

Holy Cross Parish – Annual General Meeting

May 16, 2010

Minutes of Meeting

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 p.m. when the parishioners (about 55) were welcomed by Joe Goski (Chair) and Fr. James opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. Chair's comments

Joe Goski informed the parishioners that the minutes of the AGM meetings of 2009 and 2008 are available for review on the Holy Cross Parish website. The parish will not be printing the minutes. Anyone with comments on the minutes should forward them to the parish office.

3. Pastor's Report

Fr. James thanked the parishioners for the support he and Fr. Lukose received in completing another year, his sixth at Holy Cross Parish. He said that the beauty of the support rested with the many volunteers and he offered his sincere thanks to them, especially to the Chairs of committees. He was also grateful to and thanked Fr. Lukose, Deacon John Kennedy and to Barbara Costanza of the Parish office. He apologized for the absence of the Finance report, but he said that it would be published when Brian Nevins, the Chair of the Finance Committee, will be back. Brian is away following the very sad and sudden loss of his wife Cathy.

a) Sacraments

The parish celebrated 26 baptisms, 12 funerals and one wedding. There were 34 First Holy Communions, six Confirmations (four adults and two children).

b) New Families

During the past year, 36 new families have joined Holy Cross Parish.

c) Feast Celebrations

The celebrations of Christmas and Easter were very successful. The preparations by the different groups were great. Parishioners attended in large numbers. It was especially moving to have four adults receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation. This was thanks to the RCIA members who took the time to provide a long and uninterrupted program of instructions.

Fr. James said that the Children's liturgy on Good Friday deserved special mention. Over 50 children with their parents attended the Stations of the Cross on the morning of Good Friday.

d) Parish Activities

- The Youth Group has grown tremendously and is involved in various activities in the parish.

- The parish Lenten mission that was preached by Fr Maxime Allard, Was well attended.

- Another highlight was the Faith Formation Program that was held during the fall and was based on the DVD presentation "Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life" by Fr. Robert Spitzer. It was held in six sessions and all were well received.

- The parish is now using a new email system that is based on a new Lists Management software. It was very useful in sending email invitations to parishioners at the Lenten Mission, Easter and for the Annual General Meeting. This improvement in the method of communication is in keeping with the Pope's encouragement for parishes to keep up with the current electronic technology in communication.

- Stewardship commitment cards were developed and distributed to parishioners for their input and to encourage new volunteers. A large number of the cards were filled in and returned.

- Mass is celebrated and prayers are offered at Billings Lodge, Landmark Court and Windsor Manor retirement homes through the regular visits from Fr. Lukose and Deacon John.

- A special Mass is celebrated on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. for students and staff from Holy Cross School. Fr. James, Fr. Lukose and Deacon John also pay regular visits to Holy Cross and Holy Family Schools.

- There will be a Eucharistic procession on Sunday, June 6, on the feast of Corpus Christi. It will be held after the 9:30 a.m. Mass and will be from the church to the parking lot, along Walkley Road and back to the church.

- The carpet in the church will be changed, hopefully by the fall this year.

- The parish is conscious of environmental stewardship in all its activities, with able advice being provided by John Dorner. Parishioners take part in the Greening Sacred Spaces Program.

- Fr. James urged parishioners to continue devoting their time and talent to the parish.

- Fr. James reminded parishioners that the parish needs financial support and that they should remember the parish in their wills and bequests.

4. **Committee Reports**

The reports of the different parish committees and groups were included in the Parish Annual Report for 2010, which is available on the parish website. Joe Goski summarized the main points from the different committee reports, and the details are in the Annual Report.

Parish Pastoral Council (Chair Joe Goski)

Elections for membership on the PPC are scheduled for May 30. Any parishioner, who is interested in joining the PPC, should fill in the application forms. Members who were elected in even years will need to reapply for membership and put their names up for election.

Joe mentioned the highlights of the parish year. The faith formation program (Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life) that was held in the fall was well attended and the majority was very satisfied. About 65 to 90 parishioners were present at any one session. Mondays was a favourite choice for the program. This year the PPC is looking for four or five live presentations.

A Lenten mission was held and Fr. James arranged for Fr. Maxime Allard to preach.

Stewardship Commitment Cards were newly developed this year and were distributed to parishioners in February. The cards were based on one that was obtained from a parish in Halifax. Jackie Yost was the lead person who was responsible for working on the cards. Over 200 parishioners filled in the cards.

A new email system was introduced at the parish for sending email invitations to parishioners to parish events. The invitations were sent during lent, Triduum and for the Annual General Meeting. The first two had positive effects. Joe reminded the parishioners that those who have not provided their email addresses to the parish should do so.

The parish clean up day was very successful with the biggest turnout of parishioners ever.

Liturgy Committee (Chair Miriam Basten)

Miriam has been with the Liturgy Committee for 12 years and she is now stepping down. She thanked all those who helped and supported her as chair of the Liturgy Committee. Miriam will concentrate now on the music ministry. Bob Laird, another member of the Liturgy Committee has kindly agreed to be the new chair of the committee.

The highlights of the year's activities included the steps taken to protect parishioners against potential H1N1 infection. Based on direction from the Archbishop, the Liturgy Committee implemented the necessary protective steps during Mass. These were discontinued at the Triduum this year.

For the Year of the Priest (June 2009 to June 2010), a prayer for priests was said at the

conclusion of the weekend Masses. During the month of May, a prayer to Mary is being said at the end of Mass.

The Friday evening Stations of the Cross devotions were led by different committees and were an inspiring experience, with each group having different prayers.

Miriam remembered the late Robert Lee who was a member of the Liturgy Committee. She acknowledged his contribution to the committee and said that he is being missed very much.

