

Holy Cross Parish

2007

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING April 30, 2007

Mission Statement: “The people of Holy Cross Parish are a community of clergy, religious and laity who, strengthened in Christ, and thankful for our blessings, seek to root ourselves in an authentic Christian community which is called to serve God in praise, each other in sharing, caring and healing, and our brothers and sisters, near and far, in prayer, peace and justice.

HELP SAVE A TREE

If you do not intend
to keep this report after you have finished reading it,
please return it to the bookrack in the church
so that others may read it too.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

Chair: Greg Yost

The duties of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) are set out in section 2.01 of the Constitution. Primarily, the Council is a consultative body that shares with the Pastor and staff "the planning and coordinating of overall policies and goals of the Parish". As well, PPC is also to "coordinate, monitor and evaluate the work of the various parish ministries". In fact, PPC does not deliver any services itself but works through committees and we are very fortunate to have so many hard-working committees in the parish.

To carry out its duties, PPC usually meets once a month, except during July and August. Regular business meetings are scheduled to take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month. PPC also holds one or two additional meetings with the Pastor and Parish Staff each year to reflect on where the Parish has been going and to consider short and long-term plans or changes for the future.

We recognize and are grateful for the spiritual leadership of Fr. James Raphael C.M.F. and Fr. Lukose Kochupurackal C.M.F. Their participation and involvement in the Parish Community and their personal warmth and concern for all parishioners is deeply appreciated. The parish is running well and, fortunately, there have been no crises for PPC to consider. We are very pleased that Deacon John Kennedy has returned to the parish.

Among the highlights of parish life in 2006-07 were:

- Updating the Holy Cross web site - Our thanks to Joe Goski who led the project
- Raising more than \$6,000 for the Claretian Missions in India
- Lenten Mission with Fr. Paulson Varkey Veliyanoor
- Indo-Canadian Gala Dinner which raised funds for roof repairs

LITURGY

Chair: Miriam Basten

Major topics of interest in the past year

- We welcome Bob Laird who has stepped forward to assist with the ministry of lector and announcer.
- Two training workshops for lectors/announcers were held on November 27 and January 30. In addition, there was a rehearsal session for lectors reading at the Holy Week/Triduum liturgies.
- Lectors once again had a workbook to help them prepare to proclaim the Word of God at mass. An Internet discussion group has also been created to allow readers to exchange questions and suggestions.
- The décor in the church continues to be outstanding. Two new banners were purchased for use during Lent. Thank you to Diane Rogers and her team for all their hard work.
- The choirs decided to continue using overhead slides to project the words to songs they choose to sing. We pay an annual fee to two licensing companies for the right to do this. Part of the agreement is to submit usage reports every week using an on-line reporting system. Copyright compliance is something all choir leaders feel is very important.
- A silent time for reflection in the 5-10 minutes before mass continues to be promoted.
- Many of the ministers for each mass continue to gather at the table at the back of the church to say a prayer together before mass begins.
- The Rosary is recited in the church before 12:15 mass and before the Saturday 5:00 p.m. mass during the months of October and May.
- Prayer guides (flyers and booklets) were provided for parishioners to purchase to help with personal devotions during Advent and Lent.

- Jackie Baumberg has initiated a project to write about the interior church décor (origin of metalwork etc.) and have this posted on the parish website with photographs. This is a work in progress.
- The Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings during Lent were led by a different committee each week. The script used on Good Friday was the same as used by Pope Benedict in Rome on the same day.
- A parish mission was held during Lent over three nights (March 7-9). It was led by Fr. Paulson Varkey Veliyanoor who hails from California. Attendance was very good, and those who attended generally had positive things to say about the experience. The Lenten parish reconciliation service and an opportunity for individual confession were integrated into the third evening of the mission. The choirs took turns providing music leadership over the three evenings.
- The Triduum once again was a very moving series of liturgies. This all came together due to our hard-working volunteers in various ministries including décor, lectors, music, mass coordinators, to name but a few.
- A children's altar server ministry at the 9:30 mass continues, and has expanded into the 11:15 mass. The servers were also present at the Christmas Eve and Triduum liturgies. The young people involved are becoming more comfortable in their role. Thank you to Xavier Fernandez for helping to coordinate this ministry.
- Some baptisms are being done at regular Sunday masses to keep the assembly in touch with the sacraments.
- All choirs participated in the singing of "Amazing Grace" on Sunday, February 13, joining churches around the world in praying for an end to slavery.

