

Holy Cross Parish – Annual General Meeting

May 24, 2009

Minutes of Meeting

1. **Opening Prayer**

The number of parishioners in attendance exceeded the quorum (20) and the meeting was declared open. Joe Goski welcomed all in attendance and Fr. Lukose opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. **Opening Remarks/Chair's Comments** [Joe GOSKI, Chair – Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)]

Joe Goski thanked Fr. James and Fr. Lukose for their spiritual leadership over the past year.

PPC Elections

A special thank you was extended to Terry Gavin who retired after serving as an active member of PPC for seven years. The PPC was seeking candidates for four positions and there were an equal number of candidates identified, therefore all four candidates were acclaimed. Jackie Yost is the newest member to PPC and is joined by returning members; Hub Deveau, Merv Hanniman, Joe Goski, Chris Pollard, Maureen Proulx, Kathleen Provost and Cajé Rodriques.

Significant Events

a. Catholicism 201 – Fall 2008

This was an eight week program that consisted of film presentations and small group discussions and saw approximately eighty parishioners/session. The program also included a half day retreat with guest speaker Br. D. Belushi. It was a dynamic event that proved to be a great success and the parish will look at a similar (shorter) program for the fall.

b. New Activities

There was a reception held to congratulate parishioners celebrating anniversary milestones and the parish would like to see this become an annual event. The parish will be hosting a regular “Movie Night” in the parish hall with the intention of making them a monthly event.

c. Christmas Concert

This music presented by the various choirs was outstanding and proved to be a great event with excellent attendance.

d. Lenten Retreat

The Parish Lenten Mission focused on the teachings of St. Paul and was entitled "*St. Paul: His Contribution in the Life and the Mission of the Church*".

e. Youth Group

The Youth Group consists of approximately 25 regular members that meet socially and assist with or hosts parish activities. The group has held two (2) spiritual retreats; i) Fall: The Role of Mary in our Faith [Guest Speaker – Brother Steven Boucher] and ii) Spring: Catholic Saints [Youth Group Member – Melanie Costanza]. Currently the group is participating in a virtual novena for nine (9) days.

f. Sound System

The sound system was recently upgraded and all parishioners were encouraged to provide feedback on the sound quality.

3. Approval of Minutes – 2008 AGM

The minutes were not available for distribution; they will be posted on the bulletin board for all to read. As a result, there will be two years of minutes to approve in 2010.

4. Pastor's Report

Father James thanked God and the parishioners for allowing both he and Fr. Lukose to complete another year of ministering at Holy Cross. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the pillars of the parish community indicating that the strength and beauty of Holy Cross rests with the love and faith of the volunteers. He extended a special thank you to Barbara Costanza, Anne Cooper, Deacon John Kennedy and Father Lukose for their support over the past year.

a. Sacraments

Over the past year there were: 23 baptisms, 22 funerals, 4 First Communions, 41 Confirmations, and 4 marriages.

b. New Families

Over the past four months there have been 39 new families that have joined Holy Cross Parish.

c. Feast Celebrations

There were 2 Feasts celebrated during the past year, those being Christmas and Easter. Fr. James read a letter received from a couple visiting the parish over Easter; they felt very welcome at the 11:15AM Mass and it added to their joy of the Easter weekend.

d. Parish Events

- Catholicism 201 was very well attended. In the future, another event similar to Catholicism 201 will be held along with another Lenten Mission.
- The Tuesday 9:30AM Mass allows for students and staff at Holy Cross school to participate. Holy Family and Holy Cross schools are visited regularly by Fr. James and Fr. Lukose.
- Deacon John and Fr. Lukose continue weekly/monthly celebrations at both Billings Lodge and Landmark Court Retirement Home.
- The rosary continues to be recited almost daily and has been a significant addition to Holy Cross spiritual activities.
- The Knights of Columbus – Ontario's State Family award for this year was presented to the Goski family.
- Fr. James and Fr. Lukose will continue with family visits and would like to make the celebration of milestone anniversaries an annual event.
- It is anticipated that new carpet will be installed in the narthex and altar area.

In closing, Fr. James asked that we continue to contribute our time/ talent for the growth of the parish. Fr. James also asked parishioners to please consider a donation or bequest to Holy Cross Parish to provide for the faith life of future generations. He asked that together we build up a praying, loving and contributing family and he bestowed God's abundant blessing for the coming pastoral year upon Holy Cross parishioners.

5. Committee Reports [for complete reports, refer to Holy Cross Parish 2009 Annual Report]

Liturgy Committee [Miriam BASTEN - Chair]

- The Children's Liturgy program at the 9:30AM Sunday Mass continues to be organized by the members of the Youth ministry and has been very successful.
- Training workshops for lectors/announcers were held, and many ideas to improve this ministry were put forward e.g. refreshed opening announcements

- The Liturgy Committee permeates many areas and it would be nice to have more people to contribute to the work i.e. music, décor.
- There are various active choirs at Holy Cross with very creative musicians; new members are always welcome.
- There is a yearly fee paid to two licensing companies to facilitate the use of overhead transparencies; it is a very involved process.
- The committee would like to encourage participation in the devotion of the Divine Mercy.

Pastoral Care [Simonne LAROUCHE - Chair]

- The ministry is responsible for providing support/visits to those in need (and their families). If the parishioner requests, Holy Communion will be brought to their home.
- There are twenty-one (21) active members on the Pastoral Care Committee.
- The greatest challenge is getting families in need of this care to ask for assistance.

Special Events [Hub DEVEAU]

- Visit to Residential Home – Foyer Partage in September 2008 was a rewarding visit.
- Valentine's Day – partner with Children's Liturgy and the Bereavement Team to send cards to sick and grieving parishioners.
- Prayer and Holy Bible Reading Group – held during Lent and were well attended.
- Stations of the Cross – partner with the Bereavement Team to host and pray the Stations of the Cross on a Friday night during lent

Mission, Peace and Development [Peter TOBIN]

- MPD members collected signatures on postcards that asked Prime Minister and Members of Parliament to hold Canadian mining companies to account.
- African Aids Angels Project - ~\$18,000 dollars raised and sent to South Africa/Zambia
- Food Drives – three major food drives organized (Fall, Lent, Late Spring)
- Riverside Grannies – MPD assists the women of our parish who are members of the Riverside Grannies; the Grannies raise money in support of the grandmothers of Africa.

Finance Committee [Brian NEVINS - Chair]

- There was a decrease in envelope collections of 5%; this was partially offset by the increase in loose collections of 12% resulting in an overall reduction of ordinary collections of 3% or \$10,300.
- The mortgage with the Archdiocese was paid off in March 2009
- The kitchen exhaust fan was installed

6. Question/Comment Period

1. Hub DEVEAU requested a Bereavement Committee report
 - Bereavement Committee [June KELLY- Chair] indicated that the committee liaises between the parish priests and family members who have lost a loved one and assist in planning the liturgy for their funeral.
 - There have been 59 parishioners who have died since May 2008; a number of these funerals have been held at Holy Cross.

- The Committee is very short handed and is in need of more volunteers to help with funeral arrangements for deceased parishioners.

2. Heron Road Emergency Food Centre [Greg Yost – Chair of the Board of Directors]

Greg expressed his sincere gratitude to Holy Cross Parish for their outstanding support to the local food banks.

7. Closing Prayer [Deacon John]