



**St. Joseph's Parish**  
**An inclusive community**

# **St. Joseph's Annual Report**

**June 11, 2014**



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# Pastor's Report

## An Open-Ended Call

Call narratives are some of the most significant parts of our Scriptures, yet also some of the most ignored and misunderstood.

As a child, I thought the only people actually called by God were priests and nuns. They alone received some special, heavenly invitation to carry on Jesus' work.

Such a theology isn't biblical.

First of all, priests in Scripture weren't called; they were born. Only those men belonging to a specific Jewish tribe, clan and family could be priests. What was once reserved for only a few men – royalty and priesthood – is now shared in by all followers of Jesus.

Our sacred authors knew nothing of a distinction between clergy and laity as we speak of it today. Biblical people are simply called to be disciples of Yahweh or Jesus. Specific tasks or ministries might eventually surface within those calls, but the call itself is always open-ended.

Scripture's first call was Yahweh's call to Abram and Sarah. He and Sarah are the first humans to have Yahweh as their God. Their call will set the pattern for all other biblical calls.

The first element to note is Yahweh's command: "Go!" Biblical calls always demand we move. We're expected to leave the "place" – either geographical or psychological where we're comfortably established and go somewhere else. Those who are called should always have their bags packed.

"Salvation history" is our salvation history. All of us are called to participate in God's saving actions. But if we don't notice that we're even being called, God's salvation is going to take a longer time to be realized than God originally intended.

These past 2 years served as a test of our ability to come together in revitalizing our Parish community and encouraging our parishioners to share their gifts at all levels of our leadership. We have evolved into a community where members are encouraged, welcomed and expected to contribute to and be actively engaged in our ministries, liturgy, outreach and governance. Scripture indicates that this unity must be based on our call to social justice, compassion and peace.

At St. Joe's, our Mission Statement compels us to come together as a living witness of God's peace in Ottawa's inner city, reaching out to all who have been marginalized by society at large. Our rich diversity helps us reach out to demographics sometimes neglected by the Church and by the broader Ottawa community and to do so in a way that provides more than just temporal respite, guidance or assistance, but also welcomes, empowers and builds.

The energy, time, commitment and leadership of so many parishioners in developing our new governance model, and your feedback and patience as we implement it, first and foremost serve to help us empower others, by also empowering ourselves to be true stewards of this Christian community. Our new governance model serves as a vehicle through which we may tap into the remarkable creativity, as well as the individual and shared life experiences of our parishioners. This model helps ensure that we live our mission of justice and



inclusivity by having more voices and more perspectives around the table than ever before. The Annual General Meeting serves as an important opportunity for us to live this mission.

The year ahead will be one of solidifying the important changes and gains we have made. Having learned to 'walk' a collaborative governance model, now we need to learn to 'run.' We have already demonstrated that we have the skills and commitment to live our values. With the support of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to grow in strength and blessings so that we may be ever more present to the people of our parish community and community at large.

André L. Boyer,  
Pastor

## Report from Parish Pastoral Council

### **Ask, and it shall be given!**

Since our last AGM in June 2013, St. Joseph's has continued to bear witness to our mission and charism of outreach to the marginalised and a commitment to social and economic justice, while continuing to evolve in our understanding and experience of living the new collaborative governance model. As members of your Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) we have had the privilege – and indeed, the challenge – of supporting the integration of this new model into St. Joe's 'usual way we do things'. We have seen much progress but, as with all living things, there is still room to grow and improve.

We have been blessed with able and committed members of PPC. Last spring a new Chairperson was installed and in the autumn, new mass representatives were elected. In many ways, we have all been learning together – and communications, as is usually the case, is showing itself to be key to taking greatest advantage of our new governance structure. The 'cluster model' representing the 50-some ministries active in our parish has shown itself to be useful to facilitate inter-ministry communication and collaboration and more robust representation and ideas around the PPC table, but also sometimes confusing as individual ministries discern their place within a larger cluster and learn how to most effectively use their PPC rep to voice their ideas and opinions.

Our parish was invited to submit comments to the Archdiocese for inclusion in the Archdiocesan response to the call for input to the upcoming 'General Synod on the Family'. Michelle Miller took the lead on seeking input and preparing a thoughtful response on behalf of the parish which reflected our community's values of inclusiveness and respect. Our submission was posted on our website and a summary is included below.

In response to parishioners' interest in PPC's priorities and work, last September, PPC started monthly reports in the Bulletin and on the parish website. These reports are done by individual members and resonate with their voice and a blend of their priorities as representatives of a cluster or a mass and of the work of PPC as a whole. We continue to look for ways to enhance our communications, both as a Council and generally within the worship and volunteer communities active in the parish.

Already giving so much in 'time and talent,' the parish community responded to the call to share more of their 'treasure'. The structural deficit was a concern at the beginning of last year, and remains so, but significant strides have been made to bring it under control. In addition, Finance Committee, staff and volunteers found ways to reduce costs and increase revenues without unduly compromising our programming. One positive development is the significant increase in concert revenues as Jamie Loback has successfully reached out to Ottawa's music community, which is coming to appreciate the many benefits we offer as a venue. We appear to be on target to eliminate the structural deficit in the next two years, as planned. Our success so far has allowed us to revisit some planned reductions, while still achieving our financial targets. St. Joe's has a large



staff contingent (21 full and part time staff) compared to most parishes, which generally rely on volunteers to manage their ministries, and thus we continued to review our operational needs, including the make-up of our staff cadre. As we committed last year, while any changes as a result of this review should generate HR savings, this review is being undertaken in order to ensure that we meet the current and future spiritual and operational needs of our community and ministries, not as a cost-saving exercise per se. All changes are being implemented with care to respect the dignity and minimise any negative effect on affected staff.

The HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) replacement project was delayed as we looked for ways to minimize costs. We determined that we could reduce project costs without losing effectiveness through changes in scope. Fortunately, we made it through another winter with few problems. We have launched the bid process and work is scheduled for mid-summer. Notwithstanding the cost reductions identified, this remains a very large capital expense which will require significant targeted fund-raising to replenish our reserve. As our Executive Director notes in his report, we have undertaken some minor capital upgrades; these make our space more usable for all. Such projects have been completed at minimal cost using in-house skills, led by Nick Cacciato, and often using resources from the Re-Store and donated materials.

The coming year will see the St. Joe's Women's Centre mark its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary– a wonderful milestone in service to the community, much of that under the capable direction of Marsha Wilson. The Supper Table under Mary Murphy's direction continues to provide a safe, respectful environment along with healthy meals; we wish our society were such that it was not a necessary ministry, but as long as there are those in need, we will continue to open our doors and our hearts to them.

Our parish is truly blessed in the abundant faith and generosity of its members. You have been asked, and you have given, to the great gratitude of those with whom we work and those whom we serve. With the continued grace of God, who is the source of all we have, we will continue to build on Christ's foundation of love, living our mission of service to all those who come through our doors.

Parish Pastoral Council

Andre L. Boyer O.M.I (Pastor), Christine Burton (Chair) Kathy Crowe, Rene Danis, Herman De Souza, Jacqueline Dawson, Joe Gauthier (Treasurer), Joanne Lee, Rose Purification, Eleanor Rabnett, Phil Spencer, Dianne Taylor

### **Summary report of Parish response to Vatican Synod on the Family Prepared by Michelle Miller**

In late fall 2013 the Holy See released a Preparatory Document for the upcoming Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will meet at the Vatican, 5-19 October 2014. The theme of this Third Extraordinary General Assembly is "The pastoral challenges for the family in the context of evangelization." Each Episcopal conference of bishops was asked to consult with the clergy and laity in their dioceses with regards to the preparatory questionnaire. The questionnaire centered on topics such as the acceptance of Catholic teachings in areas of family life and marriage, natural law, divorce, same-sex unions, education of children, including those in "irregular" families, as well as family planning.

In the Archdiocese of Ottawa, an online survey of the preparatory questionnaire was created and each parish was asked to complete the anonymous parish survey online. St. Joseph's published this questionnaire in the November 24th edition of our Weekend Bulletin as well as on our parish website. Given the pastoral ministry nature of the questions, St. Joseph's enlisted feedback from the following areas of Parish Life: Family Ministry, LGBTSA Ministry, Marriage Ministry, Baptismal Preparation, and from Staff, the Pastor and the Chair of the Parish Council. The final report from St. Joseph's parish was completed and forwarded to the Archdiocese of Ottawa as well as published on our parish website. Each Diocese then submitted its own report to the CCCB, which is preparing a draft synthesis to be sent to the Holy See in preparation of the October 2014 Synod.



# St. Joseph's Mission Statement

We who choose St. Joseph's Parish are called, as part of the Body of Christ, in the Archdiocese of Ottawa to be:

A **Proclaiming community**, which is a living witness to Christ in the inner city and in partnership with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, proclaims the Good News to the poor.

A **Welcoming Community** which is gathered together in weakness and strength by the Spirit of Jesus to nurture its faith by sharing the Word and breaking the Bread, remembering and celebrating God's love for us.

A **Discerning Community**, which inspired and led by the Holy Spirit on a journey of Faith, encourages the gifts of individuals to flourish;

A **Ministering Community** which serves the needs of its people and reaches out in solidarity, especially to those who are poor and marginalized in the community at large.

## Overview of Annual Report

This Annual Report is intended as a summary of the ministries and activities underway in our Parish. The reports are prepared by the members of the ministries themselves, outlining their accomplishments, challenges, finances and the year ahead, as they see them. This report, together with the audited statements and the Annual General Meeting itself, meets legal reporting obligations while also serving as a reporting vehicle to our community. However, no single report alone can fully reflect the many dimensions of our work, nor can it express our gratitude for the work of all those involved in every aspect of our parish life. Thus, this may be more accurately understood as a complement to the many regular written and verbal reports and updates by the Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and individual ministries, and to meetings and discussions with members of our various councils, committees and working groups, and with staff.

**Our continued *thanks* go out to all who give so selflessly of their time, talent and treasure to make St. Joseph's a living expression of God's love in the community.**



# Executive Director's Report

## Executive Director: Christopher Adam

St. Joseph's Parish has experienced a dynamic and in many ways transformative year from an operational and administrative perspective, especially as this has been the first full year following implementation of the new governance model. On a more personal note, 2013 also represented my first full year as Executive Director.

## The Parish at a glance, through numbers

Church attendance averages around 550 for all weekend masses over the year. While our Parish registry includes the names of 1,071 registered, individual parishioners, as a downtown community located next to a major university campus, St. Joseph's has a somewhat transient character, with both students and young professionals attending intermittently and sometimes registering, before moving away. This particular reality represents an opportunity for future alumni development.