We are looking forward to ...

- Working on making our music choices fully copyright compliant.
- Supporting educational opportunities for musicians.
- Replacing a number of broken music stands, microphone stands, and microphone cables.
- Encouraging new volunteers to devote some time in the various ministries.
- Investigating how to handle various postures during consecration and communion.
- Promoting attendance of liturgical ministers at diocesan liturgical workshops.
- Finding ways to assist the leaders in the Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 mass.
- Promoting the ministry of Greeter.
- Encouraging higher attendance at liturgies on the Feast of Mary the Mother of God (January 1), Holy Thursday, and the Easter Vigil.

THANK YOU to the large number of people who make our parish liturgies so inspiring and run so smoothly:

- Our pastors
- Parish staff
- The volunteers in all the liturgical ministries!

ALTAR LINEN

We are like the widow in the Gospel (Mk 12:41-44) contributing our mite for the good of the parish in a quiet but efficient manner ensuring the pristine supply of altar linens. New names are most welcome.

Christian Education

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Chair: Barbara Goski

Each year, the Sacramental Preparation Committee co-ordinates the preparation of children to be confirmed and to receive the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation for the first time. This year, forty students received the sacraments: 23 from Holy Family School, 10 from Holy Cross School, and the remainder from various institutions, including Bayview, Fielding, Counter Point Academy, Ste. Marguerite d'Youville and St. Thomas More. The majority of the candidates are in grade two, though a few are as old as grade seven.

In keeping with the direction from the Archdiocese, the main work of preparing children from the separate schools falls to the teachers, who follow curriculum guidelines for this work. Teachers from Holy Family and Holy Cross arranged a First Reconciliation service, held at the Church on March 21. Children from other schools participated in this service.

To supplement the work of the schools, Holy Cross Parish offers "Come Join us at the Table", an innovative six-part series of talks and activities designed to introduce students and their parents to each of the sacraments and parts of the Mass. The program is mandatory for children from public schools and optional for children from the separate schools. This was the fourteenth year in which "Come Join us at the Table" was offered.

Also in keeping with directions from the Archdiocese, the First Communion and Confirmation services are integrated into regular Masses in the parish. This year, children received the sacraments at six Masses, on three consecutive Sundays at the 9:30 and 11:15 Masses.

The parish presents each candidate with a certificate to commemorate the occasion, and the Knights of Columbus present the children with rosaries.

The Sacramental Preparation Committee is made up of Angie Mattioli, Anna Dorner, Paula Leonard and Barbara Goski. Our activities include information nights in October and January, enrollment ceremonies in January, and Come Join us at the Table evenings from February to May. Two years ago, our committee proposed that in reintegrating the sacraments into the Mass, the number of weekends be limited to no more than three, and the number of children participating in each Mass be no more than ten. We have kept this schedule again this year and find that it works very well. It keeps the parishioners no more than an extra 15 minutes at each Mass. The parents and their children who have been through the Come Join us at the Table program have given us very positive feedback about the course. The instructors have noticed that most of the altar servers at the 9:30 Mass have participated in Come Join us at the Table.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer-Group in Holy Cross has been in existence since 1993. Our mandate has always been and continues to be, to give praise and thanksgiving to our loving Father, to pray for all the people of Holy Cross, for peace in the world and for anyone who has asked us to pray for them.

Since December 2006 a new dimension has been added. After Fr. Dan Dubroy's beautiful talk on Divine Mercy and his explanation on The Cenacle's around Divine Mercy which have been forming in Ottawa, we decided, with Fr. James' permission, once a month on the second Saturday of every month, to change the format of the prayer-group and follow the Formation Manual for the Cenacle for the Eucharistic Apostles of The Divine Mercy. The format is simple and powerful. We start with a song of praise, then prayers of thanksgiving then a 30 to 45 minute discussion on the subject given in the

manual. This can be a reading directly from the Manual, or from Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, or St. Faustina's Diary. We continue with prayers of petitions, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and finish with a song.

We meet every Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (the Cenacle meeting is a little bit longer) and everyone is always welcome.

Christian Meditation

The Christian Meditation group meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in meeting room A (September – June). This form of silent, imageless prayer using a mantra or prayer word is rooted in the Gospel, the letters of St. Paul and originated with the early desert fathers of the 4th century. A Benedictine monk, Father John Main (1926-1982) has rediscovered this ancient prayer tradition for contemporary society. Today there are over 32 Christian Meditation groups in the Ottawa area and a thousand worldwide.

