

Holy Cross Parish

2008

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING April 30, 2008

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: Joe Goski

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.

Among the highlights of the parish's devotional life in 2007-08 were:

- The pastoral visit by our new Archbishop, Terence Prendergast on April 25
- A Eucharistic Procession after the 9:30 Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi
- A day-long Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, May 30
- Stations of the Cross on Friday's in Lent
- Rescheduling Mass on Tuesdays to enable classes from Holy Cross School to attend
- The renewal of our Children's Liturgy program in line with new guidelines from the Canadian Bishops; the effort was launched by Miriam Basten and has been carried out through the year by members of the Holy Cross Youth Group

The past year was especially memorable for the young people of our parish. The number of youth who have come forward as Altar Servers grew considerably during the year. Our Youth Group has also grown and gained visibility in the parish as they have become a regular presence by helping other committees with projects and by running their own fundraising projects. This year, two of our young parishioners will be attending World Youth Day in Australia, and two have made commitments to NET Ministries.

LITURGY

Chair: Miriam Basten

Major topics of interest in the past year

- The Children's Liturgy program at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday mass was revamped and is currently being organized by the members of the Youth ministry.
- The painting of the interior of the church in November did not disrupt the masses at all, which was greatly appreciated.
- Heavy snowfalls impacted on the success of some of our liturgies, including both the Advent and Lent Reconciliation services. An Advent concert by our choirs had to be cancelled on December 16 as well.

- A number of new banners have been purchased that will be hung in the sanctuary throughout the different seasons of the church. Thank you to Diane Rogers and her team for their hard work in maintaining the décor in the church throughout the year.
- This year, weekday mass on Tuesday has been shifted to 9:30 a.m. so that students from Holy Cross School can attend.
- Training workshops for lectors/announcers were held, and many ideas to improve this ministry were put forward. Thank you Bob Laird for his continuing commitment to this ministry.
- The choirs continue to use overhead transparencies to project the words of the songs that are sung, and, therefore, pay an annual fee to two licensing companies for the right to do this. Miriam submits usage reports every week using an on-line reporting system. Copyright compliance is something all choir leaders feel is very important.
- 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.
- For Holy Thursday we chose to use the traditional format of the “washing of the feet”. This was well received.
- Members from all our parish choirs combined to sing for the Triduum liturgies, as well as for the visit of Archbishop Prendergast on Saturday, April 26.
- A Eucharistic procession was held at the end of the 9:30 mass on the feast of Corpus Christi (May 25).
- Twelve hours of adoration was held on the feast of the Sacred Heart (May 30)

We are looking forward to ...

- Working on making our music choices fully copyright compliant.
- Replacing a number of broken music stands, microphone stands, and microphone cables.
- Encouraging new volunteers for the various liturgical ministries.
- Investigating how to handle various postures during consecration and communion.
- Promoting attendance of liturgical ministers at diocesan liturgical workshops.
- Assisting the leaders in the Children’s Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 mass.
- Promoting the ministry of Greeter.
- Encouraging participation in the devotion of the Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter.
- 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-one students received the sacraments: 18 from Holy Family School, 15 from Holy Cross School, and the remainder from various institutions, including Bayview, Fielding, St. Patrick's Int., Ste. Margeurite 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 February 26. 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 fifteenth 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 four Masses, on two 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 an information night in November, enrollment ceremonies in January, and Come Join us at the Table evenings from January to April. Three 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.

With the conclusion of our fifteenth year we are losing a few people from our team. Angie Mattioli is moving on to other activities and I am stepping down as chair of the Sacrament Committee. The team will still continue to teach the Come Join Us at the Table program. This Committee will need a volunteer to be the chair and I will be around to be of any help I can.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy took on a new role this past year. After attending a workshop at the Archdiocese, we continued on with a very different approach from what had been previously done.

It's set up to represent a Mass. We have all the children gather in one designated spot. There's one leader for the day and one reader. We open with a prayer, and then proceed to the first reading. After that, we all stand, the children grab an instrument and we all sing Alleluia to open up for the Gospel (read by the leader). Following the Gospel, the leader will talk with the children and have them answer questions pertaining to what they just heard. We end with offering up intentions and then wrap up with a quick prayer before heading back upstairs to join the rest of the parish in the breaking of the bread.

