passed. A discussion followed on how to improve communication between Pastoral Council and parish staff. This will be continued at our meeting in January. Dora Mesec is requesting some help with hosting the social events in the Parish & Community Life mandate. We hope to get sufficient volunteers from our annual appeal. **ACTION:** Claire to follow up with this activity. Ray Fournier will draft a budget for each group based upon the previous year's request and request feedback. Samples of potential new bulletin styles are being mailed to the Council for consideration. The Ministry Awareness day will not be held on Dec. 2 as planned but will be postponed to the new year.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the December social at 7:00 p.m. at the Glen restaurant.