Newcomers are welcome to join the group. The one hour meeting includes quiet music, a short taped talk on meditation by father John Main or a 10-20 minute examination and reflection on the writings of Christian Meditation teachers; we conclude with 25 minutes of silent meditation.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

Chair: Christina Chung

Once again this year we started the RCIA journey with our two candidates in the beginning of October and are planning to carry on until Pentecost. We have been able to journey with them through all the important seasons of the liturgical year. We talked about All Saints and had invited Fr. Vincent Pereira to speak to us about the process of canonization. We talked much about Advent and Christmas and how to experience that beautiful time in the Church calendar. On February 11th we celebrated the Rite of Acceptance, where the candidates were introduced and welcomed to the community of Holy Cross. Later in the same month we went to the Cathedral where the candidates were introduced to the Archbishop. It is always a powerful experience for the candidates and catechumens to see the many others that are making the same journey.

Lent is always a busy and rich time, as the candidates start preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. The Triduum, and especially the Easter Vigil, was a powerful experience for all.

Our two candidates are: Deanne Ellis and Mark Walker.

Their sponsors are: Aline Girard and Chris Clark.

The RCIA team is:

Deacon John Kennedy
Christina Chung
Barry Ryan
Eric Kramers
Greg Yost

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Myrnah Vullings

This ministry is responsible for providing support and visits to the addicted (and their families), depressed, lonely, sick and housebound when approached to do so. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of this ministry. Our greatest challenge is to have parishioners request our services.

MEETINGS: 4 general ones were held--- one every 3 months (September, December, March and June)

MEMBERS: Nine are active (2 of these also work with the Bereavement Com.) Two are involved when we have special events, 1 sends bulletins to house-bound parishioners, 2 make tel. calls, 4 visit Civic and General hospitals and 1 sends Get Well and Sympathy cards (approx. 30) and handwrites Valentine envelopes (approx. 100) and sends invitations to our healing service.

NUMBERS OF PARISHIONERS VISITED: Approximately 50 different parishioners were visited at home, church, hospital (not including the ones visited by the four who are part of the hospital team). About 10 of these were "visited" by telephone.

TRAINING: Many of our members have attended continuing education events two of which were presented by the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program.

We had several inquiries about the Ottawa Pastoral Care Training Program. No one that I know of took the training this year. We do however have a new member who took Pastoral Care training in the past and who has met with Fr. James and myself and is now registered as a volunteer at the General Campus of the Ottawa Hospital and will be visiting patients there and administer Communion.

SICK LIST: These parishioners are contacted to see if we can be of service.

SENIORS' HOMES:

LANDMARK COURT: Mass is held on the second Thursday of the month. A choir member from the Sunday 11:15 Mass choir has been very faithful in leading the singing. Those in the area are invited to attend.

BILLINGSWOOD: MANOR: Mass is offered there twice annually at Christmas and Easter.

BILLINGS LODGE: Mass is offered at 10 a.m. 2nd Thursday of each month with the choir member leading the singing.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

PASTORAL CARE SUNDAY: This year was celebrated on our Parish feast day "The Triumph of the Cross".

SEPTEMBER 17: Our Pastor commissioned the team to go forward into the community on behalf of the church. One of our members spoke very briefly at each Mass about our ministry and invited our parishioners to meet with them afterwards over refreshments in the narthex.

FIRST FRIDAYS: Members are encouraged to attend Mass and bring Communion, if possible, to house-bound parishioners. At the end of Mass the members of the team who are in attendance are called forward for a special blessing.

VALENTINES: We work together with Children's Liturgy and the Bereavement Committee to send cards to the elderly, sick and grieving parishioners. The children prepare the cards. Approximately 100 cards were sent. All the envelopes were addressed by hand by one of our team members.

WAY OF THE CROSS: We work with the Bereavement team to host and pray the Way of the Cross one Friday night during Lent. Our way of the Cross was prepared by one of the Bereavement Team members and was very pertinent to what is going on in our world today and was very well received by

those in attendance.

MEMORIAL MASS: The Pastoral Team assisted the Bereavement Committee with the Memorial Service which was held on November 05 and to which all family members of parishioners who had died in the previous two years were invited.