In terms of donations, auto-debit and envelope offerings continue to comprise the majority of Parish contributions. We currently have 270 parishioners donating through envelopes, 176 contributing through auto-debit, 14 regular Canada Helps contributors, with others present during mass offering cash donations. The balance of auto-debit and envelope users has remained steady between 2012 and 2013, with their being some movement towards a greater use of auto-debit among those who previously requested envelopes.

From a staffing perspective, St. Joseph's as a whole (including the Women's Centre and the Supper Table) employed 12 full-time and 9 part-time staff members in 2013. Of these employees, 5 worked within the Women's Centre, 4 were part of the Pastoral Team, 3 were employed in maintenance, 2 in Parish administration, 2 in the Supper Table and 5 worked part-time front-office shifts. Additionally, both the Supper Table and Women's Centre received grants to employ a part-time summer student.

## Our Physical Plant – Accomplishments

Our maintenance team had a busy year, both on-site and off-site. The complete renovation of the sacristy, as well as the restroom next to the sacristy, proved to be the single largest project for our maintenance team. This was also perhaps the most visible project for parishioners. Additionally, new cabinets and built-in storage were added into our confessional kitchen and a new ceiling and lighting was installed in the hallway connecting the Women's Centre offices to the Centre's main room. As we entered 2014, plans were put in place to update the kitchen next to the Oblate lounge and to repaint the second floor, both of which were completed early this calendar year.

In 2013, the Parish also resumed its involvement in off-site projects. Our goal has been to ensure on-going employment for our maintenance staff even during quieter times of the year, by working on local neighbourhood projects or with other Oblate organizations. In 2013, our Parish maintenance staff worked on lawn care and landscaping at the Oblate Springhurst retirement residence and we also took on two major renovation projects in the Sandy Hill area.

Making more effective use of our facilities, especially from the perspective of income-generation, was also a focus in 2013. As such, the Parish signed an on-going rental agreement with the Christian Reformed chaplaincy, leading to regular rental income starting in August 2013 and continuing into the summer of 2014.

## HVAC project proceeding

The replacement of our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is proceeding as planned, with tender documents expected to be issued in June 2014 and the project completed in September 2014, in



advance of the heating season. In 2013, the HVAC project began with an asbestos survey, as well as abatement, both completed in the late summer and early fall. It was a requirement of this project that all asbestos be removed from areas of the church where construction will take place, most notably the boiler room, the tunnels on either side of the hall and the hallway near the stage. The HVAC project will include the replacement of our hot water boiler (which dates back to 1942), a new ventilation system for both the church and the hall, as well as the necessary upgrades to the kitchen in the hall.

## Challenges Ahead

As we move ahead with the HVAC project (which represents the single largest capital investment for the Parish in more than a decade), we must be mindful of other upcoming, major capital expenditures. Our roof – which has a surface area of 26,310 square feet -- will require work within the next years, as will the pad and stairs outside the main Wilbrod St. entrance of the church. As such, even as we make good progress toward eliminating our operational deficit, replenishing our reserves will be key, particularly after the completion of the HVAC project and in anticipation of other major work.

From the perspective of ensuring that the Parish's mission and outreach remains relevant to the ever-changing, broader Ottawa community, we need to continually assess and explore how we live our values of social justice. St. Joseph's commitment to socio-economic outreach initiatives is well-known in Ottawa. This past year, however, also offered us an opportunity to explore diversity and inter-cultural dialogue through our International Day event in November. Over the course of our Parish's nearly 160 years in existence, the face of our community, as well as of Sandy Hill, has evolved and has been transformed. Recognizing, embracing and responding to the needs of this diverse and changing community in a manner that reflects our values of compassion, openness and social justice, and the Oblate charism that serves as our foundation, not only represents a challenge moving forward, but also an opportunity for growth.



# Finance Committee

**Ministry Contact: Don Duthie, Interim Chair; Joe Gauthier, Treasurer**

## Summary

The Finance Committee's (FC) main role is as an advisory body to Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) to ensure that PPC is informed in all its decision-making with respect to any relevant financial information with direct bearing on its decisions. The FC completed its first full calendar year in 2013 after having been named the successor to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) in the fall of 2012. While the report below outlines some challenges, we believe the Parish is moving towards stable, sustainable finances that will enable us to continue and hopefully enhance our ministry to those whom we serve. The following reports on activities for the Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) as well as plans and progress so far in 2014.

We would like to recognize and thank Christopher Adam, Executive Director, who is the staff person assigned to our committee and whose work is crucial to our ability to support the Parish, for his able and cheerful support and leadership over the last year. We would also like to acknowledge the fine work of St. Joseph's staff, who have shown both creativity and professionalism in their efforts to support the Parish and FC in addressing our financial challenges.

The FC is committed to continuing to work with the PPC and the Parish as a whole to address our financial situation so that we may continue to serve the people of God, whether they join us in worship or come to our door as the face of Christ in the poor of our community. We are grateful to our parish family and every visitor for their financial contributions as well as their contributions of time and talent. Without your gifts, our challenges would be virtually insurmountable.

## Accomplishments

Building on the experience of aiding the Executive Director in the preparation of the 2013 budget, the FC went through the 2014 budgetary process with much more rigor. While the budget was not completed until the end of January 2014, it was felt that the extra time was necessary and ultimately beneficial in finalizing a budget that is both the most accurate and descriptive in memory. The approved 2014 budget is based on revenues of \$1.16 million and expenditures of \$1.20 million, resulting in a deficit of \$37,000. This is in line with the 3 year plan to eliminate the structural deficit that was implemented last year. The actual operating deficit for FY2013 of \$35,000 before prior period adjustments and non-recurring items was less than the budgeted deficit of \$61,500 by about \$26,500. The collection plate, which comprises about 1/3 of the Parish's revenues (other revenues come from rentals of rooms and other space, grants and other donations), increased by about 2.5% in 2013, following an increase in 2012. The hope is that the trend will continue upwards at least in line with the Consumer Price Index. However, the budgeted amount for 2014 remains conservative, guarding against the possibility of a downturn and the need to cut expenditures to important programs.

## Challenges

We are continuing to work on improving our budget planning, tracking and reporting. With an increasingly accurate understanding of our financial situation in hand, key to moving forward is a return to balanced budgets that reflect known realities versus hoped-for possibilities. While we may indeed be blessed by serendipity on occasion, we cannot risk our community or our clients' futures on such 'maybe's'. At the same time, we cannot simply cease operations or halt necessary work in order to save money. What is needed is balance. To this end, then, we must look at our expenditures with rigor, assessing our immediate, medium and longer-term operational needs and identify any areas where we can achieve savings. We must also consider where we might be able to increase our revenues. This may on occasion require the prudent investment of



some of our limited resources in order to generate additional future revenues. The FC will be looking at both sides of the ledger.

At the same time, the FC is conscious that the primary work of St. Joseph's is to minister to the people of God, both spiritually and temporally, in the church and those who come to our ministry doors. In addition to caring for our existing community, a recruitment campaign to attract new members is vital. New members are the lifeblood of a vibrant and growing community, bringing not only their financial offerings, but also their volunteer time and their skills (time, talent and treasure). All are gifts from the Creator and necessary pieces in building greater financial stability. While the FC will work with the PPC and staff and other volunteers on such a campaign, the FC urges all members of the community to remember their responsibility in this regard; if each existing member of St. Joseph's were to bring a single new member to the community, whether for a single mass or event or, preferably, as a new member, our financial situation would likely be greatly resolved and our capacity to serve others greatly enhanced – and, we hope, that person would be brought into greater relationship with our loving Creator.

The FC also faces a more immediate need in its own ranks. While it gained 2 new members since the last AGM and one this year, two members resigned this year for personal reasons, leaving only 4 members from the Parish at large. The goal this year is to recruit more members to ensure both continuity in membership and a wealth of different viewpoints in approaching what are often multi-faceted issues.

## Finances

The Budget is composed of two primary categories: capital and operational.

The capital budget, which falls outside of the operational deficits mentioned above, is expected to be roughly \$600,000 for the year, the vast majority of which has been allocated to the upgrade of the HVAC (Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning) system. While the original plan was to have the necessary HVAC work done last year, it was discovered in the fall of 2013 that the scope of the project, and the associated costs needn't be as great as previously expected and that some of the equipment slated for replacement might have at least several more years of useful, economical service left. Given this new information, it was decided to put off the project to 2014 and we expect to see some significant reductions in the budgeted amount as a result. Other, more minor capital expenditures for 2014 include some cosmetic improvements to the Parish hall, an assessment of the state of the front steps and the state of the sacristy foundation. While there are reserve funds available to pay for such work up-front, we will need to develop a strategy to replenish the funds spent in 2013 and to cover future capital needs, such as the roof and sound system, both of which have been identified as issues, without compromising our operating budget.

While our audited statements show a surplus of about \$113,000, it is important to keep in mind that there were one-time non-recurring revenue items of about \$148,000 that are not included in the budget and on which we can't rely on an on-going basis to eliminate the structural deficit in the budget. As mentioned, we did run a deficit but not as great as had been expected, indicating that we are ahead of schedule in eliminating the structural deficit.

The results from the first quarter of 2014 show that we are on track to meet our budget targets for this year and, encouragingly, collection plate revenues continue to be strong and stable. We hope this trend continues and at this point, as the average weekly collection of \$6,200 seems to be continuing from 2013, we have no reason to believe it won't.

We are tracking the budgets of the Women's Centre and the Supper Table within the overall Parish budget. Such separation of budget lines enables all involved to more clearly understand the true cost of operations (for example, actual costs such as normal operating costs associated like utilities, and opportunity costs like lost revenue when space used for one function is not available for rent otherwise), as well as to identify where spending efficiencies or revenue generation opportunities might be realized.



## Year Ahead

The Finance Committee is composed of Don Duthie (Chair), Joe Gauthier (Treasurer), Melanie Forget, Patricia Malikail (Recorder), and Greg Lopinski, as well as Fr. Andy Boyer, OMI (ex officio), Christine Burton (ex officio) and Chris Adam (ex officio, non-voting).

Key priorities for the FC in 2014 are to:

- 1) Ensure more regular and comprehensive reporting to the community regarding our financial situation. Such reporting should be reasonably easily understood without glossing over necessary nuances, and support an understanding of our challenges so that all can offer ideas and solutions to achieve our goals of financial stability and sustainability.
- 2) Identify opportunities for increased revenue generation that are consistent with our values and pastoral priorities, and support staff to capitalise on such opportunities.
- 3) Review the operational needs of the organisation to identify areas where savings may be achieved, and develop an implementation plan that minimises negative impacts on our community, clients and guests or staff.
- 4) Work with the community to develop a stewardship plan that takes best advantage of the many gifts of our existing community, whether time, talent or treasure.
- 5) Work with PPC to develop a strategy to increase our Parish membership.