The children know when there's Children's Liturgy that Sunday because in front of the altar we place the table with the cross and the Children's Lectionary book along with candles and our banner. When we celebrate special sacraments like Baptisms, First Communion and Confirmation we encourage the children to stay upstairs to witness these special events.

We have 4 full-time leaders, several readers and a couple of musicians. The children range from the ages 2 to 12. Parents will often join us as well. Every leader teaches differently which gives the children some variety and keeps them interested. We keep it quite formal, but bring it to their level. We've incorporated acting, visuals and songs into each gathering. The children seem to look forward to it every Sunday and each week the number of children attending gets larger. We all feel blessed in what we are called to do and in making a difference to the young of our parish.

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. in meeting room A (the Cenacle meeting is a little bit longer) and everyone is always welcome.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Chair: Christina Chung

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process to assist adults in their journey to become members of the Catholic Church. Candidates, their sponsors and team members explore the liturgical calendar from the beginning of October until Pentecost. Currently, the team consists of Greg Yost, Eric

Krammers, Barry Ryan and Chistina Chung.

In October, we began with two candidates. Before we proceeded to far, it became clear to the candidates that they would be unable, for good reason, to follow through with the weekly meetings at this time. We missed our weekly fellowship so team members and some candidates from previous years enjoyed meeting weekly throughout Lent to share our faith, practice our skills and renew our friendship.

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

PASTORAL CARE

Chair: Simonne Larouche

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. If the parishioner request, Holy Communion will be brought to their home. 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: Eighteen are active (6 of these also work with the Bereavement Committee). One is on Sick Leave, Two are involved when we have special events, One sends bulletins to housebound parishioners, Two make telephone calls, Four visit the Ottawa General and Ottawa Civic hospitals and One sends Get Well and Sympathy cards (approx. 61) and handwrites Valentine envelopes (approx. 127).

NUMBERS OF PARISHIONERS VISITED: Approximately 54 different parishioners were visited at home, church, hospital (not including the ones visited by the four who are part of the Ottawa General and Ottawa Civic hospital teams. A hospital visit by each member may include up to 25 patients or more each visit).

TRAINING: Two members took the Pastoral Care Training Program. "Sharing Our Caring" - November 17, 2007 at St. Margaret Mary's Parish was attended by one of our members.

SICK LIST:

This list is in the Parish Bulletin and is monitored.

SENIORS' HOMES:

BILLINGS LODGE:

Weekly "Liturgy of the Word" at 9 a.m. Mass - 3rd Thursday every month.

BILLINGSWOOD MANOR:

Twice a year - Christmas and Easter

LANDMARK COURT RETIREMENT HOME: Mass at 10 a.m. - 2nd Thursday each month

SPECIAL EVENTS:

VALENTINES - We work together with the Children's Liturgy and the Bereavement Committee to send cards to the sick and grieving parishioners. Our Valentine Card was designed and coloured by parishioner, Ricki Armitage. This year the Children signed approximately 127 cards. All the envelopes were addressed by hand by one of our team members.

PASTORAL DAY - Wednesday, February 20, 2007. Pastoral Care teamed up with the Knights of Columbus to view the DVD, "Turning the Tide" on Euthanasia.

HEALING SERVICE - Sunday, June 10, 2007. We work with the Bereavement team who produce the content and program for the service. One highlight of the program this year were "lapel pins" to mark the occasion donated by a member of the Pastoral Care Team.

PASTORAL CARE SUNDAY - Sunday, September 9, 2007. A Pastoral Care Team Member spoke at each Mass.

SENIORS' DAY - October, 2007. This is the second one. A great success attended by thirty-three Seniors! The Bereavement team undertakes this wonderful project.

FAREWELL TO THE FITZGERALDS - Sunday, January 6, 2008 after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Fr. James thanked Mike and Theresa for their dedicated service to Holy Cross Parish. A card, signed by parishioners and a bouquet were presented by two team members.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - We work with the Bereavement team to host and pray the Stations of the Cross on a Friday night during Lent.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Saturday, March 8, 2008, held at the Salvation Army Ottawa Citadel on Walkley Road. The country of Guyana was highlighted. A Pastoral Care Team Member was in attendance and had a part to read in the program.

