

**DRAFT Minutes of the  
Holy Cross Parish  
Annual General Meeting  
May 6, 2007**

The meeting began at 12:45 p.m. Approximately 50 parishioners were in attendance.

Fr. James offered the opening prayer.

Greg Yost, the Chair of PPC, opened the meeting and read the parish mission statement. In his comments, he thanked Fr. James and Fr. Lukose for their leadership and support; he noted that they are very easy to work with and contribute so much to our community.

Robert Lee moved that the minutes of last year's meeting be adopted, Barbara Goski seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a show of hands.

**Comments from the Pastor**

Fr. James began his remarks by thanking all who attended the meeting for contributing so much to the life of the community. He notes that it has been three years since his appointment, and that the past year has been very fulfilling since he has come to know so many more parishioners.

Fr. James offered his heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers in the parish, to Fr. Lukose, Deacon Bruce and Deacon John, and to the parish staff. Fr. James noted that 38 pastoral visits were conducted during the year. Thirty-two new families registered in the parish. During the year, there were 30 baptisms, 24 funerals, and four weddings. Thirty-nine children received the sacraments for the first time, and two RCIA candidates were welcomed into the church.

He went on to note some of the other highlights of the year:

- The church building is undergoing gradual renovation and beautification, which will be kept within budget.
- The response to the Lenten Mission was very good; the attendance has grown in each of the past three years.
- A parish directory project is to be undertaken. Rikki Armitage has volunteered to lead this project, and expects to complete it by December. The parish has 650 families with envelopes, so it is hoped that at least those families will take part.
- A planned giving program has been introduced by the Diocese of Ottawa. Fr. James encouraged all present to consider the future of the parish community as they make their financial plans.

Fr. James urged parishioners to continue to offer their skills and time to the development of the community, and to introduce other parishioners who have special skills or interests.

**Committee Reports**

Copies of the committee reports were made available to attendees for questions and discussion, and committee chairs were not called upon to make verbal reports.

## **Comments and Questions**

A number of parishioners raised questions and comments, which were discussed by the pastors and the parishioners:

- June Kelly made a request for volunteers to join the bereavement committee; two members will be leaving the parish in the near future and their places need to be filled. Training will be provided.
- John Dorner expressed his pleasure that the parish has begun to make progress on an environmental agenda and he issued a challenge for all parishioners to question our habits and to make changes in our practices. Fr. James noted that he is pleased that John is so active on this issue and pledged to move forward as much as we can.
- In reply to a comment that the church has been too hot recently, Peter Choquette explained that the heating control system had failed; this is one of the repairs under consideration.
- Peter Tobin announced that the Riverside Grannies Group had been formed; it is an interfaith initiative that will begin fundraising efforts in the next week.
- In reply to Anna Dorner's question about consistent postures during the Mass, Miriam Basten explained that the postures adopted at Holy Cross had been introduced as part of a diocesan pilot project. Consideration is being given to the question and it is hoped that a statement will be forthcoming from the new bishop.
- Anna Dorner asked whether a conclusion had been reached about using real bread for communion; Fr. James replied that the issue had been resolved. Miriam Basten invited Anna to accompany her to a meeting of the diocesan liturgy committee in the coming week.
- June Kelly noted that the children receiving sacraments for the first time looked beautiful in their best clothes; she asked whether the Sacramental Preparation committee would consider maintaining an inventory of second-hand dresses and suites to be made available to under-privileged children.
- Joe Goski expressed his gratitude for the work carried out by Brigitta and Xavier Fernandez in recruiting and training our altar servers.
- Rikki Armitage provided further details about the memory book project; she asked parishioners to supply photos of parish events from the past ten years, to be used in a photo montage. Xavier Fernandez recommended that the parish set aside a budget to ensure the success of this project.

## **Conclusion**

Joe Goski noted the Greg Yost and Robert Lee had concluded their third term on PPC and would be unable to return in the coming year. He thanked them for their many years of hard work and for their unstinting commitment to the well-being of the parish.

Father James welcomed Hub Deveau and Cajé Rodrigues to PPC.

Father Lukose offered the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.