With the replacement of the Parish bookkeeper with a more mature, experienced bookkeeper, we hope to have more timely and accurate reporting during the coming year and have made this a priority. The change to our new external auditors and the “fresh eyes” they bring have helped us to clean up the books by recognizing numerous deferred items and writing off some old balances. The combination of the new bookkeeper and new auditors will ensure that our books are as accurate as they’ve ever been moving forward.

With the departure of two of members (one to the Chair of PPC and one to an assignment away from Ottawa in July), the FC will be seeking new people to serve on the Committee. Ideally these individuals will have accounting credentials as well as experience in working with or on the boards of not-for-profit organizations.



# Ministry: Women's Centre

**Ministry Contact: Marsha Wilson**

## Overview

This year marks St. Joe's Women's Centre's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Looking back through Centre newsletters, and photographs, bring back many fond memories. The stories shared by the women told the meaning of what it truly was like to be homeless, suffer with addictions and mental illness. They walked the few blocks from All Saints Anglican Church where they slept and spent their day and early evening at St. Joe's. Even though monies were scarce the staff worked tirelessly to make the best of what they had.

During the day and evening program 25 women gathered for fellowship, away from the elements of the weather, in a safe and a non-judgmental atmosphere. Light breakfast and lunch was served, and the day was filled with activities such as: crafts, card games, and socialization.

In June 1989, the Centre was moved to its present location and as time passed more women became aware of it, and today 50-60 women and children attend each day. With the increase in space and the number of women and children attending new programming was established, which encompassed their needs. Women consider the Centre their "Home Away From Home", where they find Nourishment of the Mind, Body & Soul.

## **30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebration:**

On Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Centre will celebrate 30 years of providing services to women in our community. Please join us in a celebratory prayer service at St. Joseph's church, followed by an open house at the Women's Centre. The celebration will begin at 7pm. Please RSVP by June 9<sup>th</sup> at [STJWC30@gmail.com](mailto:STJWC30@gmail.com).

## Statistics

On a daily basis approximately 50-60 women and children access the Centre. Participants access services such as a self-serve breakfast and hot nutritional lunch, emergency food cupboard, clothing, computer programs, laundry facilities, special events and outings or to receive supportive counselling.

These statistics reflect the first quarter of this year, January 2014-April 2014:

- Total Visits: 4250
- Total Amount of Meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Snack): 4952
- Total Amount of Grocery Hampers: 1285

Breakdown of Hamper Program:

- Total Amount of Grocery Hampers (Adult Single): 823
- Total Amount of Grocery Hampers (Family): 462

## Children's Programming

The snack in my pack program is offered on weekly basis and provides healthy school snacks to children in need. From January to April 2014, we supplied approximately 285 bags of school snacks to needy families.

The Baby Cupboard offers parents of young children diapers, formula and other infant related items. The majority of these are provided by the Ottawa Food Bank. From Jan to April 2014 we served 135 mothers and their children.



Last summer we were able to supply 63 children with backpacks filled with school supplies and an additional 15 children with basic supplies from our Back to School Program. As participation rises in other children's programming, we also anticipate a rise in the number of families accessing this program in summer 2014.

### Statistical Trends:

This year's winter weather has played a part in our minimal decrease in participants throughout January-April. As the warmer weather approaches, our numbers continue to increase.

You will notice a slight decline in the number of participants accessing our School Snack Program and a large increase in those accessing the Back to School Program (40 in 2013-63 in 2014).

As they often do, our population continues to change and shift. Many of the young children that once accessed our services are now adolescences. Making our Back to School Program more accessible to high School students resulted in a large increase. We will continue to modify our services based on the need of participants we are serving, making the School Snack Program now available to Jr. High and High School students

### **2014 City of Ottawa Grant Funding**

The 2014 designated City of Ottawa Grant Funding totals \$325, 000. This funding covers our Core Services (meal program, administration, utilities and salaries.) Our 2013 Operational Expenditures were \$420, 000; additional expenditures and programming are funded through various other fundraising initiatives.

### **Fundraising Initiatives**

On October 6th, 2013, the Ottawa Quota Club hosted a fundraising event at the Rideau Carleton Raceway. St. Joe's Women's Centre but more particularly the Shared Works Empowers and Teaches Program, was chosen to be the recipients of that evenings proceeds of \$8500.

On Thursday November 7th our 14th Annual Quality of Life awards took place, honoring Chief Charles Bordeleau of Ottawa Police, Shirley Westeinde of Windmill Developments and Frank Ling Business Developer and founder of the Ottawa Dragon Boat Races. The evening's event was sponsored and hosted by the Westin Ottawa and raised \$18, 000.

Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup>, marked the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Bon Appetite event. The Women's Centre has been a beneficiary of this event for many years. Staff and Steering Committee members volunteer during the event as a way to give back for their generosity. The Bon Appetite cheque presentation takes place in a couple weeks. The Centre usually receives \$5,000-\$7,000. Funds are specifically allocated to children's summer programming.

Our annual Fashion Show Gala, Inspire & Ignite, took place on Thursday May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hosted at the Marriott Hotel, over 200 of Ottawa's premiere business leaders and community supporters attended. The evening featured a cocktail reception, dinner, silent auction and a fantastic show featuring Greentree Eco Fashion. We were able to secure many sponsorships including; Walmart and Domicile Development at a presenting level and Windmill Development as a Gold Sponsor. We had fantastic media coverage both leading up to and throughout the event from CTV, CBC, Rogers TV and the Ottawa Citizen. The night was a great success and we are anticipating profitable revenues from it.

### **Strategic Planning**

In 2013, we recognized that to move forward we required a clear direction and thus undertook a strategic planning process. We reviewed our mission, vision and mandate, within the current political environment, economic opportunities and social trends in the City of Ottawa. The goals identified give the Steering Committee and staff clear direction for the next 5 years.



- Goal #1: Be the employer of choice for social service professionals in hiring, retention and training.
- Goal #2: Equip our staff with the tools, equipment and required resources to deliver quality programs.
- Goal #3: Deliver exceptional evidence-based program and services aligned to mitigate poverty.
- Goal #4: Generate a solid and sustainable foundation of financial resources to support our work.

### Website and Logo Launch

Establishing a new logo has been a task that the Women Centre's Steering Committee have been working on for some time. We are thrilled to announce that a logo has been chosen. Our new logo truly encompasses a theme of empowerment and a sense of "a home away from home".



The Women Centre's website, [www.stjoeswomenscentre.org](http://www.stjoeswomenscentre.org), is currently under construction. The revamped website will be more user friendly and display clear useful information. The targeted population of information displayed will not only be social service agencies and funders but women in need as well.

Both the logo and website will be launched at our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. We would like to thank Laura Datema, Algonquin College Graphic Design Program, for her work on the logo and Senses Innovative Communication & Marketing Solutions Inc. for their work on the website.

**It takes a community to make the vision of St. Joe's Women's Centre come true. From major corporate and individual gifts to pennies from school children, every donation counts toward the vision of a safe and caring "home away from home" for the women and children who access our services.**

### A deep hearted thank you to all of our supporters:

- |                                    |  |                               |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Bon Appetit Ottawa                 | Kavanagh Investments                             | Scotiabank                    |
| Bytown Catering                    | Mondeau Showroom                                 | Sisters of Charity            |
| Catholic Women's League            | Mr. & Mrs. Pagliaro                              | Sisters of Sacred Heart       |
| Cielo Print Inc.                   | Oblates of Mary Immaculate<br>(Lacombe Province) | St. Joseph's Parish           |
| Community Foundation of<br>Ottawa  | Ottawa Citizen                                   | The Max Keeping Foundation    |
| Domicile                           | Ottawa Kiwanis Club                              | Royal Oak Pub (Laurier Ave E) |
| Frouin Group                       | P. Holmes  | The Westin Ottawa             |
| Grey Hawk Golf Club                | Primecorp Commercial Realty<br>Inc.              | Third Avenue Spa              |
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| Jeff & Colleen Westeinde           | Royal Lepage Shelter<br>Foundation               | Valberg Imaging               |
| Karen McClintock                   | RTG Special Events                               | Walmart                       |
| KPMG                               |  | Windmill Development          |



# Community Building Cluster

**Parish Pastoral Council Representative: Herman De Souza**

**Co-Facilitators: Stephen McCanny and Maria Virjee**

## Accomplishments

The cluster pulled together as a diverse group of parishioners who are passionate about reaching out, communicating and finding our identity at St. Joe's. Notable events include:

- Hosted the reception after the One Mass on February 3, 2013 and launched the St. Joseph's Parish Community Guidebook: Belonging and Action
- Photographed archived parish bulletins from 1956-1983 for electronic access
- Welcomed 27 engaged couples in two Marriage Preparation sessions (see Marriage Ministry report)
- Welcome Ministry was active at three masses and well linked with the University Mass. Two people are hosting welcome dinners in their homes.
- Last spring the Parish Resource room was set up in the 3rd floor dining room. Come and borrow the treasures there!

## Challenges

Though we were excited about the new way of taking responsibility in the parish, we were often confused about how to communicate and with whom. The Parish Guidebook is a big step in the right direction. We are learning as we go and are grateful for patience and forgiveness.

## Finances

No financial information available. Expenses are coordinated with parish staff.

## Year Ahead

- The Neighbourhood project looks forward to re-launching its efforts with a new sense of mission to be mindful of the fellow parishioners in our neighbourhood.
- The Youth Ministry is excited about new connections within the parish and on campus.
- The Marriage Ministry has a strong team of six couples and is looking for new couples to facilitate the FOCCUS questionnaire for guiding couples in building their relationships.
- The History Committee is always interested in photographs or documents from the parish's storied past. These will be scanned and made available through the parish website and our bound paper archives.
- The ministries in the Community Building Cluster look forward to further planning and interaction with the integrated Stewardship Committee reporting directly to Parish Council.
- The LGBTSA looks forward to participating in the Gay Pride parade under the St. Joseph's banner.

## Communications Committee

**Ministry Contact:** varies

## Accomplishments

### A. Bulletin:

- The Bulletin continues to be published weekly. The Spirit Newsletter took a hiatus in 2012 so the Bulletin makes an effort to include faith formation and faith based articles on a regular basis. The bulletin is



emailed to over 250 individuals each week as well as being published on our parish website each Saturday and mailed to those parishioners who can no longer attend mass.

### B. Website:

- The Website is used as a tool for people to get information about St. Joe's. It provides a platform to register for weddings, marriage prep, baptism preparation and various one-time events. Parish documents are intended to be readily available and the Liturgy Calendar is used as a tool to provide a common place for liturgical ministries to collaborate and communicate. The bulletin, reflections and other parish ministry updates can be found on the site.
- There is a Flickr account with the website which has to be updated and sorted. This allows us to control our photos a little easier.