Bob Laird, Maureen Proulx and Joe Goski recently attended a workshop for lectors.

The Children's Liturgy at the 9:30 a.m. mass on Sundays continues to be a success. It is run by the Youth Ministry and involves six volunteer leaders and 13 volunteers. The six leaders prepare the homily for the children. There were special liturgies during Advent and on Good Friday. This year saw the introduction of a new practice, with all the children participating in the liturgy, the carrying of gifts to the altar in a procession.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group is active and meets regularly every Saturday at 9:30 a.m. In addition, the Prayer Group meets once a month, on the second Saturday of every month to follow the Formation Manual for the Cenacle for the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) (Chair: Christina Chung)

The RCIA team meet every Monday, between October and Pentecost, to shepherd catechumens. Adult candidates are prepared to receive Holy Communion and Confirmation and enter the Catholic Church. Greg Yost said that one of the biggest problems was to get sponsors for the candidates.

Pastoral Care Committee (Acting Chair: Simonne Larouche)

A lot of the work done by the committee is unseen by the majority of parishioners. However, the volunteers from Pastoral Care provide support and visit the sick and housebound, depressed and lonely, when asked to do so. Among the special events that were organized by Pastoral Care was the World Day of Prayer on March 5. It was hosted by Holy Cross Parish and nine other Christian churches took part. Simonne Larouche thanked Fr. James and Fr. Lukose for their support and said that the committee is looking for 20 volunteers.

Bereavement Committee (Chair: June Kelly)

Members of the committee help to make the journey as comfortable as possible for next of kin. The support includes funeral arrangements and assistance in planning the funeral liturgy. In the last two years, 45 parishioners have died. The annual Memorial Service is planned for November 7 and 51 deceased parishioners will be remembered. A 13-week session of training is provided by Pastoral Care.

Hospitality Committee (Chair: Karen Flynn)

The committee provides food at a number of occasions. They cater for funeral receptions, arrange for the regular Sunday coffee and treats after Mass and other events. The committee helped with the recent Youth Group Bake sale. They also provided lunch for the Annual General Meeting.

Building Committee (Chair: Raymond A. Flansberry)

The committee coordinates repairs and improvements to the Church, Rectory and Parish's office. The projects completed last year included roof maintenance, replacement of a light standard in the parking lot. The proposed plans include new carpets in the church and replacement of some windows and doors. Peter Choquette said that a recent inspection of offices went well, with only a request regarding fire extinguishers and the need for exit lights.

Knights of Columbus (Grand Knight: Harvey Rule)

Holy Cross Knights of Columbus has now about 100 members. They carry out a lot of charitable work and have been very generous with their time and financial support. Among the very many activities that the Knights perform are helping children at the Holy Family School to pray the rosary and parking lot duties whenever there is a large attendance at church. The Knights of Columbus meet once a month and there is a presentation by an invited speaker following the meeting, to which members of the parish are also invited.

Youth Group

There are 25 core members, with six core leaders. They are active in raising funds for support of their different activities, which include NET ministries and sending youth interested in going to the World Youth Day in 2011, in Spain. The Youth Group helps out in many ways including volunteering at food banks.

Mission, Peace and Development (Contacts: Peter Tobin & John Dorner)

The committee works to understand social justice issues and to pass on that understanding to parishioners and to follow up with action to address those issues. The committee participated in workshops on food sovereignty issues and on the Share Lent Campaign. From the African Aids Angels Project, funds are raised from the sale of the Angels that are crafted by a core group of 20 women who meet regularly at Holy Cross. Peter Tobin mentioned that a former parishioner Nina Chung has been helping children in Kenya and MPD sent \$1500 to her to fund her project. MPD also sent \$2000 to the sisters in Nicaragua.

Environmental Stewardship

John Dorner thanked all the parish committees for continuing to incorporate environmental stewardship in parish activities. Details of parish involvement in

environmental stewardship are provided in the Annual Report.

Question/Comment Period

- Hub Deveau announced that movie nights are held once a month to encourage community spirit. The next movie will be on Friday, June 18.

- Christina Chung commented that there were no holy pictures in the church and that there was only one statue. She wondered if the picture of Divine Mercy that is in the Sanctuary could be brought out. Fr. James said that he wants the picture to be left in the Sanctuary.

- Harvey Rule, the Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus invited new members to Knights of Columbus.

- Jacquelyn Baumberg, the choir lead at the 11:15 a.m. Mass on Sundays, said that she would welcome additions to the choir. The choir needs some male voices.

- June Kelly questioned the need to replace the carpets in the church. Peter Choquette replied that the carpets are 15 years old and need replacement. The Building Committee is consulting with a designer that has advised on new carpets at the Resurrection Church.

- Gary Brown asked about the cost of the new carpet for the church and whether it could be made known to others in the parish. He was told that it was about \$35000. All information on the new carpet, such as cost, colours will be posted for the information of parishioners.

- Alex Chung made a request for weekly adoration in the church and wondered if it could be started in the near future. Fr. James said that it is food for thought and will be considered.

- John Dorner announced that to encourage conservation of energy, grants are available for projects in the church that save energy.

- Xavier Fernandes commented that the sound system in the church is not functioning efficiently. He was informed that a professional company had installed the sound system, and they will be brought back to upgrade the system. There may be a number of factors that affect the sound. The computer has to be reset from time to time. The quality of the sound may depend on how well a speaker projects his or her voice and how close they are to the microphone and the quality of a particular microphone. Xavier suggested a parish questionnaire to check on peoples' views on the suitability of the sound system.

5. Closing Prayer

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Fr. Lukose.