GREETERS FOR SUNDAY MASSES: Father James has requested that we wear our Pastoral Care badges to identify ourselves and greet parishioners in the narthex of the Church when they arrive for Mass on Sunday . Six badges have been distributed to team members who will provide this service as an important way to meet parishioners and perhaps identify needs.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: June M. Kelly

The Bereavement Committee works under the Pastoral Care Group and we support our parishioners when there is a death in the family by helping them organize the funeral service. We advise them about liturgical music and readings that are appropriate for the service. We visit the funeral home and provide follow up after the funeral if necessary.

The committee also sends out cards to relatives of deceased members of our parish on the anniversaries of deaths, as well as to spouses on Valentine's Day. We hold a memorial service every two years. We send invitations out to parishioners who have lost loved ones to provide a time of healing through community sharing.

We currently have seven members on our team.

From April 2006 to April 2007 we had 42 names on our list of people who died. Not all the funerals were at Holy Cross but contact is still made with relatives of parishioners when we are notified either by phone calls or contact cards. Our bereavement team looked after 15 funerals from this list.

On November 5, 2006 at 2 p.m. there was a Memorial Service to celebrate the lives of deceased parishioners. It was very well attended and the feedback was very positive.

The Bereavement team is in need of more volunteers to help with funeral arrangements for deceased parishioners.

HOSPITALITY

Chair: Karen Flynn

The Hospitality Committee provides occasions for parishioners to gather for social activities after Mass, and invites participation from church members through other events. Along with our ongoing activities such as "Coffee Sundays", the Committee runs the "Old-Fashioned Parish Supper" in November, and hosts Strawberry Sunday in late June or early July.

Once or twice a year, we ask parishioners for donations of baked goods. Last year, we had a bake table as part of the Christmas Craft sale in early December, which was very successful. The committee prepared freshly baked pies the day before and they were a popular item on the table.

A sub-committee of Hospitality, providing Funeral Catering, has been active again this past year serving food and refreshments for families holding receptions at the church. Anyone who is interested in using this service is asked to contact the parish office, who will then get in touch with our committee.

In March, the committee hosted a luncheon reception in celebration of Fr. Reg MacNeil's 85th birthday, which was attended by about 90 people. We also provided the beef and lamb stews for the St. Patrick's

Day party put on by the Knights of Columbus.

We would like to thank all parishioners who helped us during the past year with food preparation and baking, and the many who have assisted in the kitchen with cleaning-up after large gatherings.

The committee is always willing to assist where needed, such as coordinating the celebration in the hall following the Easter Vigil. New members are always welcome.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

125 years ago, Father Michael J. McGiveny founded the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal organization. That organization has grown to 1.7 million members in Canada, the United States, Mexico, the Philippines, some Caribbean Countries and recently Poland. Of these, there are 56,900 Knights in Ontario in 508 Councils, serving 802 parishes.

Holy Cross Council 10617 with approximately 90 members serves the vision of our founder Father McGiveny by serving our Parish, our community, our young people, and our members. Here are just some of our activities which illustrate our purpose and service:

Church:

- Install the Christmas Crèche
- Distribute rosaries and bibles to schoolchildren at First Communion and Confirmation Ceremonies
- Organize senior altar servers for funerals in the Parish
- Manage the parking lot for heavily attended Masses and Services at Christmas and Easter

Community:

- Sale of Car Lottery Tickets for the Arthritis Society.
- Sale of Roses for Action Life
- Manage the Church parking lot during the H.O.P.E. Beach Volleyball Tournament, using the proceeds for charitable purposes
- Participate in the City of Ottawa Adopt-a-Highway Program along the Airport Parkway
- Support for St. Patrick's Home with the sale of Shamrocks
- Organize a Seminar program for Parishioners and Members

Youth:

- Conduct the K of C Basketball Free Throw Competition for students in our Parish schools
- Conduct the K of C Drug Abuse Awareness Poster Contest in Parish schools
- Conduct an Essay Contest at St. Patrick's High School
- Host the Holy Cross school students at a pancake breakfast

Social Events for Parishioners and members:

- Pancake Breakfast
- St. Patrick's Party
- Steak Barbeque
- Pig Roast

For more information on Council 10617 and its activities, please consult the bulletin board at the back of the church or visit the web site www.holycrossparish.com - Knights of Columbus. We welcome new members over the age of 18 and gratefully appreciate the support of parishioners in our various pursuits.

