

Holy Cross Parish

2010

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING April 30, 2010

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 life in 2009-10 were:

- The fall faith formation program: Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life
- The parish Lenten mission, preached by Fr Maxime Allard, o.p.
- The Baptism of four RCIA candidates at the Easter Vigil
- Stewardship commitment cards distributed to parishioners
- The introduction of email invitations to parish events

LITURGY

Chair: Miriam Basten

Major topics of interest in the past year

- After receiving direction from the Archbishop with regards to safety measures with the H1N1 pandemic, the handshakes at the beginning of mass and at the sign of peace, as well as receiving communion from the cup were discontinued in the starting on September 27. Hand sanitizers were also provided at the entrances of the church. The sign of peace handshakes began to return early in the new year, and communion from the cup returned at Easter. The assembly was invited to welcome each other with handshakes once again on the weekend of May 02.
- A "Prayer for Priests and Vocations" was said after communion at masses each weekend in recognition that this year (June to June) has been designated the Year of the Priest.
- The Children's Liturgy program at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass continues to be organized by the members of the Youth ministry and has been very successful. The team also led the Stations of the Cross service for children on the morning of Good Friday.
- Morning Mass on Tuesday continues to be held at 9:30 so that students from Holy Cross School can attend.
- The choirs continue to use overhead transparencies to project the words of the songs that are sung. We pay an annual fee to two licensing companies for the right to do this. Miriam submits usage

reports each month using an on-line reporting system. Copyright compliance is something all choir leaders feel is very important.

- Overhead transparency slides will be stored in new filing cabinets, courtesy of Liz G., music leader at Sunday morning 8 a.m. Mass – this is much appreciated!
- Flyers and booklets were provided for sale to help with personal devotions during Advent and Lent.
- Different parish groups once again took turns leading the Friday evening Stations of the Cross devotion during Lent. Beforehand there was a half hour of Adoration starting at 6:30 p.m.
- The speaker at the Lenten mission was Fr. Maxime Allard, Vice-President of the Dominican University College.
- For Holy Thursday we chose to use the format of inviting members of the assembly to various stations around the church for the “washing of the feet”, in order to experience being ministered to, and to minister to others.
- Members from all our parish choirs combined to sing for the Triduum liturgies.
- We were blessed to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation for four RCIA candidates at the Vigil.
- The 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday choirs combined forces to provide music on Easter morning at 9:30 Mass.
- Members of the Knights of Columbus have done a great job assisting with parking outside and seating parishioners at liturgies with large crowds (e.g. Christmas, Good Friday, Easter Sunday).
- First Communion for Holy Cross and Holy Family Schools was held during Sunday morning Masses (9:30 & 11:15) on April 18 and 25.
- The outdoor procession to conclude the 9:30 a.m. Mass on the feast of the Body & Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) on June 14 last year was a success.

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.
- Organizing the Eucharistic procession for the end of the 9:30 Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi (June 06).
- Organizing a choir concert at some point during the year, which hopefully will include the school choirs.
- Arranging for a commissioning blessing for a wider variety of ministries (e.g. Eucharistic ministers, servers)
- Finding out who our military veterans are and recognizing them on the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day.
- Encouraging new volunteers for the various liturgical ministries.
- Promoting attendance of liturgical ministers at diocesan liturgical workshops.
- Having a speaker at Mass to describe the importance of helping out in liturgical ministries and the importance of music and singing at 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 01), 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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy program continues to grow and the majority of the children attend regularly. More parents are attending the liturgy with their children regularly and they frequently give positive feedback to our volunteers. Currently there are six volunteer leaders, compared to four from the previous year, and thirteen volunteers, compared to ten from last year, who help with the set up, music and readings. Children's Liturgy targets children aged three to twelve.

Children's Liturgy is held almost every Sunday from September until June during the first half of the 9:30 a.m. Mass. An average of between 25 and 35 children participate in the liturgy. On Sundays when the children do not have Children's Liturgy, they are encouraged to participate in the regular Mass with the entire community. The Children's Liturgy follows the Liturgy of the Word with a few adjustments for the children. There is an opening prayer, one reading, a psalm, the Gospel, a short reflection, the Apostle's Creed and the prayers of the faithful. The children return upstairs to participate in the second part of the Mass.

