

**PARISH ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2022**

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## Contents

<b>PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL</b> .....	2
<b>FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> .....	3
<b>COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE</b> .....	8
<b>DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE – CARITAS CANADA</b> .....	9
<b>507 SANDWICH CLUB</b> .....	10
<b>LAUDATO SI' 7-YEAR PLAN</b> .....	11
<b>LITURGY COMMITTEE</b> .....	12
<b>MINISTRY OF MASS COORDINATOR</b> .....	13
<b>PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY</b> .....	14
<b>SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION</b> .....	15
<b>SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE</b> .....	16
<b>SYNOD COMMITTEE</b> .....	17
<b>TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE</b> .....	20
<b>YOUTH GROUP</b> .....	22

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is pleased to provide an update on activities from 2022. The Spirit continued to work through the actions and initiatives of parishioners as we continued to adapt to COVID-19 being a part of our lives.

This year brought changes to the Pastoral Team, and we would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Maureen Cerroni throughout her time as Parish Life Coordinator. While Maureen led many activities, we are especially grateful to her for leading the Sacramental Preparation programs that brought more young people to the church. From everything comes new beginnings, and we welcomed Sr. Matilda Owolagba and Adele Casuga Lalonde to their roles as Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Education, respectively.

From the Pastoral Plan, the two areas of focus chosen for 2022 were the Synod on Synodality and Truth and Reconciliation. PPC is grateful to the many members of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee who came forward with concrete actions, including signage, a special flag, a speakers' series in September, and a learning group. The PPC was also encouraged by the involvement of so many parishioners in the Synod activities. Our thanks to Dorothy Wood, Fr. John Renken, Fr. Tim Coonen, Maureen Cerroni, Pamela Dixon and Sue-Anne Hess for their leadership. With the release of the Parish Synod report to our community in the spring, PPC took time to reflect on what was said and how to move forward in synodal way. With a one-day retreat in December, we joined with members of the Synod Committee to put into practice a synodal way of being: being present and listening. It is our hope that we work towards Synodality becoming a way of being and an approach to everything we do. We will continue to look for opportunities to practise and share within the parish.

Other initiatives led by members of the parish and supported by Council included *Laudato Si'* Care for Creation, cookbook sales and the work of the Centre 507 Sandwich Club, which grew and flourished this year, securing grant funding to support their work and growing community within the network of parish volunteers.

In June, we were able to show our appreciation to volunteers at the monthly pizza and ice cream night. Many thanks to those who have revitalized a social event that had gone dormant throughout the pandemic. It was also nice to be able to return to Mass on the Grass in June.

At the end of the year, we said goodbye to two members, Angela Davis and Nicola Whitehouse, who completed their terms on Council. Our heartfelt thanks to them for their contributions and willingness to share and challenge us all.

As we continue to reopen, renew and recharge activities that we would have taken for granted four years ago, we are blessed to have a parish community eager to support each other in a variety of ways.

With a heart of joy and gladness for our parish community,

Cheryl Khoury, Parish Pastoral Council chair, 2022

Parish Pastoral Council members 2022: Cheryl Khoury (chair), Anne Marie Bazinet-Miller, Mary Dalipaj, Angela Davis, Chad Glendinning, Sue-Anne Hess and Nicola Whitehouse

Our community respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the unceded, ancestral lands and waters of the Algonquin people, on whose territory we live, pray, work, and grow in faith and understanding.

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

This report for 2022 contains a summary of the financial operations of the parish as well as a listing of major projects undertaken on behalf of the parish.

The financial report shows the final reviewed figures for 2022 compared to the reviewed amounts from 2021 as well as to the amounts that were budgeted by the committee for 2022 and then for 2023. The 2023 budget represents a cautiously optimistic projection that we are making progress in returning to our pre-pandemic state. As always, this recovery and our continuing operation are the direct results of our parishioners' generous and appreciated support. Pie charts for the receipts and disbursements are included at the end of this report.

<b>SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR CHURCH OPERATIONS</b>				
	2023	2022	2022	2021
	Budget	Budget	Actual	Actual
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Collections	\$230,000	\$224,700	230,223	\$234,308
Marriages, funerals and Masses	3,000	3,000	2,965	2,494
One-time donations and bequests	20,000	20,000	24,461	15,872
Interest	22,600	22,130	21,910	21,208
Other revenue	13,000	13,200	13,930	14,218
	288,600	283,030	293,489	288,100
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>				
Salaries	145,000	145,000	135,419	131,315
Parish Centre and church	85,200	84,550	81,153	59,337
Liturgical	14,500	14,800	8,969	7,334
Communal	3,500	2,000	1,696	1,363
Council outreach	6,000	6,150	6,150	5,700
Oblate administration tax	31,915	31,267	32,337	32,269
	286,115	283,767	265,725	237,318
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$2,485</b>	<b>\$(737)</b>	<b>\$ 27,764</b>	<b>\$50,782</b>

Our total outreach includes the amount in the summary above as Council outreach, but most is funded directly by parishioners through their giving to special ordered collections, including the Poor and Needy envelopes and donations to the Poor Box. The only portion that shows under the financial statements is the part that is funded by interest received from our investment funds and distributed to causes selected by the Parish Pastoral Council. The rest is not included as revenue or as disbursements for the Canadian Martyrs Parish financial operations.