### C. Facebook:

- Our Facebook page had 28 likes in January of 2013 and has grown to 287 likes since then. The Facebook page featured daily prayer, news from the Vatican and other church sources, social justice interests, Young Adult Wednesdays and parish events. Facebook became a feature of our websites front page to offer current news and parish updates. One interesting tidbit – we did find that parishioners did check their Facebook during mass.
- At the end of 2013, the History Committee was asked to take on Tuesday posts with their History trivia.
- Facebook is a great tool for pastoral care. There are ways to engage with parishioners on Facebook in an immediate way that email may not achieve. Examples: One parishioner's father died and we found out through Facebook, another parishioner was able to connect to a temporary job through a Facebook request.

## Challenges

### A. Bulletin:

- We have an online Bulletin submission form on the parish website, but when we have problems with the website, we lose this streamlined information gathering process.
- The Bulletin is published in MS Publisher and only one computer in the building has this program presently installed.

### B. Website:

- Unfortunately, last July the site crashed due to issues around the coding and updates of plug-ins for the platform we were using. Volunteers stepped in and rescued the data and we had to use a new template for temporary use.
- Mary Murphy was the designated staff contact for both the Website and Facebook but since she has taken over the duties of the Supper Table, there is now no staff person dedicated to overseeing the daily maintenance and updates or visioning and content building process. The website has crashed several times this year and the main page of the website is mainly populated with the weekly bulletin.
- There is no committee to oversee the development, content, archives and updates necessary to meet the changing needs of the audience – such as mobile usability, making the site more interactive.

### C. Facebook:

- As noted above, with the transfer of Mary Murphy to the Supper Table, there is currently no staff person designated to update this and there is no policy or guideline set up, and no one is monitoring comments. (During Pride week and the month after is when we will most likely need more keen monitoring)



- A Twitter account was set up but never got off the ground

## Year Ahead

### A. Bulletin:

- We have looked into taking local advertisements as a way to general funds and to specifically publicize parishioner owned services and businesses.

### B. Website:

- The website should be redesigned for mobile use
- There is a suggestion that we go with a company who will monitor the site, do updates as necessary to any platform chosen and adapt the sight to the changing needs of the audience. We are no longer able to rely on staff to manage updates, research platforms, hosts, spam, etc.
- Staff can manage content along with committee's but, we do not have the capacity of time or skill in the technical fields necessary to run a home grown site.
- Adds should be put on the site to help support the cost of producing it and to increase our audience.

### C. Facebook:

- Suggest PPC invest in starting a communications committee to use Facebook as a way to promote the mission of the Parish. This could be used to reach parishioners who are away – for prayer, news, and for keeping in touch with parishioners. Pastoral care could be part of this ministry.

## St. Joe's LGBT and Straight Alliance

**Ministry Contact: Ewelina Frackowiak**

No updates to report

## History Committee

**Ministry Contact: Terry Byrne**

### Accomplishments

- We hung paper cranes from under the balcony which bore the name of a parishioner who served and died in World War 11. Parishioners were encouraged to go to our website to read more about these deceased parishioners.
- In support of the International Day event at St. Joes on Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, a display of some of our historical documents were presented for parishioners to review.
- Did You Know informational items appeared in the bulletin informing parishioners about our history.

As a mid-year update for 2014, the History Committee organized the Pot Luck and Variety Show on April 5, 2014. Several talented parishioners sang, played music and read poetry as well as giving a reading from a book that is soon to be released. The History Committee presented a 12 minute skit, told a story about our parish and an article about Eugene de Mazenod, the founder of the Oblates was written and distributed. 110 parishioners attended and over \$550 was raised, which went to the Supper Table.



## Year Ahead

- In order to expand the stories of the parishioners who served in WW1 and WW11, we will develop a form so that anyone who has information on the parishioners who served in these wars may complete and submit it to the History Committee which will write up the story and add it to our collection of stories which appear below the memorials in the front entrance of the church.
- We will begin video taping parishioners of our parish allowing them the opportunity to share their stories.
- We are examining the possibility of creating banners that could hang over the balcony depicting the history of our parish. This is at a very early stage of thinking and we are looking for creative people who could help us with this project.
- We want to complete the photo shooting of our church bulletins from 1983 to 1990. Once we have done this and cropped the photos, we will have all of our church bulletins from 1960 to 2014.

And in 18 months, our church will turn 160 years old. Is it time for another celebration like we did at our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary?

## Marriage Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Michelle Miller & Steve and Angela McCanny for Marriage Encounter**

### Accomplishments

#### A. Marriage Preparation Program:

- During the two 2013 sessions (Autumn and Spring) there were 7 couples who presented or supported our parish Marriage Preparation program.
- We welcome preparing couples who are registered and attend St. Joe's, as well as those who are not. The Spring 2013 session had 12 couples and the Autumn 2013 session had 14 couples.
- Most of these couples are young adults and this offers an opportunity for a fruitful "faith intersection."
- This program also includes the completion of the "Saying I Do" workbook as well as the FOCCUS online pre-marital inventory and facilitation process. In 2013 we added another FOCCUS trained facilitator couple.
- We also offer marriage preparation outside of the group process for a variety of couples.

#### B. Weddings:

- During 2013 there were 14 weddings at St. Joe's. Of this number, 10 were parishioner couples.
- We continue to update "The Wedding Guide" which is found on our website and answers most of the initial questions that come up as couples search for a Church.
- Some couples register for the first time during this process and are excited to find a faith home. Again, most are young adults and this is an important moment of welcome and hospitality.

#### C. Marriage Encounter:

- Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) in Ottawa offered one weekend for married couples in March 2014 with 18 participating couples, 3 presenting team couples and 1 presenting team priest.
- Two follow-up sessions were hosted in the Oblates Lounge and 8 couples have become involved in ongoing support groups to continue to prioritize their marriages.
- Note: WWME is neither a parish nor a diocesan program, but is regional instead, reaching out to couples in the triangle between Ottawa, Kingston and Cornwall.

## Challenges

#### A. Marriage Preparation Program:



- Looking at the big picture, it is hard to decide how to best prepare couples for marriage. By the time the sign-up for Marriage Prep, most have put down many deposits and have completed major planning. Using the engagement period as a true discernment time is not likely.
- We need 1-2 more trained FOCCUS facilitator couples.

### B. Weddings:

- It would be helpful to train and develop a Wedding Coordinator program that assists the couple on their wedding day and represents the parish and facility for these events.
- Monitoring and securing parking for weddings continues to be a challenge.

### C. Marriage Encounter:

- Ottawa area WWME is currently lacking an overall leadership couple leaving the future of the program a little uncertain. The community hopes to offer a Weekend in 2015.
- The current team priest drives in from Peterborough Diocese to assist with Weekends. It would be helpful to have a local priest involved so that the program could be expanded.
- WWME is a Catholic organization supporting the union between one man and one woman. St. Joe's is a diverse welcoming community made up of many committed couples who cannot participate in the relationship support offered by WWME.

## Finances

Nothing to report. These ministries pay for themselves.

## Year Ahead

Love is always in the air.

## Neighbourhood Project

**Ministry Contact: Michelle Miller**

No updates to report

## Resource Library

**Ministry Contact: Elizabeth Behrens**

## Highlights

Since opening in Nov. 2012, the Resource Library collection has increased 33.3% through book donations and now contains 1,488 titles. Between Nov. 2012 and May 2013, circulation totaled 48 loans, along with in-house use of approximately 37 books. The Resource Library space has also been used regularly for student studying and a variety of Parish activities.

The donation by parishioners of six additional bookcases has filled the existing wall space, increasing shelving capacity to 132 linear feet, along with providing room to house a computer for an on-line catalogue and circulation system, currently under development by a volunteer.

## Finances

The sole expenditure to date has been the purchase of bookends, with no major additional costs anticipated.



**Challenges**

Ongoing publicity through the Parish Bulletin would be useful to increase awareness and use of the Resource Library collection.

**Year Ahead**

Implementation of an on-line catalogue is planned for Fall 2013.

**Welcome Ministry**

**Ministry Contact: Maria Virjee**

**Highlights/Established practices**

- Greeters at the doors at all three Masses
  - Welcome Desks at all three Masses to provide information to newcomers, visitors, and parishioners
  - New parishioners who have filled in a Registration Sheet receive a welcoming letter
  - This welcoming letter is followed up by personal contact – initial meeting over coffee, opportunities to ask questions about St. Joe's, meeting other parishioners over a relaxed meal at somebody's home
  - Permanent entry of Welcome Ministry in Bulletin, including name/phone number/email of ministry contact
- Keeping statistics on numbers of registration sheets, welcoming letters, successful follow-up meetings, welcoming dinners, and parishioners involved

**Challenges**

- Ensuring adequate numbers of regular greeters at all three Masses
- Ensuring adequate rotation of volunteer presence t Welcome Desk
- Intensifying personal greeting in the pews by greeters
- Recruiting more parishioners to help with welcoming letters and personal follow-up
- Raise awareness among established parishioners to look beyond their usual circle to include newcomers and visitors

**Finances**

No parish funds used so far for hospitality expenses, and there is no plan of doing so in the foreseeable future.

**Year Ahead**

There are no hard and fast dates and/or numbers for this Ministry. The 'Challenges' section give a good idea of what work lies ahead.

**And ... just a few figures**

- Welcome letters sent 29
- Successful follow-up (meeting over coffee = closer personal contact) 8
- Number of welcoming meals 8
- Number of new parishioners at welcoming meals 14
- Number of welcoming parishioners at meals 31

**Young Adult Ministry**

**Ministry Contact: Michelle Miller**



## Accomplishments

### UNIVERSITY & STUDENT MINISTRY

- The University 7pm Mass continues to grow. Young adults perform all the liturgical functions including the choir. The music is definitely a highlight of this liturgy.
- Many parishioners bake cookies for after-Mass hospitality which is a wonderful sign of our hospitality and welcome for these young adults.
- Monthly pizza night after Mass is a big hit and a lot of fun.
- Over 20 local churches were involved with the first annual U of O Church Crawl. St. Joe's was part of the planning team and was one of the 'destination' churches on the crawl. About 80 students from various faith backgrounds participated.
- Students and other young adults hosted a free Welcome Back BBQ on the lawn of the parish for new and returning students during Welcome Week. This was very well received and attended.
- A student weekly Campus Rosary was hosted at the parish each Tuesday afternoon.
- Programming continued for student teachers and included teacher-parishioners sharing their faith journey in the midst of their profession.