Social Action

MISSION PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Contact: Peter Tobin

The committee strives to gain a better understanding of social justice issues, to communicate that understanding to the parish community and to follow up with action to address those issues.

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

This year our committee decided that environmental stewardship should be a high priority. The MPD section in the weekly bulletin has focused on the social teachings of the Church regarding the stewardship of creation. We also continued to liaise with Faith and The Common Good (FCG), a multi-faith organization devoted to stewardship. As a result we:

- Invited the coordinator of FCG to give a video presentation explaining how faith communities can “green their sacred spaces”.
- Worked with the Finance and Building committees to have an energy efficiency audit to determine how the parish might reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Full details of the audit and possible ramifications may be found on the parish web site.
- Arranged for a representative from Project Porchlight to speak at the Sunday Masses. With the help of children and youth, an energy efficient light bulb was given to each household.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (D&P)

The focus of Development and Peace for the next two years will be the impact that the practices of Canadian mining companies have on the Global South. Committee members attended workshops organized by the Diocesan Council of D&P to learn more about this issue. A first hand account of the effects on a community in Guatemala was presented to the parish by students and the chaplain from Carleton University. Their exposure trip also allowed them to see the projects with which D&P is involved.

In Lent we celebrated the 40th anniversary of D&P using the slogan “No Peace without Development”. Committee members spoke at each Mass on two different Sundays during Lent to explain the work of D&P and to promote its annual Share Lent campaign. The D&P website is www.devp.org

AFRICAN AIDS ANGELS PROJECT

Our Angel Makers continue to meet to craft the Angels that are sold at bazaars and churches in the area. We have also received requests for Angels from a number of locations in Ontario and were able to satisfy those requests by mail. In the past year we sent over \$19,000 to southern Africa, bringing the total we have contributed to more than \$84,000. At present we are providing assistance to one hospital and six Children’s Homes.

Presentations on HIV/AIDS in Africa were given to the congregation at an Anglican parish and to students at an elementary school and a class at St. Patrick’s High School. In addition to these presentations, the Angel Makers did workshops at one elementary school, two Catholic high schools and to a group of 85 students attending the National Student Commonwealth Forum in Ottawa.

FAIR TRADE

Fair Trade products were displayed and sold at the parish Christmas bazaar in December in order to raise the consciousness of parishioners concerning the ethical issues involved in the Fair Trade movement.

MPD approached the Hospitality Committee and proposed that Fair Trade coffee and tea be served at all parish events hosted by Hospitality. The Hospitality committee enthusiastically endorsed the proposal and since March has been serving both Fair Trade coffee and tea at all their events despite the additional cost to Hospitality.

A representative of MPD will continue to act as the liaison for purchasing Fair Trade products for those parish groups serving refreshments.

FOOD DRIVES

The committee organized three major food drives during the year and distributed the groceries to the local food banks at Heron Road, Debra Dynes, the Pavilion at Greenbank and Banff Community House.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Used children's shoes were collected throughout the year for delivery to the Dominican Republic. The shoes are cleaned and washed by a committee member and delivered to St. Mark High School. The students took 108 pairs of shoes from our parish with them for distribution to impoverished families of the sugar cane workers in the village of Consuelo in the Dominican Republic.

We hosted a presentation by the Immaculata High School DREAM TEAM (Dominican Republic Experience at 'Mac). The students spoke to interested parishioners about their March exposure trip to the Dominican.

NICARAGUA

We had had very little contact with Nicaragua over the past year 18 months or so as they seemed to be going through a particularly difficult time. Just last month however we received a lengthy e-mail and then an eleven page newsletter. The newsletter speaks of their need to renew their efforts in the Generating Life Project and promises better communication in the future.

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE PARISH

The bulletin board is updated regularly to draw attention to issues brought forth by Development and Peace, the Fair Trade movement and the OK Clean Water Project. The MPD column in the parish bulletin provides information and opinion about social justice topics.

SUPPORTING OTHER GROUPS

The Riverside Grannies was formed through the efforts of parishioners at our neighbouring church Riverside United. The members are parishioners of the three faith communities, Riverside United, Resurrection Anglican and Holy Cross. Their fundraising efforts support the Stephen Lewis Foundation which is doing excellent work for those affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

OTTAWA FOYERS PARTAGE

While this is meant to be an annual report, I believe that it would be timely to take a broader perspective. A one-year perspective can be very useful in stable times but where change is occurring, a longer time-frame can provide a better overview of what is actually taking place. Therefore, I would like to focus on the past 5-6 years and what has been taking place.