## Parish Annual Report 2022

### OUTREACH

<b>(Poor &amp; Needy Envelopes, Poor Box and Reserve Funds)</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Parishioners outreach	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200
Poor at the door	2,761	1,743
St. Brigid's Camp	500	500
Shepherds of Good Hope		500
Miriam Centre		500
Youville Centre	500	500
Multifaith Housing Initiative	600	800
Centretown Churches Social Action Committee		500
Immaculata High School – Chaplain's Fund		1,000
Immaculata Dream Team	500	
Ottawa Mission	500	500
Centretown Community Food Centre	500	710
Development & Peace (Membership fee)		10
Minwaashin Lodge – Indigenous Women's Support	500	500
	\$ 7,561	\$ 8,963

### ORDERED COLLECTIONS

<b>(Envelopes and Special Collections)</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Holy Land	\$ 564	\$ 479
Development and Peace	2,267	4,814
Indigenous Relations Fund	14,708	
Diocesan and Missionary Works	619	499
Campaign Life (Christmas cakes)	324	500
Oblate Vocations	604	559
Pastoral Works	539	503
Oblate Missions	2,810	1,849
Needs of Canadian Church	529	1,003
Evangelization of Nations	850	874
CCSAC Walk for the Centre	295	300
YAK Services (Land Acknowledgment)	195	
ShareLife	300	
	\$ 24,603	\$ 11,380

## Parish Annual Report 2022

<b>OUTREACH – From Investment Interest</b>		
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
FN Child & Family Caring Society	\$ 700	\$ 700
Jericho Road Ministries	500	500
Shepherds of Good Hope	500	500
Hospice Care Ottawa	500	500
Carty House	500	500
The Waupoos Foundation	500	500
Centretown Churches Social Action Committee	500	500
L'Arche Ottawa	500	500
Birthright of Ottawa	500	500
Miriam Centre for Mothers in Need	500	500
Multifaith Housing Initiative	500	500
Immaculata Chaplain's Fund	450	
	\$ 6,150	\$ 5,700

<b>TOTAL OUTREACH</b>	\$ 38,314	\$ 26,043
-----------------------	-----------	-----------

In addition to overseeing our finances, the committee is also responsible for the maintenance and general upkeep of the church and Parish Centre building and grounds. As with any home, significant repairs and improvements need to be done through the course of the year.

Similar to the previous year, 2022 proved to be another year in which there were fewer notable projects undertaken and completed. However, the earlier difficulties in sourcing materials and labour appear to be clearing up. As summarized below, just two of the completed projects from 2022 were in response to unforeseen events; another two were for projects that had been under consideration for some time beforehand. It is a promising sign that there has been opportunity and means to undertake projects of this latter type, and like the observation made earlier in this report concerning our finances, this development is also seen as a positive sign for our parish.

A description of notable projects completed in 2022 and a brief look at expected projects for 2023 and beyond round out the material included in this report.

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## **Notable Projects Completed in 2022**

New connection to Hydro service: Following the December disruption to electrical service through the buried lines that supplied power to the Parish Centre, a new external box was obtained, and overhead wires were installed to restore service.

Repairs to back deck off the breezeway: An extensive ice fall from the breezeway roof in the spring of 2022 damaged the decking and supporting beams underneath. These were replaced, and the attachments to the breezeway wall foundation were strengthened. Metal snow guardrails were installed on either side of the breezeway entrance from the deck as a preventative measure. Additionally, the ice-damaged window that protected the nearest stained-glass window on the church building was removed and replaced with clear plexiglass.

