

## **Reports on Ministries 2017**

### REPORT ON CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD Dorothy Wood

Ministers: McEvoy Galbreath, Clara Hamory, Christine Andress, Martha Varny, Nada Varny

Each Sunday, with the exception of community Sundays when the children remain with the community in the church, the children participate in their own liturgy of the Word. There are two groups depending on the age of the children, one group for younger and another group for older children. The children determine when to move up from the younger to the older age group, and when to remain with the community following confirmation.

Following an opening prayer, one of the children reads the first reading and another reads the gospel, and then there is a discussion led by the group facilitator. The principal facilitator or minister for the younger children is McE and Clara for the older children.

Following a visit with both groups and a chat with McE, Clara and Christine, I can report that things are going well. I was told that there are excellent resource materials. The children enjoy participating as they have had continuity and are integrating the concept of what faith is about. They are comfortable with the environment.

Needs: - Formation for the leaders of this ministry.  
- New books as the old ones are very used.  
- A half-day retreat at the beginning of the school year, either with the pastor or another Oblate.

### Report on Music Ministry Sheila Foy Connolly

Saturdays, 5 pm  
Sundays, 10 am

The Saturday evening choir interview was done with Mackie Galbraith who coordinates music at the Saturday evening Mass. I was told that the choir has gelled really well as a group of friends, as well as a ministry. The pianist at present is James Culkin, and the choir includes Richard Wink on guitar, Jocelyn Caloz, Mackie and Bobby Galbraith (who usually sings the Psalm), with occasional additions to supplement the group.

Mackie would like to see more opportunities for music workshops through the diocese. She also suggested being able to receive the liturgy committee meeting

minutes to help her with coordination of music on Saturday evenings. More choir members are always welcome.

Sunday choir interview was done with Theresa Gariepy who is the overall coordinator of the Music Ministry at Canadian Martyrs.

Theresa says things are going pretty well with the Sunday choir, and she really appreciates the reliability of the choir group. This group also works well together, though Theresa would welcome more female voices to the group.

It was suggested that a notice in the parish bulletin requesting more members would be much appreciated.

### Report on Liturgical Environment Committee – Bob Gorman

Janice Cameron-Caluori and Heather Duggan

1. In general terms, how is the work of your ministry going? *Things are going well. We would like to have some more members.*

2. More specifically, what is going especially well and what do you think requires improvement or change? *We need more members and would appreciate donations of flowers (e.g. from people's gardens). We enjoy hearing feedback directly from parishioners and through the Pastoral Team. We would appreciate being referred to as the Liturgical Environment Committee and not Decor.*

3. What could the Parish Council and pastoral team do to better support you and bring about any improvements or changes cited above? *We would like parishioners to be aware that we decorate the church to reflect the seasons of the liturgical year and specific feast days. This could be explained in the bulletin, announcements and perhaps in homilies.*

4. As you see it, what are the key objectives and activities of your ministry and how do they tie in to the pastoral plan? How familiar are you with the parish's pastoral plan? *We are somewhat familiar with the Pastoral Plan.*

5. Following up on the question above regarding required improvements and change, what else should the Parish Council be aware of and consider? *We would like someone to create a small stable for our nativity set using the wood from our current stable. We are also looking for a First Nations nativity set (we will email Kateri concerning this).*

## **Ministry Report for Pastoral Council**

Canadian Martyrs Parish

*June 1, 2017*

*Prepared by Scott Rufolo*

**Ministry:** Scripture Study

**Ministry Coordinators:** Pamela Dixon and Ken Hart

**Ministry Description:** Ministry is intended to encourage and facilitate greater personal encounters with God's Word through reading sacred scripture and to increase parishioners' knowledge of the Bible. To date, the ministry has operated through offering organized group study sessions twice a year, each usually running for 8-10 weeks. Each session has focused on a different book of the Bible, with group discussion and study topics following the materials published in the Little Rock Scripture Study Series produced by the Diocese of Little Rock in Arkansas, USA. Participants in the group study sessions generally number 8-15, and include parishioners from Canadian Martyrs, Saint Joseph's, and others as the sessions are advertised in the Friday Fax (a diocesan resource).

### **Concerns and Comments**

Pamela Dixon expressed the following points that she would like the Parish Council to consider with regard to the Scripture Study Ministry in the future:

- Due to health issues, Ken Hart has not been able to assist Pam in recent years with the organization and leading of the study sessions. She would like to have an additional coordinator for the ministry, or at the very least, a back-up person who could step in to help when she is unavailable to lead a session due to illness, family or work responsibilities, etc.
- Pam feels that the ministry has plateaued in terms of participation – it is the same group of people year after year. She would like to find ways to bring in new participants and perhaps also explore other formats for the ministry in addition to group study sessions
- Hosting of the sessions used to alternate between Canadian Martyrs and Saint Joseph's, but the coordinator at Saint Joseph's has stepped down and no replacement has yet been found, so now all the work throughout the year falls on Pam. She would like to inquire with Saint Joseph's council as to whether or not they will continue to participate in this ministry.
- Pam would like to develop better communication and coordination with the Faith Formation Subcommittee, as she feels that her ministry falls under their umbrella. She has not been directly approached by a member of the subcommittee about how they can develop a complementary strategy regarding promoting the study of scripture.
- Pam is somewhat familiar with the Pastoral Plan but is not certain where her ministry fits into the goals of the plan. She feels that her ministry

- encompasses both faith formation and faith sharing, and as such doesn't know exactly how it articulates with the directions of the parish.
- Planning for group study sessions is sometimes difficult as there have been no clear statements to Pam concerning how much is available to her in terms of fundraising and financial resources. She often has to personally absorb the excess costs of materials for group study sessions, but is not certain if she should record the expense as a donation to the parish.

Hospitality: Rob Criger

Pizza Night and Parish Luncheons: From what I have seen both events are well attended and just require monitoring, rather than an effort to grow them or change them. With the lunch, we seem to attract new participants at the same rate as they drop off. I suppose it wouldn't hurt to have a small feedback handout at the May lunch and pizza night to see if the attendees have any recommendations. I wish more people would come out for pizza night but that is what it is and certainly probably had its ups and downs before. The teams that work these events are much appreciated.

Pizza nights are successful in many ways: socially, economically (breaks even or makes a little) and as a community of like-minded individuals).