

Holy Cross Parish

2011

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING April 30, 2011

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

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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 Raphel 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 2010-11 were:

- The fall faith formation program: Reflection on Catholic Life in the Modern World
- The parish Lenten mission, preached by Fr Paulson Varkey Veliyannoor CMF
- A fundraising concert by the Ottawa Police Chorus to support youth initiatives
- The acquisition of new Stations of the Cross and the replacement of the carpet in the church
- The 20th anniversary of the founding of Holy Cross Council 10617 of the Knights of Columbus

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LITURGY

Chair: Bob Laird

We would like to thank our Pastors, Father James and Father Lukose for their advice and guidance throughout the year. Together with them, we have worked hard to provide Liturgies that help to inspire parishioners and bring them together as community. We would also like to thank Deacon John for his generous participation in our liturgies.

We are also indebted to our previous chair, Miriam Basten, for leaving us such good records on past practices and Special Liturgies.

We are grateful to Barbara Costanza and Pusparini Randing for all their assistance in helping to bring our liturgical plans into reality.

And last, but certainly not least, we express our appreciation to all Liturgical Ministers and volunteers who make Holy Cross such a spirited and spiritual family.

In 2010-2011 we:

- continued work on remaking music overheads, and getting full copyright compliance
- planned and installed banners, flowers, and decorations for the Church under the guidance of Diane Rogers (and her team, Henriette Martel, Linda Lamb and Marlene Pouliot)

- scheduled readers, musicians, altar servers, mass coordinators, for Christmas and Easter services
- recommended that Cantors move through the Sacristy to approach the Ambo for the Responsorial Psalm
- noted that communion cups should be filled with wine before the Consecration
- provided prayer guides for purchase during Advent and Lenten periods
- purchased new Workbooks for all Lectors, thanks to Maureen Monaghan and the Finance Committee
- supported Father James' plan to purchase new Stations of the Cross
- advised on the requirements for our new sound system
- supported choirs' request for a feedback sound speaker
- combined the various choirs for Advent and Lenten music
- gave a talk on Lectoring to the leaders of the Children's Liturgy of the Word
- held successful Masses in the Parish Hall while the carpet was being replaced
- attended a workshop on Stewardship given by Father Dionne
- worked with the Green Team on environmental concerns--lighting, waste management, energy issues—as they affected our liturgies
- welcomed Debbie and Chris Kuchciak as new schedulers for the Lectors and Mass Coordinators, replacing Maureen and Sarah Proulx
- welcomed and trained several new Lectors and Music Ministers for our Masses
- brought in new members to work on the Sacramental Preparation teams
- continued to recruit and train altar servers, thanks to Xavier Fernandez

In 2011-2012 we hope to:

- develop better communication and collaboration among the various liturgical ministries
- closely study the new Roman Missal and help to prepare the Parish for its introduction at Advent 2011
- prepare a report with recommendations on the role of liturgical music in our liturgies, led by Jackie Baumberg and Liz Esmond
- standardize all overhead transparencies
- welcome more parishioners into our ministries
- continue work on developing an even stronger sense of community at our liturgies
- attend workshops offered on liturgical issues

Altar Server Ministry

Chair: Xavier Fernandez

Approximately seven years ago, the Altar Server Ministry was instituted in our parish. The objective was to provide an opportunity for the younger members to actively participate in the celebration of the mass. Fr. Tim McCauley and Miriam Bastien as Chair of the Liturgy Committee provided much needed direction, encouragement and support in its initiation. Subsequently, Fr. James Raphel, Fr. Lukose and Deacon John have enthusiastically welcomed the young participants and provided for their guidance and spiritual growth as they serve at the altar.

On the practical side, Diane Rogers has provided much needed assistance in having a careful overview of the altar server gowns to ensure that they are periodically laundered and pressed. Thank you, Diane. It would be remiss in this report not to recognize that the Ministry's success is in large part due to the support which the parents provide. Without their involvement, nothing could happen. They often have to transport their children an hour ahead of a particular service for practices and also go over the requirements with their children at home. This enables the children to be comfortable and to be not afraid at the altar. For some, it is a daunting experience.