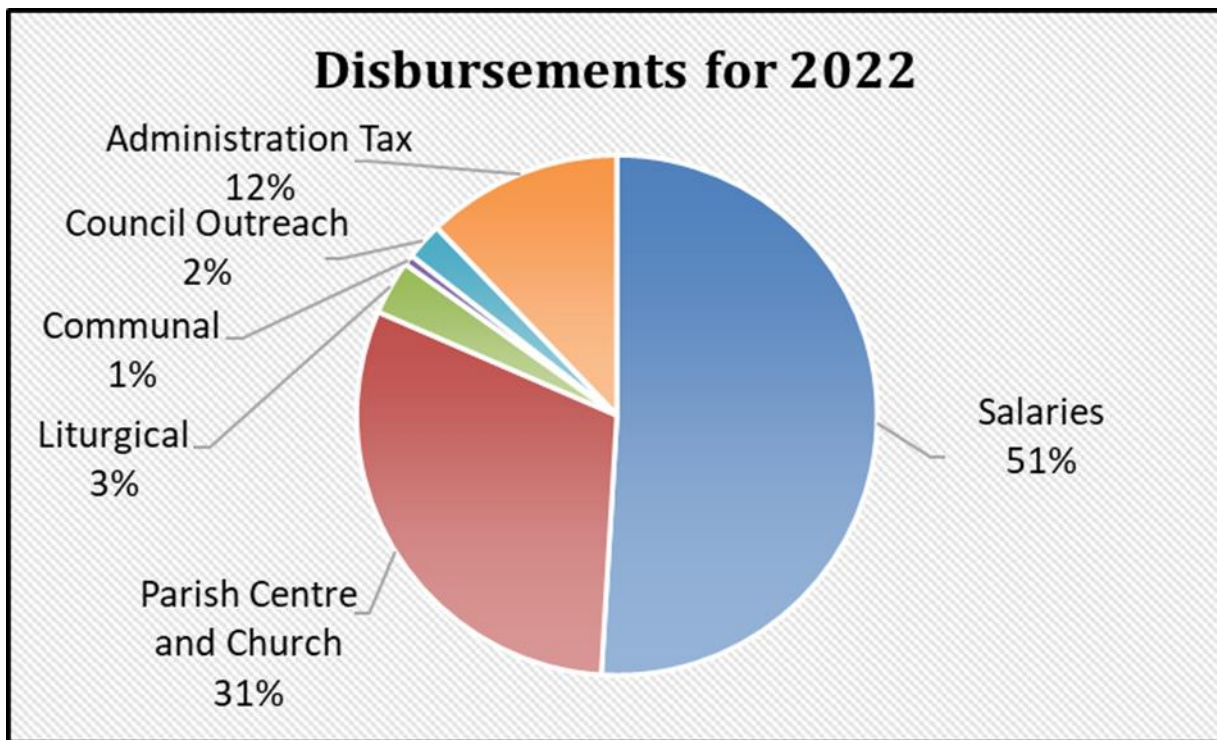
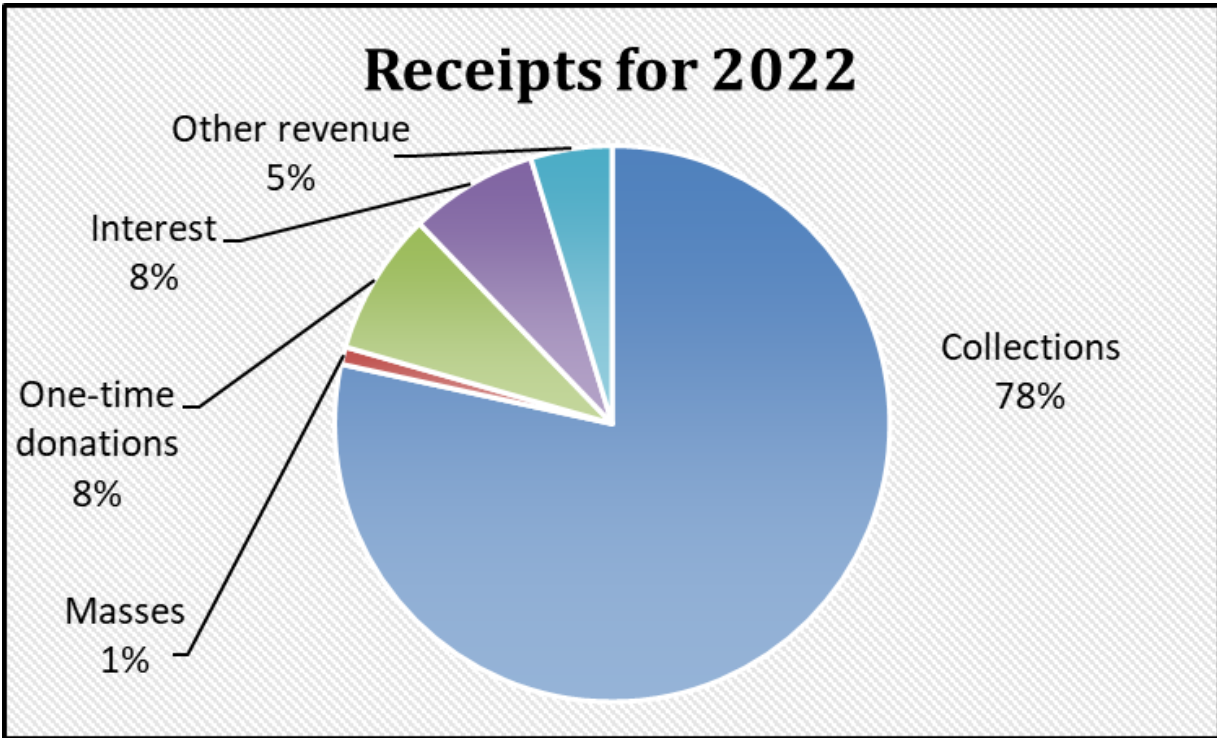
Replacement of exterior door and window to Parish Centre offices: The sliding patio door from the copy room on the northwest corner of the Parish Centre was removed with the rotting wood from the threshold and replaced with a new exterior door and window.

Refurbishing of kneelers on the pews: All the kneelers were removed from the pews, taken off-site and reupholstered, repaired and then reinstalled after a couple of weeks of this “spa treatment and pampering” outside of Ottawa.

## **Notable Projects Considered for 2023 and beyond**

- Improve or add illumination for the signs at the front of the church and over the front doors.
- Install new lighting and fan in the church.
- Repair windows in the stairwells in the church.
- Replace flooring in the upstairs meeting rooms and office of the Parish Centre.

# Parish Annual Report 2022



Submitted by Joseph Duggan, chair, and Christina Ullett, accountant

Committee members, 2022: Joseph Duggan (chair), Pierre Beemans, John Bouchard, John McCauley, Chidinma Njoku, Anthony Polci and Christina Ullett



# Parish Annual Report 2022

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee's aim is to help the various ministries spread the word to parishioners and the broader community about what is happening in the parish. Connections to the pastoral plan include these:

- **Bringing our Faith into the World:** to share the good news of our faith in God's love with our neighbours.
- **Stewardship and Leadership:** fostering communication – weekly bulletin, articles in *The Epistle*, parish website.