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

ARCHBISHOP TERENCE PRENDERGAST VISIT: Saturday, April 26, 2008 officiating at the 5 p.m. Mass. A number of ministries were asked to speak including Pastoral Care. We thank Fr. James and Fr. Lukose for their wonderful support and guidance in our Ministry.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: June Kelly

The Bereavement Committee is an Ad Hoc Committee under the Pastoral Care Group and its mandate is to liaise between the parish priests and family members who have lost a loved one and assist in planning the liturgy for their funeral.

Since our last Memorial Service on November 5, 2006 and May 2008 we have planned 46 funerals here at Holy Cross. Our next Memorial Service to celebrate the lives of our deceased members is to be held the first Sunday in November 2008.

On December 28, 2007, Hub Deveau of the Bereavement Committee organized a Seniors Day celebration which included a Eucharistic mass at 12:15 p.m. and a luncheon in the church hall with sandwiches and cake. Santa Claus arrived and presented each senior with a Christmas gift. There were approximately 30 seniors in attendance.

A meeting with parishioners who wish to pre-plan their funeral will be held in the near future. This will be announced in the bulletin. Anyone who wishes to do this please call June M. Kelly 613-737-7139.

We now have only two members on our team who prepare funeral liturgies and we are 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, with wonderful assistance from the Youth Group, and hosts Strawberry Sunday in 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 prepares freshly baked pies the day before, which always prove to be a popular item on the table.

After a brief hiatus, a Women’s Breakfast was held last November, with the Honourable Flora MacDonald the guest speaker. About 110 participants enjoyed a wonderful meal and a most interesting talk by Ms. MacDonald, who provided a very personal insight into the lives of citizens in Afghanistan, based on her travel experiences there.

In late April, when Archbishop Prendergast made a pastoral visit to Holy Cross, the committee prepared the food for the reception that followed after Mass in the parish hall.

Hospitality frequently works alongside other groups to assist with their parish events. In January, we helped the Youth Group prepare for the Spaghetti Dinner they hosted and lent a hand by baking pies for the Bake Sale they held in April. The committee once again provided the beef and lamb stews for the St. Patrick’s Day party put on by the Knights of Columbus in March.

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.

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
- Perform Usher and Collection duties, and assist Father in Mass Preparation

- Perform repairs to Church Furniture and painting as required
- Provide Carnation flowers to the Mother's on Mother's Day
- Provide Knight of Columbus Honour Guard parades as request by Father

Community:

- Sale of Car Lottery Tickets for the Arthritis Society.
- 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
- Holy Cross Parish K of C Council 10617 has adopted Cottage #1 of 6 Cottages at Waupoos Farm, providing hands on labour for repairs and up keep. These Cottages are used by those in need of a brief R&R

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
- Host Holy Family 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.

Youth Group

The Youth Group has grown dramatically over the past year. There are now about twenty active members and we are always looking to involve more young people in the group. The Youth Group strives to bring the youth of our parish together to participate in a variety of social, spiritual, and community based activities. The Youth Group tries to have at least one activity per month; we also met with Fr. James twice in the year to help guide us along the right path.

Our social activities help us to grow in fellowship with each other and they allow us to meet in a relaxed atmosphere outside of the Church. Some of our social events included a barbeque in the summer, a hike in the Gatineau Hills in the fall, attending Handel's Messiah during Advent and attending Taize prayer in April.

The Youth Group also gives back to the community in a variety of ways. In November we volunteered to help the Hospitality committee serve at the Old Fashioned Parish Supper. In the Christmas season, the youth gave out candy canes to the children at the 9:30 a.m. Mass alongside the Knights of Columbus. We also helped put up the Christmas lights at the front of the Church. On one Friday in Lent, the Youth Group led the Stations of the Cross followed by Adoration. Finally, the Youth Group participated in the annual Parish Clean-Up.

This year the Youth Group took on the challenge of fundraising for two members, Andrew Flynn and

Krista Costanza, who will be attending World Youth Day in Australia from July 15-20, 2008. Our fundraising is also helping support Melanie and Adele Costanza who have joined NET Ministries. Our fundraisers included a successful car wash in the fall, the Spaghetti Dinner in January, and a bake sale in conjunction with the Hospitality Committee in March. The fundraising will also be used to help the Youth Group fund some of its activities in the future.

The Youth Group would like to thank the parish for their continued support. We would also like to thank Frs. James and Lukose for their enthusiasm and guidance. The Youth Group targets young people of high school and university age, but younger parishioners are encouraged to participate in certain activities. Young people interested in the group are always welcome.