### GENERAL YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

- A Young Adult Ministry Planning (YAMP) group gathered throughout 2013 for planning and evaluation of programs.
- Young adults continue to gather throughout the year for a monthly brunch after the 11:30am Mass. Attendance ranges from 20-30.
- Michelle Miller did some consulting for St. George and St. Anthony Coptic Church
- Young adults gathered for an overnight Holy Week retreat during Lent 2013. The experience was well attended and received.
- The 'not-so-young' adults (25-35ish) hosted a wine and cheese.
- A group of young adults went on a spring hike in Gatineau Park.
- In an effort to continue to link to our Oblate charism, young adults were the main participants at the Wapoo's Family Farm Fall Clean Up day. We hope to use their facilities in the future for YAM programs.
- Over 22 young adults who do not have family in the area gathered together for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner at the parish. There was also a reception for these types of young adults in between the Christmas Eve Masses.
- Stronger ties with the parish LGBT community continue to grow.
- Michelle Miller sends out a weekly email to over 200 young adults. This includes young adult activities, parish activities, and a 'Faith Formation' section that encourages young adult spirituality growth.
- The St. Joe's Young Adult Facebook page is growing.
- Young adults are involved in many parish activities and ministries. Our goal in St. Joe's YAM is to both program for and with young adults, as well as assist in integrating them into the life of the parish.

## Challenges

- During the Fall 2013 semester, two undergrad students spearheaded a post-Mass gathering for and by students and other young adults. Although worthwhile for those who participated, attendance was not what they hoped so they decided not to continue during the spring 2014 semester.
- We continue to pay attention to what is 'organic' at St. Joe's and how to best serve the young adult community that is ever changing. We would like to increase our service projects and reflection as well as look for more opportunities to create a stronger sense of community.
- Small faith groups for students and young adults require a lot of attention to get started and they never got off the ground. We will not lose hope for these.



### Finances

- Young Adults raised funds for their ministry when they monitored the parish parking lot for Canada Day. Most of our programming attempts to pay for itself.

### Year Ahead

- There is now a young adult Mass 7pm Representative on the Parish Council.
- There was hope of forging a stronger relationship with the young adults at Sacre Coeur. This never really got off the ground but we have renewed hope for 2014.

### Youth Ministry: Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12

**Ministry Contact: Michelle Miller**

No updates to report



## Faith Formation and Initiation Cluster

**Parish Pastoral Council Representative: Kathy Crowe**

**Cluster Facilitator: Dave Perry**

In late 2012 a new parish governance model was introduced implemented including the organization of the various ministries and groups with focus on a similar aspect of parish life into five "clusters", one of which is the Faith Formation and Initiation (FFI) Cluster. The FFI cluster is comprised of ministries and groups that support the initiation and nurturing of the faith life of St. Joe's parishioners. A short description of the FFI ministries and groups can be found on the parish website under publications/parish guidebook.

In 2013, the FFI cluster came together 4 times in prayer and retreat, to provide ministry/group updates, and to share experiences and explore possibilities for collaboration. A Terms of Reference document for the cluster was developed and submitted to Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). The cluster did not meet after April, despite the valiant efforts of the cluster facilitator to identify a date when enough members were available to attend.

This busy and active cluster is blessed with many dedicated volunteers who facilitated numerous activities throughout the year: sacramental preparation and initiation, faith-sharing groups, retreats, meditation groups, scripture study and sessions for those wishing to come to a deeper understanding of their own spirituality, such seeker series, men's spirituality circle and parish yoga. More detailed reports of several ministries can be found within this parish report.

Looking forward to 2014, the ministries and groups have been actively planning for their ongoing work. An important task for the cluster as well will be to begin the discernment process to identify and recommend to PPC individuals to fill the roles of Cluster PPC representative and the Cluster facilitator in the next term (December 2014 - November 2016). The term for the individuals currently in these roles will come to an end in November 2014.

### Adult Initiation – R.C.I.A.

**Ministry Contact: Michèle Babin**

#### Accomplishments

It was a blessed year for us, with several young adults joining preparation for adult baptism, confirmation and first communion. The RCIA team, with support from the St. Joseph's community, journeyed with these adults as they learned, discerned and grew in their faith.

At Easter 2013 we celebrated the full initiation of 1 candidate as well as welcomed 1 previously baptized candidate into the full communion of the Catholic Church. By Christmas 2013, we had 8 candidates, all young adults, in various stages of initiation ministry. The candidates were instructed primarily using articles from the Franciscan Press, weekly reflection on the Sunday Mass readings, and other opportunities to share with and learn from members of the St. Joseph's community. Given that the new candidates were all young adults, we strived to integrate them into the young adult community as well as the parish as a whole.

#### Challenges

A challenge over the year has been to maintain a web page that is easy to access by inquirers and candidates who have questions. We also want to communicate very clearly that inquirers and candidates are welcomed throughout the year, as they will journey at their own pace.



## Finances

No budget in 2013. A small amount is needed for team training, baptism candles, and related items. Michelle Miller, a staff member of the Church, played a key role in helping the Initiation Ministry develop confidence and welcome.

## Year Ahead

To continue to build our faith formation foundations, we have purchased a book, *A Popular Overview of the Catholic Faith*. We will use it to facilitate our learning and reflection. We also want to create more opportunities for members of the Parish community to witness and engage with Christian Initiation candidates over the course of their preparation. Those who prepare Reflections for Mass, volunteers in other ministries, peers who act as sponsors and supports, all are encouraged to participate.

Preparation for Christian Initiation is a year round Ministry, and baptismal participants are encouraged to spend a year or more preparing for the Rites, often celebrated at Easter Vigil and during the Easter Season. Candidates who come to us already formed in the Christian way will often have a unique journey and can be welcomed into the Catholic Church throughout the year. Volunteers who participate in the Ministry may choose to be involved on a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or occasional basis.

## Infant Baptism Preparation

**Ministry Contact: Kathy Crowe**

## Accomplishments

There were no major changes for the baptism preparation team in 2013. Preparation sessions continue to be held over a three-week period on Saturday mornings. The use of the David Wells video series is well liked by families and helps to generate interesting and fruitful discussions. The practice of anointing and welcoming of children prior to their baptism date continues to be well received by families and the assembly. Keeping a limit of 3 (could be stretched to 4) baptisms at any given liturgy has also worked very well.

The numbers:

- 3 baptism preparation series were offered throughout the year
- 25 Families presented their children for baptism -
- 25 infants and children were baptized - one parent of these children was also baptized with her children
- 2 families attended baptism preparation sessions at St. Joe's but the children were baptized in parishes outside of Ottawa.

## Challenges

The preparation team is very small and could use some additional members.

Some preparation groups have been very large. While this can be helpful to generating lively discussions, it can be intimidating for some individuals if the group is too large. We are also limited with the space we are currently using. This is particularly true when parents attend with their children, including older siblings.

Having an additional copy (copies) of the David Wells series would be very helpful for families who miss sessions or want to review segments from the group sessions at home. Parents who request baptism for their infant/young child may choose to not attend baptism preparation sessions if they previously attended for their first child's baptism. The David Wells series could serve as a helpful review.



## Finances

A suggested donation of \$25.00 is requested of families whose children are baptized. These donations help to cover the cost of the baptism candles and print resources that are provided to the families. Of course the donation is not mandatory. A parishioner hand crafts the baptismal candles at cost - his time is donated.

## Year Ahead

- Three preparation series, Baptism and anointing dates have been scheduled for 2014 and posted on the parish website
- An on-line registration tool has been implemented as of January 2014
- The baptism preparation team will explore strategies for recruiting new team members

## Christian Meditation (Mondays 9:30 a.m.)

**Ministry Contact: George Martin & Rosemarie Morris**

No updates to report

## Males Spirituality Open Circle

**Ministry Contact: David Perry**

No updates to report

## Oblate Associates

**Ministry Contact: Eleanor Rabnett**

## Highlights

Although not specifically a ministry of St. Joe's but rather an intentional and specific way of living in partnership with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, there are members of the Parish who are indeed Oblate Associates and who are involved in various ministries of the parish including Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Liturgy Planning Committee, Healing Service, Women's Centre, the Supper Table, etc. Thus the Oblate charism is lived out in mission within the parish community.

Within the past year there have been 2 small retreats offered to St. Joe's Parishioners: (one in September 2012 and one in early March 2013). The first was on Discerning God's Call in our Daily Lives, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> was "How Is God's Love Revealed To You In Your Life?" Both were Mazenodian (based on the Spirituality of St. Eugene de Mazenod, founder of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate).

## Year Ahead

Plans have been made to hold a retreat in the fall (late September-early October), again Mazenodian in nature. The retreat will be built around the idea of the Spirituality of Practicing the Presence of God in Daily Life. A second retreat will be planned again for Lent but topic is not yet been decided.



## Parish Yoga Project

**Ministry Contact: Kate Macdonald**

### Accomplishments

Two sessions of yoga were offered this year: fall and winter. The fall session focused on asana; the winter session was a gentle hatha class with pranayama and a short seated meditation. We continue to explore Patanjali's "Astanga Yoga" or 8 limbs of yoga as a spiritual path (moral and ethical precepts, postural and breathing practice, and meditation). We had multi-generational participation, and welcomed participants with various levels of physical ability.

### Challenges

Having only one teacher (myself!) limits the frequency of the classes offered. But that might change next year because we have a few newly certified yoga teachers in the Parish. My vision is to have a "collective" – several teachers supporting each other in the creation of different types of yoga/meditation classes.

### Finances

I donate my time and the Parish donates the space. I have invested in yoga blocks and belts recently that I will be able to use in the classes I offer. Students supply their own mats. So! There is no financial statement : )

### Year Ahead

No dates yet. I look forward to working with the other certified teachers in the Parish to create a new season of Parish Yoga offerings.

## Sacramental Preparation for Children and Teens

**Ministry Contact: Michelle Miller**

### Accomplishments

- In 2013 we welcomed 15 children to the Table of the Eucharist.
- Their formation consisted of the children and their 2 young adult catechists meeting for 8 weekly sessions. The parents also met at the same time to share the joys and challenges of raising children in faith. We utilize the We Share in the Eucharist booklet which is home based and expects weekly home sessions with parents and children. We have seen the benefit of this and families have also appreciated the structure and encouragement of home participation. As a result of utilizing these books, the bulk of the material is covered at home which leaves the parish catechists with more time and room to get creative in working with the children.
- During these months, each family was encouraged to invite Fr. Andy to their home for dinner.
- On Sundays, the children were matched up with a Eucharistic Minister to help with communion at the 9:30am Mass as part of their preparation.
- The Family retreat was held closer to the ceremony date and included prayer, sharing, a tour of the Church and baking the Eucharistic bread to be used at the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion ceremony.
- As a sign of thanksgiving the children decorated and filled bags with toiletries and small items for the Women's Centre which were brought up during the presentation of gifts at the 1<sup>st</sup> Communion ceremony. The children were encouraged to use their own money and to help decide what to buy for the women and children who use the Centre.



- Parents have remarked that their own session were very worthwhile and gave them a chance to get to know other families on similar journeys. Parents shared how their children were able to teach them about faith as well as vice versa.
- We used the booklet “We celebrate Reconciliation” for preparation for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation. The children and parents worked through the 5 chapters at home each week and we gathered on a Saturday morning for prayer, reflection with celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Parents are also encouraged to celebrate that Sacrament as a way to model the importance of a life-long faith journey.