The underlying requirement is that members of the Ministry be reverent, follow the set rules and discipline their behaviour to ensure that their participation is always meaningful in enhancing the dignity of the mass. This includes actively joining in all the prayers and in the singing to the best of their ability during the celebrations.

Currently, there are about a dozen active members. However, these numbers fluctuate as the children mature and decide to participate in other ministries. At one stage, there were some 20 participants. All the members are invited to attend at every Sunday Mass and sit together as acolytes; they do have a schedule however which designates the members who are to serve as altar servers/cross bearers for any particular Sunday. It is not long after they join that they actively look forward for this opportunity.

To date, this Ministry has been mainly centered on the 9.30 a.m. Sunday Mass primarily because it is a Family Mass with many children present. In addition, all the participants are invited to assist during the Holy Week, Easter and Christmas celebrations when many more families and children attend and the existence of the Ministry is witnessed across the parish.

In conclusion, I am aware that Fr. James would like this Ministry extended to the other masses. It is a worthwhile objective and it can be done, however, the workload is not insignificant. Volunteers would be appreciated for each of the other masses as well as the 9.30 a.m. Mass. Young people are invariably shy and need to be personally invited to join. Then, a follow up training program is required on an ongoing basis to ensure consistency.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Leader: Robin Goski

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 seven volunteer leaders, compared to six from the previous year, and fifteen volunteers, compared to thirteen 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. This year the number of children increased to 35-40 children regularly, compared to 25-35 from last year. 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 Eucharist.

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. During Lent, the children counted down the weeks until Easter by lighting a Lenten wreath. The children also reflected on their sins throughout Lent by writing on a small piece of paper something that they should not have done and placed the paper on a Cross. When Jesus rose from the

dead on Easter, the children found that their sins on the Cross were replaced by love (cut-out flowers). This activity was well-received by the children and their parents. 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. The children continue to be visible at the 9:30 a.m. Mass as all the children participating in the liturgy helped carry the gifts to the altar before returning to their families.

PRAYER GROUP

Holy Cross' Prayer-Group 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 talk on Divine Mercy and his explanation on The Cenacles around Divine Mercy, we decided, with Fr. James' permission, 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.

We meet every Saturday starting at 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in meeting room A and everyone is always welcome.

Christian Education

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION

Chair: Debbie & Chris Kuchciak

The Baptismal preparation team had a successful year with classes scheduled monthly. Parents participated in prayer, listened to the Word, learned about the importance of the Sacrament and reviewed how it is celebrated. To emphasize that Baptism is just the start of the faith journey, classes were changed to Coffee Sundays following the 9:30 am Family Mass, whereupon parents were invited to experience the Mass, community and hospitality of Holy Cross Parish.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Chair: Barb Goski

There were 41 children enrolled for the Sacrament of First Communion this year. We started in October with a parent's information night. Father James made the parish program Come Join Us at the Table mandatory for all parents and children this year. Enrolment for the children was held on the weekend of February 13 and 20. The parish gave each of the candidates a wooden cross to wear.

The Come Join Us at The Table program started on January 27 and was very busy with almost all the parents and the children attending. The course took place every second Thursday for six sessions. We expanded our number of volunteers helping us with the increased number of people taking the course. Our added help came from Joe and Robin Goski, Chris Kuchciak and Pat Jackson whom we would like to thank. Thank you to our regular teachers Lee Whelley and Debbie Kuchciak for their new ideas and hard work. We will be losing three or four of our volunteers next year and will be looking for new ones.

We tried something new this year, a 'Tour of the Church'. The parents and children who came found it very informative and were eager to learn more about their worship space. It was a great success with many asking question and eager to see and learn more.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was given to the children on the weekend of May 1 and May 8 at the 9:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. Mass. The parish gave the children First Communion certificates.