There were several special liturgies this year. During Advent, the children sang an Advent song sung in the schools and lit a small Advent wreath downstairs. On the first Sunday in February, the children coloured and signed over one hundred Valentine's cards for the Pastoral Care Committee, who gave them to elderly, sick and grieving parishioners. Finally, a special liturgy was held on Good Friday at 10:30 a.m. Around sixty children and their parents heard the Passion Narrative and walked the Stations of the Cross.

Frs. James and Lukose continue to gather the children before the altar at the start of Mass to make contact with the children. This year the children were more visible at the 9:30 a.m. Mass as the all the children participating in the liturgy helped carry the gifts to the altar before returning to their families.

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 Cenacles 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 for adults preparing to become members of the Catholic Church.

We meet every week from October to Pentecost.

The team this year consisted of Greg Best, Christina Chung, Eric Kramers and Barry Ryan.

Supported by the prayers of our Parishioners we guided four Catechumens to the Sacraments of Initiation. Anthonia and Patricia Bejide, Holly Nicks and Ly Do received these Sacraments during the Easter Vigil.

We would like to thank their Sponsors and Godparents, who journeyed with them and gave so generously of their time.

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

PASTORAL CARE

Acting Chair: Simonne Larouche

This ministry is responsible for providing support and visits to the sick and housebound, depressed, lonely, addicted (and their families) when approached to do so. If the parishioner requests; Holy Communion will be brought to their home. Confidentiality is the cornerstone of this ministry. Our greatest challenge is to have parishioners request our service.

MEETINGS: Four general meetings were held -- one every 3 months (September, December, March and June). Additional meetings are scheduled, as necessary, for special events.

MEMBERS: Twenty-one are active (6 of these also work with the Bereavement Committee). Two, and more, members are involved when we have special events. One sends 'Parish Bulletins' to housebound parishioners. Two activate the 'Telephone line'. Three visit the 'Ottawa General and Ottawa Civic Hospitals'. One sends 'Get Well' and 'Sympathy' cards (approximately 46) and handwrites 'Valentine' envelopes (approximately 101).

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PARISHIONERS VISITED: Forty-seven parishioners were visited at home, church and hospital. This does not including the ones visited by our members who are part of the Ottawa General and Civic Hospital Pastoral Care Teams. A hospital visit may include up to twenty patients or more each visit.

SICK LIST: This list is in the Parish Bulletin and is monitored.

SENIORS' HOMES: Team Members assist at Mass at Billings Lodge, Billingswood Manor, Landmark Court Retirement Home and Windsor Park Manor Retirement Living.

SPECIAL EVENTS

PASTORAL CARE SUNDAY: Celebrated on Sunday, September 6, 2009. A Pastoral Care Team Member spoke at each Mass.

VALENTINES: We partner with the Children's Liturgy and the Bereavement Committee to send cards to sick and grieving parishioners. Our Valentine Card was, once again, delightfully designed and coloured by fellow parishioner, Ricki Armitage. This year the Children signed approximately 101 cards. All the envelopes were addressed by hand by one of our team members.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Hosted by Holy Cross Parish. It was organized by the Pastoral Care Team on Friday, March 5, 2010. The country highlighted was the Republic of Cameroon. We worked with nine other Christian Churches and raised over \$800 for the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We partner with the Bereavement Team to host and pray the Stations of the Cross on a Friday night during Lent. (Friday, March 26). The program for the Stations was prepared by our dedicated Special Events member. All expressed their appreciation by voicing how poignant and memorable the service was.

WOMEN OF MERCY: Holy Cross hosted the Women of Mercy on April 07, 2010. Several members of our Pastoral Care Team belong to the Women of Mercy. An hour of Adoration for the sanctification of Priests, holy vocations to the priesthood and religious life and for the reparation for abuses by some of the clergy.