### Challenges

- Our weekly meeting time is currently between the morning Masses on Sundays. This time constraint can pose a challenge for the catechists.

### Finances

Nothing to report. These ministries “pay for themselves”

### Scripture Study

**Ministry Contact: Pamela Dixon**

No updates to report

### Small Group Faith Sharing

**Ministry Contacts: Joy Heft and Lolita Walsh**

### Accomplishments

This Lent marked the fifteenth season of faith sharing and community building at St. Joseph's in a safe supportive environment where parishioners met to read, reflect, share insights and personal stories, to listen, and to pray for the Church community, world concerns, and for one another. While participants may vary from season to season and even from session to session there remains a core group anxious to welcome newcomers in an intimate, inclusive atmosphere. They anticipate each season as an opportunity to renew friendships with those of the parish who may attend other masses, and especially to hear the thoughtful input and inspiration of others as we discuss the seasonal scriptures. Positive feedback and consistent participation as well as the return of some who may have been absent for recent seasons assure us of the important contribution of our ministry to the spiritual life of our community.

### Challenges

One of the startling changes this year was the instalment of very bright lights in the Oblate Lounge. These are really not conducive to the atmosphere of our more contemplative approach and we try to make do with the lamps on hand which, conversely, are not quite bright enough for reading the materials we use. In addition, for the first time in many years, there seems to be more competition for the space which remains the only suitable one to meet our need for intimacy and reflection.

### Finances

The resource used by our group is an online publication provided by Resurrection Centre in Waterloo entitled Celebrating the Word. The copyright cost is \$130.00 paid for by the facilitators. The materials are reproduced in the parish for the numbers required for each sessions and that cost is borne by the parish.



### **Year Ahead**

We will continue to meet in the coming year on four Wednesday evenings, November 26 - December 17, preceding Christmas and seven Wednesday evenings, February 18 - April 2, preceding Easter.

### **Spiritual Seekers Series**

**Ministry Contact: David Perry**

No updates to report



## Liturgy Cluster

**Parish Pastoral Council Representative: Joanne Lee**  
**Cluster Facilitator: Louise Lafond**

The Ministries of this Cluster have over the past year continued with their wide-ranging contributions to the liturgical life of the Parish, many highly visible but a lot of backroom work as well. Examples of particular responsibilities include three Eucharistic Liturgies, with each celebration staffed by a cadre of many volunteers. The Cluster Ministries are also involved in specialized liturgies, including Christmas, the Triduum, Weddings and Funerals. There are also the particular contributions related to Children's Liturgy and Young Lectors and of course the Christmas Eve Pageant (a big thank you to Pierre Jean-Louis) and the Good Friday Passion Dramatization (another big thank-you to Robert Sykes). And of course there is the preparation of the weekly Prayers of the Faithful, which within time contemporary events. The Ministries have still found time for regular meetings and social gathering.

The work of the Cluster is carried out by a legion of dedicated people, and attracting sufficient volunteers is always critical. The Liturgy Ministries make very small demands on Parish Funds, but the Family Ministry would find a small parish budget of \$250 very helpful. Succession planning is an ongoing concern, and this is a particular challenge for the coming year. Conflicting commitments have taken over the life of our Liturgy Cluster Co-ordinator, and Louise Lafond cannot continue her responsibilities after the end of this year. Accordingly our efforts will necessarily be turned to recruiting a new Co-ordinator in the Fall of 2014

### Altar Service Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Front Desk**

No updates to report

### Bread Baking Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Clara Nasselo**

Every October I ask those who have been making the bread if they wish to continue. I'm grateful that many of them do. If I need more persons I put a message in the bulletin. The new schedule is sent out in early December with the recipe. Petra Nortier will often host a tea and bread baking opportunity for those who wish to come. The new persons especially are encouraged to come.

### Counters

**Ministry Contact: Jill Lamont**

No updates to report

### Environment Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Dorothy Collins**

No updates to report



## Eucharistic Ministers

**Ministry Contact:** Tom Okrainec

No updates to report

## Family Ministry and Children's Liturgy

**Ministry Contact:** Petra Nortier-Hughes

### Accomplishments

St Joseph's Family Ministry creates a **welcoming** and inclusive environment for families with children. Each Sunday at the 9:30 mass we organize multiple activities to engage children in the expression of their faith at a level appropriate to their age and to help nourish their spirituality. Currently about 75 children attend our various programs.

We build a **proclaiming community** by sharing the Good News with children. Each Sunday we invite them to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in three age appropriate groups. Additionally on every third Sunday of the month we facilitate a family mass which invites children to take part in all ministries. We initiate pre-school children in celebrating the liturgy through "My Little Church."

We develop a **discerning community** by inviting children to respond to the Good News through participation in faith-enhancing activities (e.g. the procession, reflecting on the Word, and acting out the Gospel). We also encourage parents to share their gifts in delivering our programs.

We are a **ministering community** in serving the needs of families with children through the Children's liturgy, a newsletter, a Facebook page, and family activities. We attract families from the larger Ottawa region because of our inclusive and welcoming program.

### Challenges

Attracting sufficient volunteers to run our programs is an on-going challenge. Our Children's Liturgy program alone requires 6 volunteers for each mass – a leader and an assistant for each of the 3 groups. This requires 24 volunteers on our roster if each person volunteers once every 4 weeks.

### Finances

We use faith formation resources from the Pflaum Publishing Group, which includes a leader's guide for each Sunday and a take-home activity sheet for children and their families. The cost is about \$500 per school year. Art and school supplies for Children's Liturgy as well as gospel-themed toys for "My Little Church" are donated, although a small parish budget of \$250 would be helpful. In addition, each year, we print 500-1000 pages of resources, using the parish photocopier.

### Year Ahead

- Family ministry activities operate throughout the ten months of the school year. We look forward to resuming our activities after the summer. We will initiate succession planning as the current coordinator has been in the position for ten years. We need to organize a formation workshop for new leaders. We suggest that the Parish revive the "Market Place of Opportunities" in September to help attract new people to our and other ministries.



## Gospel Players

**Ministry Contact: Brian Silvera**

### Accomplishments

At the Family Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, with a hiatus in July and August, children act out the Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. The families and Congregation seem to be grateful for the children's efforts to bring the Gospel to life. And the children themselves seem to gain a deeper understanding of the Gospel when they are so involved.

Notable annual events include:

- Christmas Eve Pageant (a big thank you to Pierre Jean-Louis)
- Good Friday Passion Dramatization (another big thank you to Robert Sykes)

### Challenges

With the busy lives of the children and their parents it is sometimes difficult to find suitable times for practices.

### Finances

This Ministry has no need to draw on Parish Funds.

### Year Ahead

- Throughout the coming year we will continue our ministry on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, Christmas Eve and Good Friday.

## Lectors

**Ministry Contact: Katherine Laundry**

No updates to report

## Young Lectors

**Ministry Contact: Louise Lafond**

### Accomplishments

The Young Lectors are an offshoot of the Lectors Ministry. We provide the lector for the reading at the Family Mass, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month (except July and August). Our major accomplishment of the year has been finding enough young lectors able to take on the task.

### Challenges

As mentioned above, the major challenge is to find novice and more mature child readers who are willing to risk speaking in front of the congregation without poaching from the Gospel Players.

### Year Ahead

- Succession planning: After Dec 2014, the coordinator will no longer be able to serve due to conflicting commitments. A new coordinator will need to be found in fall 2014 to take over the responsibilities.



## Liturgical Dance

**Ministry Contact: Suzanne Doerge**

No updates to report

## Liturgy Committee

**Ministry Contact: Kathy Crowe**

No updates to report

## Offertory Collectors

**Ministry Contact: David Robb**

No updates to report

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Ministry Contact: Eleanor Rabnett**

### Accomplishments

This small but vital ministry is responsible for weekly preparing the Prayers of the Faithful for the Saturday 5PM Mass and the Sunday 9:30 and 11:30 Mass. It is a commitment that is shared by seven members of the parish who begin each week with prayer and create prayers of the community, sometimes trying to include a wide variety of special activities taking place within the church and parish. They are ever aware of time restraints and the reality of trying to keep the prayers in reference to the world at large as well as the scripture readings of the day.

We come together for a meal and discussion a two or three times a year (usually following an 11:30 Sunday Mass. We are always looking for new members to join us. Training is provided.

## Presider's Assistants

**Ministry Contact: Bob Part**

### Background

The Ministry of Presider's Assistant at St. Joseph's Parish was established in 1987 as an adaptation of the Ministry of Acolyte, which was established as a Lay Ministry in 1972. The Presider's Assistant functions Liturgically at St. Joseph's Parish in two important ways:

1. The Presider's Assistant functions as the Master of Ceremonies for each Liturgical Celebration. Prior to the Beginning of each Liturgy. All other Liturgical Ministries report to the Presider's Assistant to verify that these other ministries are functioning normally.
2. During the Liturgy, the Presider's Assistant is close at hand to the Presiding Celebrant to guide and direct the Liturgy. The Presider's Assistant should intervene either personally or through an alternate if things go awry. This may include disturbances, microphone problems etc.

### Accomplishments

Each weekend at St. Joseph's parish, there are three Eucharistic Liturgies. Each celebration is staffed by a cadre of trained Presider's Assistants and headed by a Presider's Assistant Coordinator. This Ministry has provided service to the Parish every weekend since 1987, in addition to assisting with other special Liturgies such as Christmas, Triduum, Weddings and Funerals, as required. A number of original Presider's Assistants



from 1987 continue to provide this service to ensure that the Liturgies at St. Joe's are as flawless as possible. Vacancies in the ranks are usually filled through personal approach. Training is provided on an 'ad hoc' basis. A "job description" syllabus as approved by the Liturgy Committee is available for new inductees.

### Challenges

There have been no major changes to role of the Presider's assistant since its inception some 17 years ago. There have been minor changes in the Liturgical format over the years, and the Presider's Assistant have taken these changes 'in-stride', making adjustments to the manner in which the Ministry is performed. The major and continuing challenge relates to the Liturgy at 5:00 PM Saturday. The cadre of Presider's Assistants at this particular Liturgy has always been rather meager. The 2 or 3 individuals who serve in this ministry at that particular Liturgy are to be congratulated for their continuing dedication. The Sunday Liturgies have always been adequately staffed for this particular Ministry with 5 to 6 individuals at each Liturgy taking their turns.

### Year Ahead

- There are no significant events in the making. The Ministry continues to 'chug-along' in accordance with its mandate.