In 2022, due to the COVID-19 context, the committee was less active than usual. Here is a summary of what was done:

### 1. *The Epistle*

We published four issues in 2022, featuring an interesting range of articles by members of the parish and other contributors. A link to each issue was sent by email to parishioners, and a few printed copies were available at the church. A small number of copies were printed for the Pastoral Care ministry to give to parishioners living in retirement homes and long-term care, which they greatly appreciated.

### 2. Parish website

Heather Duggan updated the content on the website periodically. The committee and Heather will continue to review the website and revise it as needed.

### 3. *The Mainstreeter* newspaper

The parish advertised in *The Mainstreeter* to let our neighbours know we are here and to invite them to join us. Several parishioners had articles published in *The Mainstreeter* as well.

The committee would like to thank Heather Duggan once again for her support and creative help in the area of communications.

Submitted by Anne Louise Mahoney, co-chair

Committee members, 2022: Sheila Foy Connolly and Anne Louise Mahoney (co-chairs), Greg Gertz, Karen Webber

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE – CARITAS CANADA

On a Saturday morning in October 2022, some 30 people gathered in person and via Zoom at St. Basil's parish to plan the annual Development and Peace (D&P) Fall campaign and to reflect on the current state and outlook of our Catholic movement for global justice – Caritas Canada. The most significant moment occurred when, in a listening circle that included Archbishop Dampousse, each of us responded to the question "Do you feel responsible for your neighbour? If so, when did that begin?" The genuine outpouring of our deepest emotions and concern for others surprised us all. We discovered that we were passionate about the work of D&P because through this organization founded in 1967 by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), we can live out our faith and respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. It is this passion that our committee hopes to instill in each member of our faith community at Canadian Martyrs Parish. Realizing that you cannot love what you do not know, we inform and invite parishioners to participate in events throughout the year. For this we rely heavily on the excellent communication by Heather Duggan, who often takes the initiative to include current news from D&P in the bulletin. These are some of the highlights of 2022:

In February, the Share Lent Workshop "Let's Put People and Planet First" was led by our new animator, Kiegan Irish. Throughout Lent, Heather posted video links about our partners in Madagascar, Honduras and Cambodia. We continued collecting signatures for the fall petition. This action supported two private member's bills that were tabled in the House of Commons. Bill C-262 requires companies to perform due diligence in carrying out their development activities. Bill-263 asks that an ombudsperson has authority to request documents in carrying out investigations of abuses by Canadian companies working abroad.

Preceding Solidarity Sunday on April 3, Fr. Tim Coonen and Angela Davis spoke at the weekend Masses about the work of Development and Peace. On Solidarity Sunday, symbols of solidarity and their significance were presented, and a collection took place. On April 30, a National Assembly online meeting introduced Carl Héту as the new executive director of D&P. From Bishop Raymond Poisson, President of the CCCB, who also served on the D&P National Council, we heard that there is a great deal of enthusiasm from the bishops for D&P. It was also reported that financially, we have turned the corner and are on solid footing.

In May, we met virtually with Yasir Naqvi, the MP for Ottawa Centre, asking him to table our petition with 89 signatures in support of Bill C-262. He did so on November 30. Also in May, members of our committee "attended" the Ontario Regional Assembly.

On June 16, our committee hosted the AGM with guest speaker Carl Héту. The hospitality, food and presentations were excellent. We were very pleased that Fr. Tim and Fr. John Renken were there as well.

In December, our committee met with Sr. Matilda and McE Galbreath to discuss the *Laudato Si'* 7-Year Action Plan. At that time, Susana Sandoz wrote a letter of solidarity from our parish to Sonia Perez, a Honduran journalist persecuted because of her work in support of human rights defenders. There is more to report, especially about what was shared at various assemblies over the year. Suffice it to say, these meetings are always informative, formative and mostly transformative. For the next five years, our focus will be to Create Hope. The new theme for 2023 is "Stand for the Land."

Thank you to all who take the time to read what is presented in our bulletin. It is our hope that you will go to [devp.org](http://devp.org) and become an active member of D&P Caritas Canada. We need you! But even more, the people in the global South and the Middle East need you to know their stories. "If one member suffers, all suffer together. If one member is honoured, all rejoice together" (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Submitted by Anna Dorner and team members: Angela Davis, John Dorner, Susana Sandoz, Peter Tobin

## Parish Annual Report 2022

### **507 SANDWICH CLUB**

The 507 Sandwich Club continues to operate on an at-home/delivery basis, making about 200 sandwiches per week. Our enthusiastic members sign up weekly to do grocery shopping, distribute the grocery kits, make the sandwiches, and pick them up to deliver them to Centre 507 at 507 Bank St. The sandwiches are served on Sundays at lunchtime.

The club continues to grow, welcoming six new members this year. In September 2022, Centre 507 asked us to cease providing a vegetarian option, so we now send four batches of cold cut sandwiches per week. This has increased our expenses by roughly \$120 per month. Grocery prices also continue to rise due to inflation. We were fortunate to earn a Community Grant from the Retired Teachers of Ontario, in the amount of \$4,000, as well as a monthly support commitment from Centre 507 of \$500. We are also grateful for the ongoing financial support of our parishioners.

Submitted by Adele Casuga Lalonde, coordinator

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## LAUDATO SI' 7-YEAR PLAN

As many are aware, the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall has continued their work on the mission put forward by Pope Francis a few years ago in *Laudato Si'*. It is their request that each parish within the Archdiocese work on a Care for Creation Seven-Year Plan as a concrete response to *Laudato Si'*.