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: June Kelly

The Bereavement Committee is an Ad Hoc Committee under the Pastoral Care Group and its members are primarily called upon to assist the family in choosing appropriate readings, prayers of intercession and hymns for the funeral liturgy. Various training and educational sessions are available in Ottawa to help new members of the Committee and follow-up training is available to update their skills on an ongoing basis.

Our last Memorial Service was held on November 02, 2008 at which 104 deceased parishioners and/or their relatives were honoured.

Since May 2008 there have been 45 parishioners who have died with a number of funerals held here at Holy Cross.

In 2009 condolence cards were sent out to 31 family members on behalf of Holy Cross including 44 first anniversary cards. In 2010, thus far, 20 condolence cards were mailed to family members and 12 first anniversary cards were sent on behalf of Holy Cross Parish.

Currently the Bereavement Committee is planning a Memorial Service for deceased parishioners to be held Sunday, November 07, 2010, at 2 p.m.

We are in need of more volunteers to help with funeral arrangements for deceased parishioners and for special events. Anyone wishing to join our team should contact one of the committee members: Hub Deveau, Harry Goldsmith or June M. Kelly.

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/Bake 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. This year we tried our hand at jams, jellies and recipe-in-a-jar with some success.

Hospitality frequently works alongside other groups to assist with their parish events. We helped the Youth Group prepare for the Pasta Night they hosted and assisted them in pie making for the Youth Spring Bake Sale. The committee provided the beef and lamb stews as well as the coleslaw salad for the St. Patrick’s Day party put on by the Knights of Columbus.

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 that 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. This year we have a list of new potential members to contact thanks to the Commitment Card.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

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: Chair: Raymond A. Flansberry, Members: Peter Choquette and Chris Choquette.

Throughout the year, depending on the project, the Committee was assisted by the following associate members; Brian Nevins (Chair, Finance Committee – K of C), Garry Brown, (K of C), Frank Bonacci (K of C), George Petetski (Past Grand Knight - K of C).

During the year ending December 2009, the Building Committee completed the following projects:

Roof Maintenance (Continuous Maintenance)

- Top Hat Home Comfort Services installed Gutter Protectors/Guards around the building where there are eaves through – May 2009 – Approx. \$2,000.

Parking Lot

- December 2009 – replacement of low energy light (post) – Warranty - No cost.

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

Carpeting Project

- Estimates have been received for the replacement of the carpet at the Walkley Road entrance, the main worship area of the church, altar and sacristy. Final decision pending.

Windows / Doors Replacement Project

- Replace windows and doors (all exterior windows and doors) at a much higher R Factor – Request for estimates planned for Spring / Summer 2010.

Flooring Project – Phase 1

- Installation of flooring – Rectory.

Flooring Project – Phase 2

- Installation of flooring – Basement.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight: Harvey Rule

Holy Cross' Knights of Columbus Council 10617 have many activities in which our members perform:

- Supporting NET Ministries with funds and assistance
- Supporting Action life and Pro-life by hike for life fund raising
- Supporting youth groups with funds
- Financial support for Catholic Youth Leadership Camp
- Supporting our Pastor when requested to paint and perform repairs to the church building and equipment
- Assist various organizations within the church such as setting up tables and chairs
- On the last Saturday of each month a group of K of C members and their families help at the Shepherd's of Good Hope Soup Kitchen
- During the week we have a number of individual members helping out at the Shepherd's Soup Kitchen
- Distribute Christmas religious mementoes to the children in December
- Distribute Rosaries to the children on their First Communion
- Distribute New Bibles to the Children at Holy Family and Holy Cross Schools
- Teaching the prayers and the mysteries of the Rosary to the children at Holy Family school
- Support and participate in the Drug Awareness Poster Contest in six area schools
- Participate and support Children's Basket Free Throw Completion at six area Schools
- Cleaning of the Air port Parkway of garbage between Walkley to Hunt Cub Rd. during the Month of May
- Distribution of Flowers (Carnation) on Mother's Day
- Serve Pancake Breakfast to the parishioners and to the children at Holy Cross School and Holy Family School

- Sale of Christmas cakes

We have a number of other activities that keep us very busy such as:

- Pig Roast in the fall (Late September)
- St. Patrick's Day Dinner / Dance in the month of March
- Hope Volley Ball Parking duties in July to raise funds
- Sale of Arthritis Raffle tickets from November to May
- Sale of Shamrocks for St. Patrick's Home
- Assisting the Bereavement members during Funeral Masses
- Ushering and collection at all masses

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 a very active core group of about twenty-five young people 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 meet with Fr. James at several points 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, and a Christmas party.