## Reflections Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Christine Burton and Jamie Loback (staff)**

### Accomplishments

The Reflections Ministry recruited four new members (all women) in 2013. Our draft Terms of Reference reflect the community's values and our personal commitments (to deliver at least two reflections each year)

### Challenges

Feedback on the reflections provided has generally been positive, but we continually strive to improve the quality of our work in this important ministry. As noted in last year's report, recruitment and addressing gender diversity within the ministry continues to be a priority for the ministry. We continue to seek new members with the skills and background to provide strong content to challenge our community to reflect on the Scripture and find meaning for their lives today.

### Finances

There is no need for finances for this ministry, aside from the occasional stipend which the parish may provide to a guest speaker or trainer in homiletics.

### Year Ahead

We will continue to arrange guests who can help us develop our homiletic skills and understanding of Scripture. The parish staff team and ministry members share the responsibility of identifying parishioners who could contribute to this ministry. Arrangements are also being explored to support the orientation and formation of new members.



# Music Ministry Cluster

**Parish Pastoral Council Representative: Jacqueline Dawson**

**Ministry Contact: Jamie Loback, Music Director**

## Accomplishments

The Music Ministry achieved the following goals:

- 1) **High Liturgical Seasons:** Easter 2013 and Christmas 2013 were notable successes for the Music Ministry. The quality of singing and quality of repertoire that the Music Ministry contributed to the two Celebrations were incredibly good. The Music Ministry is fortunate and grateful to have had the generous support of Tom Fagan who played the organ at Easter and Christmas.
- 2) **Children's Choir:** In consultation with the 9:30am Mass Family Choir, the Music Ministry has continued to develop its children's choir (approximately 10 children).
- 3) **Fund-raising:** Several successful fund-raising concerts (see below, under Finances)

## Challenges

- **Recruitment:** The Music Ministry continues to experience a fluctuation in its membership: While the number 5:00pm and 9:30am mass choirs have remained relatively stable, the 11:30am choir has experienced a reduction in singers; however, the overall quality has not been significantly impacted. Recruitment will be a priority for the Music Ministry in September 2014.
- **Varying levels of musical knowledge and experience:** Like most community choirs, the choirs of St. Joseph's Parish are composed of members of varying levels of musical training. In order to facilitate better integration of new members the Music director will begin holding orientation sessions on music theory and the logistics of choral singing as part of the Thursday evening rehearsal.
- **Social dynamics:** Choirs are small communities and as such require time to socialize. Each choir periodically sets aside time to socialize (primarily with pot-lucks). Throughout the 2014-2015 season the Music Director will work with each choir to incorporate a larger social dynamic within the Ministry.
- **Budget:** The Music Ministry is working to maintain sustainable funding to maintain a balanced budget while continuing ongoing development of musical quality as well as introducing new repertoire in the liturgy and concerts. To assist in the overall Parish effort to address the structural deficit and its potential implications on operational costs the Music Ministry has organized a series of smaller concerts from which the net proceeds have been diverted toward the ongoing effort to sustain the Ministry's budget and programs (see section on Fund-raising Initiatives under Finances below). In addition to these revenue-generating initiatives, the Music Director will be working to minimize expenditures wherever possible.

## Finances

- The Music Ministry was within budget in the 2013 fiscal year.
- The Music Ministry remains under budget for the 2014 fiscal year; it is likely that the Ministry's 2014 expenses will be well within the approved operational budget.

### Fund-raising Initiatives to date (2013):

*Music Ministry Concerts:*

- **Music Ministry Concert #1:** Spring Concert (*PACEM IN TERRIS*) – May 24, 2013: The Music Ministry successfully raised **\$2200** (gross proceeds) from its annual Spring concert for its 2013 operational budget
- **Music Ministry Concert #2:** Winter Concert (*VENI VENI EMMANUEL*)-December 1, 2014: The Music Ministry raised **\$1800** for the 2013 operational budget.



## *Additional Concerts:*

- **#1: CalixaLavallee Singers of the University of Ottawa** (April 5, 2013): In exchange for concert space the Parish collected a free-will donation at the door. Total profit: \$1000
- **#2: Antonio Llaca** (Choral Concert – April 21, 2013): In exchange for rehearsal and concert space the Parish collected a free-will donation at the door. Total profit: \$600

## *Concert Rental Revenue:*

- **#1: Ewashko Singers** – Rehearsal space from January 2013 – December 2013, plus one concert – Total Profit: \$3800
- **#2: Cantata Singers of Ottawa** – March 16, 2013 – Total Profit: \$1200
- **#3: Cantata Singers of Ottawa** – April 30, 2013 (rehearsal) – Total Profit: \$75
- **#4: Cantata Singers of Ottawa** – May 26, 2013 – Total Profit: \$850
- **#5: CAMMAC** – February 10, 2013 – Total Profit: \$800
- **#6: University of Ottawa Choir** – March 10, 2013 – Total Profit: \$800
- **#7: University of Ottawa Choir** – December 6, 2013 – Total Profit: \$800
- **#8: Music and Beyond** – July 8, 13, 14, 2013 – Total Profit: \$1600
- **#9: Ottawa Choral Society** – December 13, 2013 – Total Profit: \$1400

Note: Between additional concerts and concert rentals the parish generated approximately \$13000 in revenue.

## **Year Ahead**

### Fund-raising Concerts:

- Music Ministry Spring Concert (June 2014) – estimated revenue: \$1500
- Music Ministry Christmas Concert (December 2014) – estimated revenue: \$2000

### Risers and Acoustic Shell:

- The Parish began storing a set of portable choral risers as well as an acoustical shell. These assets are owned by the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir as well as the University of Ottawa Choir. The Parish will have access to this equipment and may rent it out to other choirs for their concerts at an additional rate on top of the normal rental fees. The acquisition of the equipment will make St. Joseph's a more attractive venue for choral concerts.

### Programming Considerations:

- Recruitment and orientation of new members
- Possible Music Ministry retreat in October 2014



# Pastoral Care and Social Justice Cluster

Parish Pastoral Council Representative: Dianne Taylor  
Cluster Facilitator: Kathleen Allan

## Development and Peace

Ministry Contact: Larry Martin

### Highlights

**Share Lent** is the high profile education and financial support for Development and Peace. Traditionally, a St. Joseph's member gives a reflection on **Solidarity Sunday during Lent** to highlight our mission and national Campaign. For 2014 it will be "ONE HUMAN FAMILY—FOOD FOR ALL" which relates to hunger and food sovereignty. Our work in the 2014-15 season will focus on the injustice of hunger at international, national and local levels with an emphasis on small family farming as opposed to industrialized agriculture methods. Our work also focuses on **Emergency Responses** such as the Syrian refugee crisis and Philippine typhoon damage. Our **purpose is two-fold**: to educate Canadian Catholics in their parishes and schools and to be of assistance to our Southern partners in community development projects. We work with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, clergy, parishes and the 11,000 Development members/volunteers in Canada. We are the official Canadian member of CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS which is composed of about 150 country members world-wide who contribute to international development projects. Our programs were reduced when the Canadian International Development Agency (**CIDA**) withdrew 65% of our funding in early 2012, in spite of a 45 year reputation of transparent, effective and financially sound long-term development work. Recently Canada's federal government has indicated a new direction linking Canada's economic development being more tied to Overseas Development Assistance (**ODA**). This could hinder the delivery of development projects in true support of our Southern neighbours. In the next few years we will have to develop an autonomous funding base. **Catholic Social Teaching** and the **Pope Francis' Evangelium Gaudium/The Joy of Evangelizing** encyclical reflect the values of our work and organization. St. Joseph's parish hosts workshops for our members and those in other Ottawa parishes to learn about new campaigns and materials. Social and environmental justice are always the basis of our work and commitment. During Lent we organized a "Development and Peace Stations of the Cross" focusing on family and children food security.

### Challenges

Here in St. Joseph's Parish we strive to highlight the needs of our brothers and sisters in the South and the relation to our Christian faith through, prayer, educational activities, financial support and the monitoring of Canadian foreign policy. Our group is small (about 8 regulars) but very committed to faith-led solidarity with people of the South. We also try to be aware of issues of poverty here in Canada and how they relate to our work and faith.

### Finances

St. Joseph's has the reputation of generosity every year during the **Share Lent** campaign. We have a number of "Share Year Round", occasional and emergency response donors. We sell Fair Trade coffee after mass, the profits of which go to Development and Peace.

### Year Ahead

We meet several times a year on an ad hoc basis and gear up as a committee around Share Lent. We publicize parish and diocesan events sometimes with Southern visitors as they occur over the year in the



bulletin. People are welcome to be members of the St. Joseph's committee or to just receive basic information from the national web-site at [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org).

### Funeral Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Sharon Gravelle, Christine Libon, Patrick Shaughnessy, Dianne Taylor**

#### Accomplishments

The funeral ministry continues to bring compassion and support to those who have lost a loved one. We work directly with each family in the preparation of either a funeral mass or a memorial service. We guide the family in the selection of the readings, the prayers of the faithful and their choice of music. Our goal is to make each liturgy both personal and prayerful. Realizing that this is perhaps the last time that family members can honour their loved one, we encourage as many members of the family as possible to participate in the liturgy.

Many families choose to host the reception at the back of the church.

We are often called upon to join the family for the committal.

We have had several requests from people wishing to preplan their funeral. These will be kept on file in the church.

#### Challenges

We seem to have some difficulty in recruiting new members to this ministry. Some might think that this depressing ministry and therefore avoid our call for help. It is very rewarding and gratifying to be able to enable families to celebrate the life of a loved one. We need...

1. Liturgical Planners and facilitators to meet with families and prepare the scripts.
2. Celebrant Assistants,
3. Eucharistic Ministers
4. People to manage the overheads
5. Volunteers to help set up and clean up on the actual day of the funeral

#### Year Ahead

We hope to have new parishioners join this ministry.

### Give a Ride / Need a Ride: Driving Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Aileen & Wayne Moyle**

No updates to report

### Healing and Reconciliation Circle

**Ministry Contact: Dorothy Collins**

No updates to report



## Healing Service Ministry

**Interim Ministry Contact: Eleanor Rabnett**

### Highlights

Again, within the past year the Healing Service Ministry held three Healing Services in the parish. The number of those attending has declined within the past year and yet there remains an intimacy within the group of people attending. This past year saw the services becoming more ecumenical in nature and yet still the majority of people attending were parishioners, with each service being attended by different parishioners who would bring a friend or family member.

### Challenges

The challenge remains of how to attract more people to attend and take part in the Healing Services as well as to attract new members to the team. Currently the ministry members are involved in a process of renewal, creating a ToR and discerning ways to attract a growing participation with the ministry and services which is small but vital.

## Kairos Spirituality-for Social Justice Centre

**Ministry Contact: Marlene Kelly, gsic and Anne Taylor, gsic**

### Accomplishments

Our focus for 2013-2014 was nonviolence as a way of life and skills needed to act out of that spirit.