As stewards of creation, the Pope asks us each to respond concretely to the challenges of our earth and our humanity. There are eight objectives for the *Laudato Si'* mission that the Pope has set out for us, personally and for our parish.

Canadian Martyrs Parish is a relatively small parish, with energetic and multi-talented volunteers. Like many smaller churches, it is built on the backs of the volunteers. For this reason and at this time, we wish to incorporate our existing parish ministries and committees and their work in the *Laudato Si'* plan moving forward. In fact, our concept is one where the *Laudato Si'* 7-year plan becomes an umbrella, reaching over and contributed to by our parish ministries and committees, both in the present and in the future, through the activities/initiatives that they are presently undertaking.

The following identifies the eight aspects of the *Laudato Si'* mission and suggests which of the current Canadian Martyrs ministries/committees we feel could be instrumental in moving us forward:

1. Response to the Cry of the Earth: Development & Peace
2. Response to the Cry of the Poor: Pastoral Care (seniors) and the Settlement Committee (refugee settlement)
3. Simple Lifestyles: Development & Peace
4. Ecological Education: Youth Group
5. Ecological Economics: Faith Formation (to generate a speaker to help us understand a way forward)
6. Ecological Spirituality: Liturgy Committee and Faith Formation (to generate a speaker to help us understand a way forward)
7. Reconciliation: Truth and Reconciliation Committee and related resources (e.g., *Listening to Indigenous Voices*)
8. Community Engagement and Participatory Action: Synod Committee and Community Outreach Committee

In the past year, the Parish Pastoral Associate and I have studied the details of *Laudato Si'*, discussed approaches with several resources in the parish and within the Archdiocese, and, finally, we have come up with the plan described above as a way for Canadian Martyrs to be present to this worldwide mission. This first year of the 7-year plan has been the development of an approach. We have six years ahead of us to make a difference in our lives and our parish. We have work to do in each of these areas: to determine our objectives, our activities/study/research to achieve our objectives, how best to communicate this activity to keep it current and to entice others to join in, and finally forecasting when and how we might reach our end results, whatever they may be. It is an enormous task, but let's simply take on a piece that seems reasonable and grow our strength from there to move further forward!

Submitted by McE Galbreath and Matilda Owologba (Sr.)

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee meets to plan and prepare celebrations for key liturgical seasons and feasts during the year to support the spiritual life of the parish. The committee works to promote active participation in the experience of the liturgy by the parish. The committee thanked Maureen Cerroni for her service and contribution as she retired from her position in the summer. We welcomed two new members in the fall of 2022: Sr. Matilda Owolagba, Pastoral Associate, and Adele Casuga Lalonde, Director of Religious Education.

The Liturgy Committee began to meet in person last year to prepare for key celebrations, including:

- Feast of Canadian Martyrs
- Memorial Mass
- Advent – Reconciliation Service, Advent reflections for the bulletin, décor was organized by the Liturgical environment team. We adapted celebrations to work within the COVID guidelines.
- Christmas Masses
- Christmas Pageant Online: families with children in Sacramental Preparation met one Sunday afternoon to re-enact the Christmas story, and Fr. Tim took photos. These photos were compiled into a slide show that was shown at the Christmas Masses and at the Liturgy of the Word via Zoom.
- Lent – Reconciliation Service, Liturgical environment, Lenten reflections for the bulletin, Stations of the Cross presented by the youth and by Development and Peace (via Zoom)
- Holy Week – Masses were in person, and they included music! The Archbishop's letter of March 5 for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies served as the guidelines for our preparations.

Submitted by Heather Duggan and McE Galbreath

Liturgy Committee, 2022: Clara Hamory (chair), Brian Cano, Adele Casuga Lalonde, Fr. Tim Coonen, Heather Duggan, McE Galbreath, Teresa Gariepy, Sr. Matilda Owolagba and Jane Staples

## Parish Annual Report 2022

### **MINISTRY OF MASS COORDINATOR**

The parish is blessed with a group of dedicated Mass coordinators. Mass coordinators set up Masses on Saturdays and Sundays and the 11:30 a.m. Masses on Tuesday to Friday. This ministry is coordinated by Sr. Matilda Owolagba, Pastoral Associate.

Some of the Mass coordinators collaborate with Matilda to assist in training any new volunteer who comes on board. They and other volunteers also join Matilda in preparing for the weekend Masses' offertory procession. The pre-COVID Mass setting styles have gradually resumed.

We presently have enough Mass coordinators for the weekday and Saturday Masses. We would like one or two more volunteers to assist at the Sunday Masses.

Submitted by Matilda Owolagba (Sr.)

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY

This report builds upon the establishment of this Ministry's 2020 Descriptors, which were drafted, discussed and approved by Parish Pastoral Council for the Pastoral Plan for 2020–2025. Despite COVID protocols, the passing and retirement of many parishioners, along with the provincial and local developments in long-term care facilities, hospitals and aging-in-home situations, as well as the dwindling of both commissioned and non-commissioned pastoral care ministers and supporters, the parish's presence and ongoing efforts have still managed to maintain regular outreach, albeit with great modification and creativity throughout the 2021–2022 parish year.

The regular visiting sites for our elder and/or less mobile parishioners continue to be Villagia, the Glebe Centre, Windsor Park, Central Park, Greystone, the Embassy West, many private homes as well as Ottawa hospitals, and 'safe' community meeting places. While many places are mask- and protocol-free, many residences still require that all visitors are masked, show current COVID test results, are screened, sign in and provide contact numbers. This is their prerogative as protection for their residents and staff. Bravo!