More volunteers are needed and would be warmly welcomed to assist with the program Come Join Us at The Table. With having more volunteers we would be able to assist our large groups while still running the activities at the same time.

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: June Kelly

The Bereavement Committee is an Ad Hoc Committee under the Pastoral Care Group. Its members are primarily called upon to assist the family whose loved one has died 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 also available to update their skills on an ongoing basis.

Our last Memorial Service was held on Sunday, November 7, 2010 at which 69 deceased parishioners and/or their relatives were honoured. Special invitations were sent out to parishioners. Each attendee received a red rose in memory of their loved one. Our Memorial Service was very well attended.

During the years 2010-2011 there have been a total of 28 deaths in Holy Cross Parish, with 7 funerals held at the Church in the year 2010 and 11 funerals held at the Church in the year 2011.

In 2010-2011 condolence cards were sent out to 28 family members on behalf of Holy Cross, including 26 first anniversary cards. This expression of sympathy is very well received by parishioners.

The Bereavement Committee will again be planning a Memorial Service for deceased parishioners in November 2012.

Anyone wishing to join the Bereavement team should contact either Harry Goldsmith or June M. Kelly.

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 meetings were held--- one every 3 months (Sept., Dec., March and June)

MEMBERS: There are 15 active members (four members also work with the Bereavement Committee). Two are involved when we have special events; One sends bulletins to house-bound parishioners; Two make telephone calls; Two visit the Civic and General hospitals; One sends Get Well and Sympathy cards (approx. 30 cards were sent out this past year); One handwrites Valentine envelopes (approx. 102 valentines were sent out this year); One sends invitations to our healing and/or our memorial services; and Three assist at 4 retirement homes in our area for weekly mass.

PARISHIONERS VISITED: Parishioners were visited at home; church, hospital (not including the ones visited by the two who are part of the hospital team) and some were "visited" by telephone.

TRAINING: Some 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. One parishioner took the training this year and joined our team.

SICK LIST: These parishioners are contacted to see if we can be of service. The list is reviewed regularly and names taken off with the agreement of the parishioner.

SENIORS' HOMES:

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

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

BILLINGS LODGE: Mass is offered at 9 a.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month with the choir member leading the singing.

WINDSOR PARK MANOR: Mass is offered at 10 a.m. on the 4th Thursday of each month.

HUNT CLUB MANOR: Mass is offered on the 1st Tuesday of every month

SPECIAL EVENTS:

PASTORAL CARE SUNDAY: This year Pastoral Care Sunday was celebrated on our Parish feast day "The Triumph of the Cross." 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 on first Fridays and bring Holy Communion to housebound when possible.

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 (approx. 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 in November 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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Members of the team participated in the service which was held at Riverside United on Friday, March 04. This is an ecumenical service and the theme this year was "*How many Loaves Have You?*" and recognizing the people of Chile.

HOSPITALITY

Chair: Karen Flynn

The Hospitality Committee provides occasions for parishioners to gather as community during events outside of Mass, and invites participation from church members through other activities. Events such as the “Old-Fashioned Supper” and the “Christmas Craft and Bake Sale” take place annually and have long been a part of the parish activity calendar.

“Coffee Sundays” are generally held once a month from September to June. Committee members prepare homemade baked goods that are served along with hot & cold refreshments. “Strawberry Sunday” is the last event of the season using local, fresh strawberries to serve with shortcake or ice cream.

The “Old-Fashioned Parish Supper” in November is our biggest event of the year and has become a real “tradition” in the parish. Most years, the committee prepares approximately 160 pounds of turkey and 90 pounds of potatoes to serve along with the ham, other veggies and dessert that make up the meal. We have been most appreciative in recent years of the help given from members of the Youth Group, who ably assist with serving and cleanup.

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. Homemade jams and jellies are also sold.