Notable (activities/events/other) included workshops by:

- Heather Eaton, full professor at Saint Paul University – Spirituality, Nonviolence and Interiority.
- Dolores Hall from the Providence Spirituality Centre team in Kingston – Engaging Peace and Finding Our Way Forward
- Sheila Smith, rscj, PHD candidate, Saint Paul University – Indigenous-Settler Relationships in Canada: Exploring Ethical Creativity as a Contribution of Paul Ricoeur,
- Citizens for Public Justice – Living Ecological Justice: Connecting Ecology and Economy

### Finances

This ministry is sponsored and funded by the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Pembroke, and supported in many ways by the community of St. Joe's.

### Year Ahead

- To continue our theme of nonviolence, during July and August we are making our space at the Bronson Centre available for Mary Anne Burke's BIAS FREE Co-operative to offer their programs – Leaders in Training, Levels I and II, for Youth age 15+ and Peace Camp for children age 10-14.
- In the Fall of 2014, we will focus on ways to keep our hope alive through our reflections on the book: Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In Without Going Crazy, and the workbook: Living With Limits: Living Well produced by the Jesuit Forum and published by the CCCB.

## One-on-One Experience of Healing Touch

**Facilitators: Norah McMahon, Helena Robb, Colette Chartrand, and Clara Nasello**

We noticed this year that there were not as many who came to these Friday sessions as last year. This year we had anywhere from 5 persons to 2 persons. As facilitators we had a meeting at the end of April to evaluate our experience.



We all agreed that it isn't about numbers and that we were willing to go ahead for the coming year. Usually 2 of us go to the Friday session and the coordinator for each month keeps in touch with us so that we know who will be there and how many have signed up. It has been helpful that people e-mail us or phone us when they don't sign the sheet at church.

Our schedule for September 2014 – June 2015:

- Friday September 26th
- Friday October 24th
- Friday November 28<sup>th</sup>
- Friday January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Friday February 27<sup>th</sup>
- Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>
- Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Friday May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>

### Pastoral Visiting Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Kathleen Allan**

#### Accomplishments

We are a listening ministry; we bring a smile, enthusiasm and love to those we visit in Sandy Hill retirement homes and the Civic Hospital. Over time comfortable relationships have evolved between the residents and staff.

Each Thursday up to 10 residents at Rideau Place on the River gather in the chapel for Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion. Sometime a sing-song follows.

About 40 residents and staff gather for Liturgy and the Holy Eucharist each Friday at the Chartwell City Centre (formerly Rideau Gardens). This is followed by refreshments and an ecumenical gathering of 2 tables put together by one of the residents. Those confined to their rooms and the Alzheimer's Unit are also visited. Renée Siraco and Kathleen Allan visit and bring the Holy Eucharist to approximately 100 patients at the Civic Hospital on a weekly basis.

#### Challenges

The Sandy Hill Residence closed in the summer of 2013, some residents went to Rideau Gardens. Irene Friday and Marie Bhaneja stepped in when Basil Wren and Madeleine Forget retired after many years with Pastoral Care.

The challenge at Rideau Gardens since March 2014 was to help the residents and staff cope with the sad news of the closing, to find the right words of consolation and to give them courage for the journey ahead. They had 2-3 months' notice; staff lost jobs, those confined to their rooms and in cognitive care were uprooted. Marion Kizas and Francie D'Annuncio shared their loss.

#### Year Ahead

With 2 Sandy Hill residences closed, we will be reviewing our ministry as we now know it.



## Practising Attitudinal Healing

**Ministry Contact: Margaret Dumoulin**

### Accomplishments

This 7 week course, Letting Go of Fear: Attitudinal Healing was held over 7 weeks from March 18<sup>th</sup> – April 29<sup>th</sup> 2014, Tuesday mornings from 09:00–12:00. There were 8 participants and 2 facilitators.

We contemplated the effect of two emotions, love and fear and practiced choosing peace rather than conflict and love rather than fear. The 12 principles of attitudinal healing were discussed each week.

### Challenges

A lack of registrants caused the 2013 fall course to be cancelled. I will be looking at offering the course at a different time and day perhaps in the fall. (Suggestions being considered include Saturday morning or afternoon or during the week, one evening for 7 weeks)

### Finances

I have been offering this course free of charge as a volunteer and do not plan to change this practice. Fortunately I have access to photocopying equipment at home so that there is little cost to me. I have purchased and donated 2 texts that are used during the course to St. Joe's library this year.

### Year Ahead

I plan to offer the course again in the fall of 2014 and the spring of 2015.

## Refugee Outreach Committee

**Ministry Contact:**

### Highlights

- Currently, supervising two separate cases with refugees in our community.
- Working alongside community representative to potentially support a sanctuary case with a refugee seeking safety.
- Provided ongoing support and friendship to several refugees in the community
- Creating future opportunities to plan smaller initiative for the refugees in our community (E.g. a picnic, international event, etc...)
- Attending various workshops on immigration law, refugee support and sponsoring refugees- representative members report the information back to the community.
- Exploring the potential for sponsorship of Syrian refugees through the Syrian Coalition for Refugees in Ottawa

Overall our work aspires to support the mission of St Joseph's to be a Ministering Community.

### Challenges

- Leadership: Jessica Silva recently took over the leadership of the committee from Mary Murphy. She is currently being mentored in this role by Pierre Gautier and Louise La Londe



- Membership: The ROC has undergone many changes, in that, many older members have left and new UOttawa students have joined. This creates a sensitive yet impressionable dynamic within the team. We have addressed these issues during our meetings and are working towards minimizing any barriers that may occur. New members hope for hands-on experience. Involvement in researching a possible sanctuary case is providing the opportunity to delve into the advocacy work of supporting refugees.

### Finances

Details pending

### Year Ahead

- We are hoping to breathe new life into the ROC. With the motivation and forward momentum that the new ROC members bring, it is our hope to create and inspire new initiatives for the ROC and ensure its longevity.
- We are exploring the possibility of cooperating with other churches in Ottawa in order to provide sanctuary to a female refugee. We hope this might serve to attract new interest in the ROC as well as strengthen advocacy for refugees.

## Seniors Ministry

**Ministry Contact: Pierre Jean-Louis**

### Accomplishments

Sandy Hill Seniors network was formed with the Christian churches in the Sandy Hill neighbourhood. After the last 10 years of trying to provide services to seniors, we realized the best thing to provide was a platform and support for the building of a network.

The group meets monthly for a potluck lunch. Initially the churches provided the lunches but now everybody contribute to a potluck lunch. Speakers are coordinated to speak on various issues. Each Tuesday at 2:0PM, TAN Coffee allows the group to set aside a table. People can come and they use a password to receive a free coffee. Members donate to the 'COFFEE JAR'. This allows those who cannot afford a coffee to join in.

### Challenges

This is a new initiative. There is a great deal to work out. There is a need for a representative from St Joe's to sit on the committee. One of the main areas of concern is the isolated seniors.

### Finances

At the end of each month the donations more than cover the costs. An anonymous donation came and we built a website. [shsn.ca](http://shsn.ca)

### Year Ahead

There are no firm plans as yet.



## Social Justice Committee

**Ministry Contact: Marlene Kelly**

### Accomplishments

The Social Justice Committee was initiated by Mary Murphy in September 2013. The members of the Committee are: Antoinette Fracassi, Marlene Kelly, Larry Martin, Mary Murphy, Jorge Sorger, Fabiola Orozco Morales and Corry Wink.

During the past year we have been discerning our role as a Social Justice Committee and trying to support the various social justice activities within and beyond our parish.

Some of the topics we have discussed and hope to have presentations in Fall and Spring are: Poverty, Climate Change and examining and acting on the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We believe that it is important that all parishioners are aware of various social justice issues and our call as faith community to act. One way of informing the parishioner has been to put short reflections in the bulletin.

### Challenges

The challenge isto discover a way that we as a community are able to speak with one voice on issues of justice.

Another challenge is to find people who have time to commit to being part of this group and who will be committed to attend the meetings and to help organize presentations and workshops.

## St. Joe's Supper Table

**Ministry Contact: Mary Murphy and Ashley Brown**

### Accomplishments

- The Supper Table obtained a new, multi-year grant through the Community Foundation of Ottawa, which allowed it to hire a part-time assistant manager, starting in February 2013. The grant also provided a subvention for food costs.
- In December 2013, the Supper Table purchased a new sanitizer, with the financial support of the Community Foundation of Ottawa.
- The Supper Table Advisory Committee (STAC) became increasingly engaged in helping to develop a vision for the Supper Table and in developing an outreach and fundraising strategy.

### Challenges

Reducing the Supper Table's operating deficit remained a major challenge in 2013. More emphasis was placed on making effective use of donated resources, so as to keep costs under control, but moving forward, strategic fundraising and revenue-generation initiatives, as well as more networking with potential supporters and contributors must be an area of focus.

### Finances

In 2013, the Supper Table teamed up with the Ottawa Little Theatre for its spring fundraising event, which generated much interest and extensive involvement of Parish volunteers. Parishioners, volunteers and supporters of the Supper Table enjoyed parishioner Tom Taylor's production of *Steel Magnolias*. In the fall, the Supper Table also organized an evening with artist and performer Francois Leroux, also known as 'Haman.'



The 2013 calendar saw the revival of food drives, including one during Thanksgiving, thanks to the involvement of Parish volunteers and the coordination of Terry Byrne. The Supper Table collected 325 specifically requested items of food during this drive.

### Year Ahead

- We began a garden, to serve four purposes: 1) to promote the Supper Table by creating interest for pedestrians through the presence of a garden and its signage; 2) to provide a place for guests and people engaged in community service to contribute to the Supper Table and learn about gardening; 3) to provide fresh veggies; 4) to explore food options for the Supper Table.
- We are extending volunteer possibilities to guests as cooks, servers and gardeners and policies and procedures will be created to provide healthy volunteer opportunities for all who offer their time and talent.
- Volunteers are involved in creating a Volunteer Guide Book. STAC will be taking the lead on this with input from the manager and the summer student;
- STAC is preparing a Terms of Reference and a fundraising plan with a signature event;
- A Supper Table Newsletter is planned for the fall and we expect to cover the costs of this through ads. The newsletter will be distributed in Sandy Hill and available online in a monthly format;
- The Supper Table in collaboration with the Mission set up a networking meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> with local food providing agencies to help us all share the best resources, communicate with each other, and possibly address the issues of hunger in Ottawa;
- A THANK YOU committee, consisting of guests will be formed by the fall to help respond in a timely manner to the donations received.
- A study group has been formed around the book called "The Stop," to help the manager and STAC reflect, discern and make recommendations for the future of the Supper Table to the Core Team and to PPC.
- We are building relationships with a local farmer. We have bought a cow for meat at a cost which was below market value and we intend to seek other opportunities through this relationship.