The Youth Group held a retreat for spiritual enrichment. In September, speaker Steven Boucher, o.p., taught the youth about the importance of being an active member of our Catholic community. The youth also completed a scavenger hunt around the Church, learning about the different parts of the Church. In October, we had planned to walk the Stations of the Cross in Vincent Massey Park, but rainy weather forced us inside and we learned about the origins of the Stations of the Cross and prayed them together as a group.

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. We also volunteered an afternoon at the Ottawa Food Bank by stocking shelves for three hours. 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, as well as filling a Christmas hamper. We also helped put up the Christmas lights at the front of the Church. On one Friday in Lent, the Youth Group led an evening of Adoration followed by the Stations of the Cross. Finally, the Youth Group participated in the annual Parish Clean-Up.

The Youth Group hosted its Third Annual Pasta dinner in January. The youth took the lead serving about 150 parishioners with minimal assistance from our parents. The dinner was a great success and the proceeds from the dinner will help fund the activities the youth partake in, as well as help send some of our members on diocesan retreats. We also held a Bake Sale after Easter which was a great success. The youth group teamed up with the hospitality committee who taught the youth how to make pies. It was an enriching morning and we are grateful to the hospitality ladies. The Youth Group is also setting aside funds for youth interested in attending the next World Youth Day in Madrid

This year, there were a couple of new developments within the group. First, we now have a group of six leaders to help plan and organize events. Second, we started holding short talks after the 9:30 a.m. Mass for half an hour. Each month the youth gather to listen to a short talk about an element of our faith, followed by refreshments and socializing. We are encouraging parents to make time to bring their children, grades 4 and up, to the talks as a way of meeting other youth in the parish and to become more involved in the youth group.

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

Contacts: Peter Tobin, John Dorner

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)

The committee continued to work closely with Development and Peace (D&P). Members attended two training workshops held by D&P, the Fall Action workshop on food sovereignty and the Share Lent Campaign workshop. As well, members attended the Archdiocesan AGM of D&P. The committee spoke at weekend Masses about food sovereignty and Share Lent, and informed the parish of D&P activities through bulletin inserts and displays on the bulletin board.

MPD members also collected signatures on Development and Peace postcards urging Parliament to act on the issue of food sovereignty. Almost 120 postcards were signed at Holy Cross.

In addition, MPD members attended the launch of the Share Lent campaign, led the Solidarity Way of the Cross during Lent at our parish, and worked with the parish on the Solidarity Sunday collection.

Committee member Kaitlyn Duthie-Kanikkatt accepted the position of youth representative for the eastern Ontario sector of D&P.

AFRICAN AIDS ANGELS PROJECT

In the past year the African AIDS Angel Project sent \$20,200 to Africa from the sale of African AIDS Angels. The Angels are crafted by a core group of about 20 women who gather at Holy Cross on Friday afternoons throughout the year. The funds help support Children's Homes and other care facilities where members have personal contacts.

The committee became aware that a former parishioner Nina Chung has been helping 14 vulnerable children in Malindi, Kenya. Her home for children is called Nyumbani Kwetu (our Place) and Nina's home has been included in the funding.

One of the Angel Makers who volunteered at Kasisi Children's Home in Zambia two years ago will return there in August of this year. Elizabeth is working to establish a library and learning centre for the children.

FAIR TRADE

During the past year the committee continued to encourage Parishioners to buy and use Fair Trade

products as a way of reducing world poverty and promoting global environmental sustainability. The committee updates the Parish on Fair Trade developments through articles in the Church Bulletin, and annually at Christmas with a sales booth of new Fair Trade products. The Hospitality Committee's commitment to serving Fair Trade beverages is greatly advancing our goal of becoming a Fair Trade Parish.