Why 5-6 years? Around the year 2000, a number of people, many of them parishioners of Holy Cross, were approached to become members of the Board. Many on the Board had already served for a long time and considered some changes might be useful. Many of these people, also members of Holy Cross, had served Foyers Partage since its inception and had certainly made a major contribution to the organization.

Around the same time, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, facing difficult budgetary constraints, decided to review much more closely the operations of agencies, stressing accountability and efficiency. In a few words, we were faced with a concern that we were too small and rather invisible in our approach and that perhaps they would be better served if we were larger or merged with another similar organization.

The Board, at that time, decided to pursue a strategic approach to resolving these issues with the goal of demonstrating that we were responsible, accountable and an effective agent for meeting the objectives of the Ministry. At the same time, we were committed to ensuring that the character of being a unique caring community would be preserved throughout whatever changes might be required.

The first challenge to be met dealt with our structure. With the assistance of the Board of the L'Arche Community and a consultant provided by the Ministry, we developed a job description for a new Executive Director/ Community Leader that would provide integrative leadership in the promotion and implementation of the vision and mission developed by the community itself and consistent with its Charter objectives and government regulations. A new Executive Director, Elisa Wyatt, was appointed and a fundamental review of the vision and mission was also carried out that involved all elements of our community.

A second challenge was that of meeting our need for growth, as stated by the Ministry. In that respect, we set up two internal committees, consisting of a cross section of residents and clients, teams and Board members.

One committee dealt with the homes and the possibility of providing services for additional residents. Meetings were held in every home and while people wanted to ensure that the community aspect would not be lost, they also deeply wished that more people could be served. Board members were all deeply impressed by our residents' solidarity with others in difficult circumstances. In the end, all agreed to the expansions of the homes at Kodiak and Albion with the addition of one resident at each place and the creation of a new home at Meridian for 5 additional residents. That process has now been completed.

The second growth committee has been focusing on the possible expansion of ComputerWise. Once more, our current clients are completely convinced that we have to expand in order to provide the great benefits of the ComputerWise approach to many other candidates in the region. Our expansion plans are now relatively complete and we are currently negotiating for a move to a new location that would meet our needs and those of the region in a much better manner.

Throughout, we have received excellent moral and financial support from the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Our last challenge is probably our biggest one—how to ensure an appropriate balance between meeting our responsibilities towards the regulatory and financing authorities on the one hand, and maintaining and enhancing the spirit of community that makes us unique. We have truly anguished over this one because we all carry it in our hearts, but we continue to be fully committed to it.

This is where I would like to express our most sincere thanks to the community of Holy Cross Parish, its priests and its parishioners. We have truly been fully integrated into Holy Cross. We are welcomed at Masses and at various celebrations; we are provided space and help for our potato peeling and our Partage Print program; you provide help when we put on our parties. The true reality is that you, the parishioners of Holy Cross, have been a crucial underpinning in allowing us to live out our vision of community. For this, you have our eternal gratitude and love and prayers.

Jean M. Bélanger; President (until February 2007)

FINANCE

Chair: Brian Nevins

We are happy to report that envelope and loose collections were up 4.6% from 2005 levels. About one half of the increase was due to an extra Sunday in 2006.

Other revenues such as bequests, rent, interest and sale of articles and receipts for Holy Cross Charities (\$11,175) totalled \$61,300 for total revenue from operations of \$388,500.

Operating costs were \$30,000 under the budgeted figure of \$397,000. The \$36,500 saved by not completing all projected renovations was partially offset by the \$12,000 extra spent on donations including \$12,500 from general funds to the Priest's Pension Plan.

Renovations undertaken in 2006 include upgrading the lighting in the Church Hall for \$4,600, repairs to

the Church roof for \$5,000 and installing a control panel in the elevator for \$7,600.

Our commitment to the refugee sponsorship program was completed during the year with total expenditures in 2006 of \$10,700.

As in prior years, parishioners have been very generous in supporting special collections. Diocesan ordered collections such as support for the Holy Land, Vocation Works and Evangelization of the Nations raised \$14,253.