For the third year in a row, a Women’s Breakfast was held last November, with Valerie Kines as the guest speaker. Ms. Kines shared her experiences as an active member, for many years, with Habitat for Humanity in the Brockville area. Participants enjoyed a nice meal, catered by members of the kitchen team from The Mission here in Ottawa.

Hospitality frequently works alongside other groups to assist with their parish events. 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 very active 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 and preparing the light lunch for today’s Annual General meeting.

New members are always welcome.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Leader: Robin Goski

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. This year we also started holding movie nights in the Parish hall. We advertised at Holy Cross and Holy Family schools as a way of welcoming more young people to the Church. We held four movie nights from November to June and consistently had around 20 youth and their families join us.

The Youth Group held a retreat for spiritual enrichment. In September, speaker Steven Boucher, o.p., taught the youth about "Living like Christ". In October, we visited the Marian Grotto off of Montreal Road in Ottawa. We prayed the Stations of the Cross at the Grotto then moved on to see a piece of Catholic history in Ottawa by walking through Notre-Dame cemetery. Throughout the year, we continued to have a small talk each month on a different topic on the Catholic faith. This provides an opportunity for the young people of our parish to continue to learn about their faith as well as to socialize with each other. This year we have learned about Mary and her role in the Church, the Bible, Kaitlyn's mission trip to the Philippines, Pride, the Pope, the Holy Orders, and the Sacraments. 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 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 helped sell tickets for the Police Choir concert. During 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 for a family in need. 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.

The Youth Group hosted its Fourth 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. Proceeds from the Police Choir concert and the Plant Sale in May also helped support the youth group. We greatly appreciate our parishioners' generosity in both time and financial support in helping the youth group.

This year the Pope will join one million Catholic youth from around the world in Madrid, Spain from August 10th to 22nd. Sarah and Emily Proulx and Robin and Tavis Goski will be representing Holy Cross Parish as they travel with the Archdiocese of Ottawa to Spain. We will be thinking of Holy Cross while we are there and we will be making a short presentation on our experience when we return.

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight: Harvey Rule

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

- 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 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 information on our activities, consult the K of C 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

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)

Several members of MPD attended the Fall Action workshop to prepare for the Fall Action Campaign. The theme was: *Water for All – Let Justice Flow!* The focus was to create awareness of the social, health, economic and environmental impact of bottled water on the world, especially the poor. We communicated this to the parishioners through a bulletin insert, regular bulletin entries, a display at the parish fair that included a video, print materials, and discussion. This resulted in a bulletin board photo display of over fifty parishioners holding a bottled water free zone pledge card.

This spring, members of MPD attended the Share Lent Campaign workshop. The theme was: *Building a World of Justice*. The focus was to inform our parishioners about our global south partners and the work they do in their communities. We communicated this information through handouts, bulletin inserts and

entries, a video and an oral presentation at each Mass on Solidarity Sunday. There was a Share Lent Launch on March 16, and we led the Stations of the Cross using Development and Peace materials.

Our hope for next year is to be given the chance to make a five minute presentation to Parish Council preceding the fall and spring campaigns in order to inform Council members of the upcoming themes and materials available and make this a truly enriching experience for Holy Cross Parish.

Our MPD committee thanks our parishioners for the wonderful support and generosity they have expressed to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace.

AFRICAN AIDS ANGELS PROJECT

Our African AIDS Angels Project marked its tenth anniversary with a celebration breakfast in January. The theme was "Ten Years of Giving". To date the project has contributed just over \$200, 000 to our colleagues in Africa. Our contribution this year was almost \$20,000. Most of the Angel Makers are parishioners but a number come from outside the parish.

We spoke about the Angel project at a number of churches including Rideau Park United and St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Church. In addition we gave lunch- time presentations to seniors groups at Bethany Baptist and a Salvation Army community.

One of our Angel team, Elizabeth Lamarche, returned to Kasisi Children's Home in Zambia to set up a library for the children.