The core team continues to sustain regular and often weekly contact with these people, their families and friends. Most parishioners realize that this ministry extends beyond our elders, and it's been delightful to connect some of our young people with the older generations.

The consistently largest extended grouping outside the parish is the group who convene weekly for the 4 p.m. Mass in the ballroom at Villagia retirement home. After the lockdown in March 2020, the weekly attendance averaged between 9 and 17 residents and sometimes their families and companions. Fortunately, when Fr. Clyde Murope, SJ, successfully completed his doctoral studies at Saint Paul University in December 2022, his Jesuit colleague Fr. Nicholas Penje was able to take his place as he continues his doctoral work. Again, this year, a special Mass on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday has been celebrated for and with the residents, their families and the staff.

The daily Mass continues at St. Pat's Home either through the Home's private TV channel or the in-person rotation options. As with private home visits, these locations, as well as at other sites like Windsor Park, Mass has been said for all residents and augmented where possible with the provision of the Novalis daily prayer missal and other devotional practices such as saying the rosary, special and individual prayers, and hymns. Ashes were distributed to staff and residents on Ash Wednesday at Villagia, as well as during home visits. Print copies of *The Epistle*, Oblate resource materials and various editions of the weekly bulletin have facilitated connections along with individual distribution of the Eucharist.

As noted in last year's report, the most reliable, welcomed and tangible means of outreach remain personal notes and telephone calls. Outside the Eucharist, the core team still averages 15 weekly calls/emails/visits to individuals and families who are known to be living on their own, possibly experiencing various situations such as stress, bereavement, isolation or social limitations. Many thanks in particular go to a very dedicated member of the team who finds and sends special occasion and seasonal cards to over 30 parishioners to ensure that holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and milestones are acknowledged and celebrated.

Various team supporters continue to participate in workshops and webinars provided by numerous agencies like Family Councils Ontario, the Council on Aging of Ottawa, the Bruyere Continuing Care programs and the Champlain Hospice Palliative Care programs.

Thank you to all parishioners who continue to support the Pastoral Care ministry in its diverse range of being present. Respectfully submitted, Rosemarie Hoey

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism preparation was done with the parents in one-on-one sessions with Maureen Cerroni (2 baptisms) or Adele Casuga Lalonde (5 baptisms) and Fr. Tim. Baptisms were celebrated at weekend Masses.

Preparation for First Communion was done safely distanced per COVID requirements, and it was facilitated by Maureen Cerroni, our Parish Life Coordinator (retired in June 2022), and volunteer catechists Brian Cano and Chloé Lalonde. Preparation for Reconciliation was worked into the First Communion preparation sessions, and it was decided that this did not prepare the children sufficiently for this sacrament.

Children celebrated their First Communion at regular Sunday Masses. A dedicated Mass for all candidates to attend at the same time was not scheduled, but rather families scheduled their attendance over several Sundays.

Confirmation preparation was done in person in the fall. Leadership in each session was shared between Adele Casuga Lalonde, Magda Kubasciewicz, Anthony Zoccoli, Chloé Lalonde, Lily Carroll and Leah Carroll.

Confirmation preparation was conducted in the Parish Centre. Auxiliary Bishop Yvan Mathieu presided at the Mass for the Confirmation of candidates on November 20, 2022.

### **Sacraments celebrated in 2022**

Baptism: 7 children

First Communion: 6 children

Confirmation: 13 young people

Resources used:

*Come Join Us at the Table*, by Muriel Loftus and Lawrence DeMong, OSB

*Alive in the Spirit*, by Catherine Ecker and Margaret Bick

Submitted by Adele Casuga Lalonde, Director of Religious Education



# Parish Annual Report 2022

## SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

The newcomer family that the parish sponsored arrived in October 2021.

In 2022, we saw a continuation of activity to settle the family of four. This included:

- Finding a new place to live, as the first apartment and landlord were problematic.
- Helping them move.
- Organizing dental care. The family had major dental problems that the Interim Federal Health Program insurance did not completely cover. Fortunately, we were able to register the children in the Ontario Healthy Smiles program, which did cover most costs for the children.
- Helping practise English.
- Helping the mother and son apply for a G1 driver's licence.
- Helping register family members in new schools (high school and English language) after the move.
- Helping with translation of documents and emails.
- Answering questions about regular life in Ottawa.
- Putting the family in contact with employment resources and working on resumés. Unfortunately, their English, while much better than what it was when they arrived, was still at a level at the end of the sponsorship that the advice we received from the RAISE program (which helps newcomers find jobs) was to focus on increasing English-language skills to another level, as employment opportunities for lower levels of English are few and tend to be exploitative. Finding work is a struggle.
- Celebrating the end of the official sponsorship!
- Continuing to be in contact, for minor help and friendship.

Submitted by Christine Andress and David Gilmour

Committee members: Christine Andress, David Gilmour, Mary Gilmour, Bruce O'Mara, Linda O'Mara

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## SYNOD COMMITTEE

### Introduction

Pope Francis called A Synod of Synodality in March 2020. Several months after announcing the Synodality Synod, Pope Francis was quoted as saying that “Synodality is a style, it is a walk together, and it is what the Lord expects from the Church of the third millennium.” This theme of walking together has been a key focus of interested Catholics in accomplishing the process of synodality.