FOOD DRIVES

Once again the committee organized three major food drives during the year. A total of 450 bags of groceries were donated by Holy Cross parishioners. Committee members delivered the groceries to the food banks at Debra Dynes, Heron Road, Greenboro Pavilion and Banff Community House.

NICARAGUA

Guest speaker Maureen Monette spoke to the committee of her visit to Nicaragua in March. We also watched the video prepared by the group including Justin Clark who visited our sister community in El Recreo at the start of this year. The video is 10 minutes long and details the various programs of the Generating Life Project in the barrio.

RE-USE AND RECYCLING

The committee accepted donations of new and lightly used children's shoes for the Dominican Republic. This year 236 pairs of shoes, cleaned and fitted with new laces if required, were collected. Although the students at St. Mark High School are not able to go to the DR this year, the shoes are in storage for delivery in 2011.

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 stamps for Development and Peace.

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE PARISH

The bulletin board at the back of the church is updated frequently, with a particular emphasis on issues brought forth by Development and Peace. The MPD column in the weekly bulletin provides topical information and comment on social justice issues and alerts the parish to events of interest.

SUPPORTING OTHER GROUPS

MPD assists the women of our parish who are members of the local Riverside Grannies. The Grannies raise money for the Stephen Lewis Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign in support of the grandmothers of Africa.

Environmental Stewardship

Our parish continues to incorporate environmental stewardship as a part of the life of our parish in accordance with Catholic Social Teachings. The parish has a *Green Team* that includes parishioners from diverse parish groups and committees. The Green Team last met on October 01, 2009 and will meet again this spring to review progress and to consider future directions. In his recent Encyclical **Caritas in Veritate**, Pope Benedict XVI writes, "The Church has a responsibility towards creation and she must assert this responsibility in the public sphere. In so doing she must defend not only earth, water, and air as gifts of creation that belong to everyone. She must above all protect mankind from self-destruction." According to Pope Benedict, human ecology and environmental ecology go hand in hand. Our moral calling is to live a culture of life in all its expressions. We take actions as a parish community and as individuals, families, and schools. We work with people of all faiths as participants in the Greening

Sacred Spaces Program of Faith and the Common Good. Examples of parish involvement in environmental stewardship over the past year are as follows:

- Co-sponsorship of an interfaith environmental film and discussion night (*Be the Change!*) held at Temple Israel on June 08. Twenty-five of the 100 participants were from our parish
- Ongoing review of recommendations of Energy Efficiency Audit by the Property and Finance Committees and the inclusion of ecological considerations when purchasing items such as new carpeting for the church
- Inclusion of Environmental Stewardship “*tip of the week*” in the Sunday bulletins
- Provision of an Environmental Stewardship “Suggestion Box” on the MPD table whereby parishioners may offer suggestions to improve ecological practices in our parish
- Ongoing use of reusable cups, glasses and dinnerware and elimination of Styrofoam cups and non-recyclable plastic products by the Hospitality Committee and most other committees
- The use of Fair Trade products by the Hospitality Committee and the sale of such products by MPD at special events
- Two educational sessions open to all parishioners following regular meetings of Knights of Columbus on the topic, “Our Relationship with the Environment – the Need for Conversion.” The first session (November 18) was on the topic of *Environment and Conversion: Scriptures and the Social Teachings of the Church*. The second session (January 20) focused on *Actions that Reflect That Conversion*
- Participation in the Think Recyclable Program organized by the Grannies to Grannies campaign
- Support of this year’s Development and Peace campaign dedicated to sustainable agriculture in the Global South and prevention of the growing problem of climate change
- Review of current light usage during evening Masses and religious services so as to reduce energy usage while contributing to a prayerful atmosphere
- Ongoing participation by John Dorner as Archdiocesan Liaison for Environmental Stewardship and as Ottawa representative of Faith and the Common Good. In these roles he organized several workshops on faith and ecology open to all parishioners