SPEAKERS

In the fall, Nina Chung gave a presentation to MPD about her Children's Home in Kenya, Nyumbani Kwetu, which is supported by the Angels project. In December Kaitlyn Duthie-Kanikkatt spoke to the committee about her exposure trip to the Philippines with Development and Peace.

FAIR TRADE

For the sixth consecutive year, Fair Trade products were displayed and sold at the December Parish Craft and Bake Sale to highlight social justice issues. There was a greater variety of goods available and the sale was the most successful ever, thanks to the commitment of parishioners.

FOOD DRIVES

Once again the committee organized three food drives during the year. A total of 425 bags of groceries were donated by our parishioners. With help from the Knights, we delivered the groceries to the four local food banks in our area.

REUSE AND RECYCLING

MPD collected, cleaned and sent 309 pairs of children's shoes to the Dominican Republic. The shoes were donated by our parishioners and delivered to the DR by students from St. Mark High School. 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 and the efforts of the Angel Project. The MPD column in the weekly bulletin provides topical information and opinion on social justice issues.

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.

Environmental Stewardship

Our parish continues to incorporate environmental stewardship as a part of the life of our parish. The parish *Green Team* is a group of parishioners representing diverse parish groups and committees who have met twice since the last AGM: June 17, 2010 and March 1, 2011. The Green Team reviews progress in environmental stewardship and makes recommendations for further consideration by each parish ministry. Full summaries of meetings are available from John Dorner (jdorner@archottawa.ca).

In October 2012 bishops from all parts of the world will gather for a Synod on the theme of *The New Evangelization and the Transmission of the Christian Faith*. Civic life (including the stewardship of creation and the commitment to the future of the planet) is identified in the Synod planning guide (the *Lineamenta*) as one of the paths in the call to evangelization-proclaiming and living the Gospel in an age of changing circumstances and conditions.

Three areas for priority action were identified at the March 1, 2011 meeting:

- (1) **Solar Panels:** SolPowered Energy Corporation carried out an assessment and determined that there would be significant financial benefit to our parish if the government sponsored microFIT program was undertaken. An application has submitted to the Ontario Power Authority allowing for this possibility to take place. A final decision by the Finance Council / Building Committee and pastor will be made upon review of all information.
- (2) **Waste Management:** At this time our parish does not engage in recycling. Alternatives to current practices are under consideration and will be brought before the Finance Council/Building Committee. Full participation in the City of Ottawa's Yellow Bag Program which includes green bin, blue box and black box access is a possibility with the potential of considerable cost savings to our parish. Another possibility is to include recycling as part of the arrangement with BFI, the company now involved in waste pickup that would increase marginally the amount now paid. The feasibility of each of the above alternatives is under consideration and the results of this study will be presented to the Finance Council/Building Committee.
- (3) **Energy Efficiency Retrofits:** An energy efficiency audit funded by *Faith and the Common Good* was completed in 2006 and resulted in the undertaking of initial energy-saving measures. Recommendations for further actions will be presented to Finance Council / Building Committee following a review of priorities for action and grants available through the Ontario Power Authority. Ottawa Hydro has been contacted to assist in identifying measures that will be subsidized by grants.

The meeting of March 1, 2011 also included the following information/suggestions: John Dorner continues to serve as Liaison for Environmental Stewardship with the Archdiocese of Ottawa and the interfaith network of Faith and the Common Good. A student from St. Patrick HS attended the meeting and indicated he was willing to help with the parish garden and other environmentally-related tasks. The Fall/Winter edition of *Catholic Ottawa* included an article about Holy Cross involvement in the Greening Sacred Spaces Program of Faith and the Common Good. The Catholic School board has provided our liturgy committee with the musical scores of the board's spiritual themes, including, "We Care for God's Creation." There was agreement that all purchases by the parish should be environmentally friendly where possible. Parishioners should be invited to ask questions about environmental stewardship through the suggestion box with answers provided in the parish bulletin.