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.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (D&P)

Development and Peace, or D&P, is the national NGO (non-governmental organization) of the Canadian Catholic Church. This year's educational focus is on the Canadian mining industry. MPD members attended two workshops organized by the diocesan unit of D&P: one on the mining issue and a spring workshop on the Share Lent fundraising drive.

MPD conducted an educational campaign in the fall of 2007, speaking at all Masses about the need for an ombudsperson who would be a voice for those affected by the mining practices of Canadian companies operating in other countries. This campaign included having parishioners sign postcards to be sent to the government requesting the appointment of an ombudsperson.

MPD also presented the film "After the Tsunami" that outlined the work of D&P in countries affected by the tsunami.

AFRICAN AIDS ANGELS PROJECT

The Angel Makers meet regularly to craft African AIDS Angels that are sold throughout the Ottawa area, especially at churches and bazaars. The entire proceeds of the sales go to Children's Homes, one Hospice and one Hospital in South Africa and Zambia to assist those most affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In the calendar year 2007, MPD sent close to \$26,000 to Africa.

As well as contributing to the struggle against HIV/AIDS, the regular crafting sessions create community not only for many Holy Cross parishioners but also for a number of others from the Ottawa area.

Members of the Angel Team gave workshops at Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Epiphany Anglican and City View United churches, and at the United Church Summer Event in Kemptville ON.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

John Dorner represented the Ottawa Archdiocese at a convention of the Social Affairs Committee of The Ontario Conference of Catholic Bishops in Toronto. He also arranged for the free distribution in our parish of a booklet promoting environmentally sound practices within our households. John continues to serve as a liaison towards finding ways to improve energy efficiency in our church building.

FAIR TRADE

Fair Trade products were sold at parish events in December and April. An MPD committee member 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. The fall food drive featuring a "reverse offering" proved the most successful ever with over 350 bags of groceries donated. Committee members deliver the groceries from these drives to the food banks at Debra Dynes, Heron Road, Greenboro Pavilion and Banff Community House.

NICARAGUA

There has been greater communication this year from our sister community in barrio El Recreo, Managua, Nicaragua. We received two e-mail updates from Sister Maria Luisa Castillo on the various programs of the Generating Life Project that continues to expand. Sister Maria also sent a CD featuring about 60 photographs of the project.

RE-USE AND RECYCLING

MPD collected, cleaned and sent to St. Mark High School 87 pairs of children's shoes for the Dominican Republic. The shoes were taken to the DR by St. Mark students and donated to impoverished families who work the sugar cane fields.

In addition the committee collected eyeglasses for countries of the global south, cell phones for the city food bank, wired ribbon for the Angel project and used postage stamps for Development and Peace.

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE PARISH

The bulletin board is updated regularly to communicate issues brought forth by Development and Peace, Fair Trade and the OK Water Project. The MPD column in the weekly bulletin provides topical information and opinion on social justice issues. A related column, "Tip of The Week" lists practical ways to show care for God's creation.

MPD hosted two guest speaker evenings. Elizabeth Lamarche spoke on her volunteer work at Kasisi Home in Zambia. Mike and Barb Lowe reported on their month of volunteer work in Malawi.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

MPD led a Friday evening Stations of the Cross in Lent that had a social justice theme.

SUPPORTING OTHER GROUPS

We cooperated with the Riverside Grannies in their efforts to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign to assist grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa.

OTTAWA FOYERS PARTAGE

For close to two decades each week 50 pounds of potatoes have been peeled, chopped, rinsed and packed into two large buckets for the Shepherds of Good Hope. It is because of the ongoing and generous support of our parish volunteers (some for many, many years) that we can continue this work.

And because of our friends too! For the past 3 years the potatoes have been donated by the Country Grocer. We at Ottawa Foyers Partage feel blessed and happy to participate in this community endeavour. We are always looking for volunteers to be a part of our team. If you are able to volunteer a few hours each month contact Diana at 613-744-6315. We meet on Monday afternoons in the parish

hall.