COUNTERS

We support the parish by counting the weekend collections and preparing a bank deposit. Additional names to this important ministry would be most welcome as spares.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Chair: Ray Flansberry

This committee holds the responsibility for coordinating repairs and improvements to the Church and Rectory and the Pastor's Residence.

The committee is made up of the following members: Raymond A. Flansberry, Chair, Peter Choquette and Chris Choquette, Members.

Throughout the year, depending on the project, the Committee was assisted by the following associate members; Brian Nevins (Chair, Finance Committee), Richard Whalen, Jim Prosper and George Petetski.

During the year ending December 2006, the Building Committee has completed the following projects:

Painting Project - Partial

- Improvements to the Walkley Road Front Entrance with the painting of the concrete at the main front elevated entrance to the church and the surroundings Walkley Road facing walls.

Paving Project: - Phase 1 - Partial

- Line painting was re-done in the church parking lot, including front and side laneways at no cost to the Parish.

Electrical Work

- Installation of dual plug in kitchen area.
- Inspection and maintenance of emergency exit back up lighting system.
- Installation of new wall plug for fridge in the bar serving area.

Roofing Project

- An inspection of the church's roof was completed in May 2006. Repairs were completed on some 60 anchor plugs in August 2006.
- The membrane at the peak of the roof was repaired.
- The repaired areas at the peak of the roof were solidified by the installation of a skirt type device in order to prevent lifting of the membrane during violent storms.
- The residential type eavestrough at the front of the church was removed and replaced by a commercial type eavestrough to catch the rainwater.

Elevator Project

- A five (5) year maintenance contract was signed with Otis Elevator.

- The contract for the Installation of a Car Top Maintenance Station was given to Otis. This contract is yet to be completed. This installation is necessary for easier maintenance and inspection by TSSA inspectors.

Painting Project

- Funds were committed and contract was let to Mike Golle Painting Contractors to paint the exterior wood areas of the church. This is to be completed in the Spring of 2007.
- Funds were committed and contract was let to Mike Golle Painting Contractors to paint and repair rusted/damaged areas, where possible, in both the men's and women's restrooms in the basement of the church. This contract to be completed in the Spring of 2007, as well.

Concrete Work and Railing Project – Phase 2

- Funds were committed to partially complete concrete and railing work on East and West side entrances of the Church building

Hazardous materials – Removal Project

- Approximately 30 cans of paint and other hazardous materials accumulated over the years and stored in the outside metal shed near the garage area were brought to the Hazardous Material Drop-off Depot on Hawthorne Road on November 4, 2006 – There is no cost associated with this project.

Air Circulation Project:

- The analysis and feasibility study - inside of Church - summer vs. winter air circulation was completed by H.G. Francis.

The Building Committee's proposed building plans for next year, funds permitting, are:

Concrete Work and Railing Project – Phase 3

- To complete concrete and railing work on East, West and North side entrances of building from funds committed in the year 2006.

Heating and Lighting Improvements

As a result of the November 2006 Electricity and Audit Report from the EnviroCentre, which identified that half of our electricity is used for the mechanical fans and pumps and one third for lighting, the Building and Finance Committees members committed funds for savings on our electricity bill in the following areas:

1. Cycle ventilation and install variable frequency fans; and
2. Install efficiency lighting.

With these two (2) recommendations, our current annual electricity and gas bills could be reduced by about \$3,000 per year. This figure will represent about seventeen percent (17%) savings.

This saving also means that the improvements could pay for themselves in about four (4) years.

Energy Ottawa has been mandated to oversee these improvements and, following their own investigations and assessments of the report in the Spring 2007, at no cost, Energy Ottawa, if required, would make further recommendations to us. When these further recommendations are received and assessed by the Building and Finance Committees members, we will be informed of the cost of having Energy Ottawa acting as the project manager for these improvements.

Rain/Water Overflow Project – East Side of Building:

- To complete a landscaping analysis and feasibility study; and
- to assess feasibility of excavation work to accommodate water accumulation; and/or
- to assess feasibility of raising window wells and to backfill to accommodate water accumulation

Air Circulation Project:

- to assess feasibility.

- to assess feasibility of Re-directing air circulation - through air returns

Flooring Project – Phase 1

- Installation of flooring – rectory

Flooring Project – Phase 2

- Installation of flooring – basement

Kitchen Project:

- Installation of larger exhaust vent in kitchen area

Fencing Project:

- Removal and installation of new fence - Pastor's residence