In September of 2021, preparatory documents were released to dioceses across the world to help with the collection of data/feedback from those who participated in the Synodality Synod.

The Diocesan phase ran from October 2021 to April 2022. Parishes were to provide their responses to their dioceses by March 2022 to allow the diocese to generate its report/synthesis and send it forward.

These diocesan reports or syntheses were then compiled to generate national bishops’ syntheses, which were published between June and August 2022. These national bishops’ syntheses were then used to begin the Continental phase, which ran from October 2022 to March 2023. The Continental phase finished with continental reports, which were published at the end of March 2023.

The Universal phase was to begin in April 2023 and end in October 2024. Pope Francis extended the deadline for the Universal phase to allow for more consultation and dialogue. In April 2023, Pope Francis increased the number of voting members to the General Assembly to include 70 non-bishops (deacons, priests, consecrated men and women, and Catholic laity), who will be able to participate and vote. A papal report will then be shared, which may include opportunity for more discussion and listening.

### Beginnings

A seven-member volunteer committee was struck by interested parishioners to approach the request by Pope Francis to participate in the Synodality Congress. This group included Parish Life Coordinator Maureen Cerroni and Fr. Tim Coonen, OMI.

The committee was formed in late 2021/early 2022. Initial meetings were focused on logistics and how to ensure that parishioners felt they had the opportunity to answer the key questions being asked. Those questions included:

- How are we doing as Church?
- How to do Church better?
- What is the Holy Spirit saying to the Church?

It was felt that the best approach might be to model our Indigenous brothers and sisters and use a Sharing Circle to have participants share their thoughts and feelings. Some members of the Synod Committee participated in Diocese Facilitator Training provided by the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, which assisted parishes in tackling the process of capturing feedback from the participants. It would be imperative that the parish train several volunteers to be moderators and Circle notetakers. This would allow each Circle to have consistent leadership and recording of what was being shared.

The Synod Committee, along with Parish Pastoral Council members and interested parish volunteers, began training for the upcoming Sharing Circles to start in spring of 2022. There were 18 moderators and notetakers. Sharing Circles could be done virtually via Zoom or in person at the Parish Centre. A communication strategy to put announcements in various local newspapers and make announcements at Masses to encourage

## Parish Annual Report 2022

parishioners to share the Sharing Circle information with family and friends was explored and initiated to ensure that parishioners as well as non-parishioners knew about Canadian Martyrs' plan to hear from the parish and those on the fringes. Resources from the Archdiocese (booklet, training and direction) as well as three introductory Zoom webinars (led by Saint Paul University professors Dr. Catherine Clifford and Dr. John Renken) and external Zoom webinar resources were shared with Canadian Martyrs parishioners. These resources included what synodality is, its history and a history of Papal Congresses.

### **Synodality at the Parish**

Canadian Martyrs hosted 26 Sharing Circles, which included sharing from youth, an ecumenical group, the René Goupil Deaf Community and several parishioners from long-term care homes. Most of the Sharing Circle participants were adult parishioners active within the parish of Canadian Martyrs. We are grateful for all who participated and shared their thoughts.

From these responses, a concise report was provided to the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. A second report was also generated from the responses. This report was shared with the parish and added to [the parish website](#). This was a fuller report which captured more of the context and themes shared. The Archdiocese's report (which combined all the parishes within the Ottawa-Cornwall area) and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops' (CCCCB) report (which combined all the reports from the Canadian archdioceses and dioceses) were shared with Parish Pastoral Council. Members of the Synod Committee reviewed the Ottawa-Cornwall Archdiocese's and the CCCC's Synodality Synthesis and provided some context on common themes, highlights of what may have been different between reports, and how that all related to what Canadian Martyrs shared. These common themes included welcoming, inclusivity, formation (of clergy, laity and faithful), Indigenous relationships, and environment and accountability/responsibility. However, caution should be maintained when reading the parish, diocesan and/or bishops' documents, as context could be missing from these writings.

### **Ongoing activities**

Several synodality resources have been put on the [Canadian Martyrs website](#) for those interested. These include the Archdiocese's planning document; the Canadian Martyrs report (fuller document); the Archdiocese's Synod Synthesis; the CCCC's National Synthesis on the Synod of Synodality; Synodality prayer; the *Epistle* newsletter highlighting synodality; and more.

During the fall of 2022 and into the spring of 2023, synodality Zoom webinars on what the various diocesan syntheses and the CCCC Synthesis had noted and possible next steps for parishioners were held by various organizations, including Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate retreat centres, Centre Oblat, and Faith and the Common Good. Synod Committee members participated in several of these Zoom sessions as active listeners.

In December of 2022, the Parish Pastoral Council and members of the Synod Committee came together in a retreat day to discern possible next steps. The synodal process had been extended by the Pope to allow for better reporting and longer time to work with the many reports. Within the new timeline, the Synod Committee members decided they would continue to interact with each other and participate in Zoom webinars until Parish Pastoral Council determined how best for the parish to proceed. There have been several "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent" Zoom webinars which highlight the discernment and discussion at the Continental phase of the synodality process. We are eager to continue participating in these upcoming sessions.