FINANCE

Chair: Brian Nevins

We are happy to report that envelope and loose collections were up 5% from 2006 levels, despite having one fewer Sunday collection in 2007. Other revenues such as bequests, rent, interest and sale of articles and receipts for Holy Cross Charities (\$12,000) totaled \$105,300 for total revenue from operations of \$448,600. The majority of the \$40,600 increase was due to regular collection increase of \$16,000 and a \$22,000 donation for the cost of painting the church.

Operating costs were lower than in 2006 with the majority of the savings coming from a reduction in staffing costs (\$21,700). This savings was partially offset by a \$4,800 increase in Administration taxes due to higher taxable revenues.

The two major amounts in non-operating expenses were \$82,000 spent on major repairs (see the Building Committee Report for details) and \$12,900 contributed to the Clergy Campaign for the Priests' Pension Plan.

Our mortgage with the Archdiocese has been paid down to \$21,000 and is scheduled to be paid off in early 2009

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 \$14,650.

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, Rectory and Parish's Office.

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).

During the year ending December 2007, the Building Committee completed the following projects:

- **Air Circulation Project:**

- Purchase of one (1) large fan to circulate air from the basement to the Church area.
- Purchase of two (2) variable frequency floor fans for the Church area to improve the circulation and ventilation.

These two (2) recommendations were approved following the November 2006 Electricity and Audit Report from the EnviroCentre to save money on our current annual electricity and gas bills.

The savings achieved means that these improvements should pay for themselves by the year 2011 or in

about four (4) years.

- **Concrete Work and Railing Project – Phase 3**
 - Work was completed to the concrete and railing work on East, West and North side entrances of the Church building
 - New railings were installed at the Springland office entrance and along the ramp for the handicap use on the West Side of the building.
- **Electrical Work**
 - Inspection and maintenance of emergency exit back up lighting system.
- **Furnace Boiler Control Panel**
 - Repairs were completed on the Boiler Control Panel in 2007.
- **Installation – Marble Podium – Choir Side**
 - A marble podium was installed on the choir side
- **Installation – Office Intercom and Electric lock**
 - The installation of an entrance intercom and electric lock were completed in 2007. These two (2) security additions were necessary to increase the safety and security of the office and staff.
- **Kneelers – Church Pews**
 - Two (2) broken kneelers were replaced or repaired.
- **Masonry work**
 - **Gas Chimney Project**
 - The entire exterior of the chimney was rebuild with new bricks and flue liners
 - **Exterior – West Side**
 - Defective/Broken bricks were replaced.
- **Painting Project - Exterior**
 - The exterior painting of all wood surfaces was completed in the Spring of 2007.
 - The concrete portion at the entrance of the church was also painted.
- **Painting Project – Interior**
 - The interior painting of the Church was completed in December 2007.
- **Painting Project – Rectory**
 - The painting of the Rectory was also completed in 2007.
- **Rain/Water Overflow Project – Phase 1 - East Side of Building:**

The landscaping analysis and feasibility study was completed and the contract was let in September 2007 at a cost of \$2,600 plus the applicable taxes. However, due to the unavailability of the contractor and the early snow conditions in November 2007, the project was delayed until the Spring of 2008. This project is now scheduled to be completed by early June 2008 barring too many unforeseen rainy days. The excavation work to remove and relocate earth will facilitate the flow of water away from the building to other less sensitive areas on the church's property.

- **Roofing Project – Roof (Continuous Maintenance)**
 - An inspection of the church’s roof was completed in May 2007. Repairs were completed on some 30 anchor plugs in August 2007.
- **Roofing – Eaves troughs – Replacement and Installation**
 - Work was completed to remove existing eaves troughs and to replace them with new 6” eaves troughs on East and West sides of the building. New downspouts were also added, where necessary.
- **Sanctuary Lighting Design Project**
 - Design work for the altar lighting is underway. This project should result in brighter and more efficient lighting.

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

- **Fencing Project - Rectory**
 - Removal of trees and wooden fence and installation of new fence - Rectory
- **Flooring Project – Phase 1**
 - Installation of flooring – Rectory
- **Flooring Project – Phase 2**
 - Installation of flooring – Basement
- **Kitchen Project**
 - Installation of a large commercial exhaust vent.
- **Lighting Design Project**
 - Design work for the remainder of the church is anticipated for 2008. This project should result in a brighter and more efficient lighting throughout the church, as well.
- **Rain/Water Overflow Project – West Side of Building:**
 - The landscaping analysis and feasibility study will be completed in the Spring of 2008.