## Parish Annual Report 2022

It is anticipated that there could be much good done by reviewing the parish report that was posted on the Canadian Martyrs website and other Parish Pastoral Council planning documents that have been generated within recent years, which would allow a direction or path to be discerned for Canadian Martyrs parish. It was suggested that continued communication within the parish would be key and that all parishioners work to engage each other on various topics to ensure all voices and perspectives are heard. In the meantime, the Synod Committee continues to share and keep abreast with news on synodality within the greater Catholic environment. It has been suggested that the seven Continental Reports be reviewed and possible common themes, differences and links to the parish could be generated.

It was also shared that many can go to the following website and participate in monthly synodality prayers, which allow for a more personal connection: <https://www.prayforthesynod.va/en/>

Submitted by Pamela Dixon

Committee members, 2022: Maureen Cerroni, Fr. Tim Coonen, Pamela Dixon, Sue-Anne Hess, Marilyn Muleski, Fr. John Renken, Dorothy Wood

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMITTEE

The Truth and Reconciliation Committee continues to engage with Call to Action #59 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Final Report:

We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary.

The committee meets online around once a month to develop options and recommendations to advance truth and reconciliation in our parish and the broader community.

### Engagement

- Oblate leadership: The committee met with Fr. Ken Thorson, Provincial Superior of OMI Lacombe Canada, and Fr. Richard Beaudette, Vicar Provincial of OMI Lacombe, on April 6, 2022; the committee's overarching request to Fr. Thorson was for the Oblate leadership to better and more meaningfully engage and communicate with the laity in Oblate parishes across Canada so we can all better understand the work that has taken place and what is left to do.
- Kateri Native Ministry: Donna Naughton, executive director of Kateri Native Ministry, joined one of the committee's online meetings as a resource person; committee members consult her periodically as needed.
- Truth & Reconciliation Network: A member of the committee is part of this network of five Ottawa-area parishes that are actively engaged in reconciliation.

### Activities

#### *Prayer and liturgy*

- July 2022: Parish prayer service marking the start of Pope Francis' arrival in Canada for his "penitential pilgrimage"
- September 2022: Three themed weekend liturgies leading up to National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30:
  - September 10/11: "Listening to Indigenous Voices" (guest homilist: Fr. Ken Thorson, Provincial Superior of OMI Lacombe Canada)
  - September 17/18: "Learning with Open Hearts" (guest homilist: Pamela Dixon, parishioner and Oblate Associate)
  - September 24/25: "Walking Together on the Path of Reconciliation" (guest homilist: Joe Gunn, executive director of Centre Oblat)

#### *Presence in the community*

- Flying the Survivors' Flag outside the church as a sign of solidarity with survivors and their families
- Tying orange ribbons to the railings of the Main Street entrance and at the parking lot entrance the weekend before National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a reminder of children sent to residential schools; handing out orange ribbons to parishioners after Mass to take home

## Parish Annual Report 2022

- Writing articles for *The Mainstreeter* community newspaper: October 2022: Janice Cameron-Caluori, “Reconciliation with Our Indigenous Peoples” (p. 9); Fr. Tim Coonen, OMI, “Signs and Symptoms: Reflections on the Survivors’ Flag” (p. 16)
- Kairos Blanket Exercise, facilitated by Kateri Native Ministry at Immaculata High School (November 2022)

### **Parish resources**

- Truth & Reconciliation table at the back of the church as a place to share information and engage in conversation with parishioners
- Ongoing group study sessions using the Jesuit Forum resource *Listening to Indigenous Voices*
- Lending library of books by Indigenous authors for parishioners to continue learning
- Articles in the parish newsletter, *The Epistle*
- Announcements in the weekly bulletin on events related to truth and reconciliation

Submitted by Anne Louise Mahoney, chair

Committee members, 2022: Anne Louise Mahoney (chair), Grace Bruno, Angela Burton, George Cameron, Janice Cameron-Caluori, Maureen Cerroni, Angela Davis, Nora McKnight, Sr. Matilda Owolagba, Anthony Polci, Nicola Whitehouse

# Parish Annual Report 2022

## YOUTH GROUP

The past year has been kinder to our urge to gather, but it has also been hard on our youth in their academic environment, so we have not yet set a monthly schedule for meeting.

In the spring of 2022, our youth were invited to be part of our experience of Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality. Three sharing circles were held in March for the youth members in high school, providing them with the opportunity to give their perspectives on how we are doing Church now and how we might do Church better for their generation. Their insights were amazing, and many of the ideas that were discussed will form the backbone of our Youth Group gatherings in the years to come.

Last fall, we didn't gather formally, but we were able to spread the Christmas cheer by wrapping Christmas boxes, donated by parishioners, for youth in need in Ottawa. Several members of our Youth Group joined Heather and me over the final week before delivery to wrap each shoebox and include a card, expressing our love and wishes for a safe 2023. Altogether, the parish provided, and the youth wrapped boxes for 62 children in need in Ottawa. These were delivered to each family by the Centretown Community Health Centre.

As Lent arrived in the spring of this year, we invited the youth again to share with the parishioners the Stations of the Cross. Heather Duggan had taken beautiful pictures of each of the church windows, Stations 1 to 14, and we were able to gather in the church. We projected the images on the right side of the altar as the youth lined up and led us through the journey on the left side, at the ambo. Once again, we were able to create a very special environment, back in the church, as we honoured our Lord's final journey to the Cross.

I am hopeful that we can bring our youth together more regularly now and, with their guidance, decide how we move forward to support their wishes for information, faith and community within our parish at Canadian Martyrs Church.

Submitted by McE Galbreath, with much-appreciated help from Richard and Corry Wink