

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes

May 4, 2023

Attendance: Tim Coonen, Heather Duggan, Matilda Owolagba, Grace Bruno, Anthony Zoccoli, Cheryl Khoury, Sue-Anne Hess

Regrets: Peter Brimacombe, Mary Dalipaj, Chad Glendinning

1. Prayer and Welcome

2. **Agenda:** Add: 5.1 Pride Flag 5.4 St. Vincent de Paul. Approved: Cheryl and Anthony

3. **Minutes:** The minutes from April 2023 were approved: Cheryl and Sue-Anne

4. Business arising:

4.1 Pastoral Plan – focus for 2023

Building Community – we need to be more noticeably active in the community.

Follow up on action items from April: Grace will investigate starting a string ensemble: Grace has found children and adults who are interested to play at our monthly community Masses and possibly at retirement residences.

Participate in Doors Open Ottawa in 2024: <https://ottawa.ca/en/arts-heritage-and-events/doors-open-ottawa>. Cheryl reported that participants of Doors Open must meet the criteria for the event. The parish will apply to be a part of Doors Open in 2024.

Volunteer card for pews: **Action item:** Sue-Anne will finalize the cards for next weekend.

Better signage at breezeway doors to welcome people: Heather has been in touch with Creative Signs & Designs (<http://www.creativesignsanddesigns.ca/>) to put vinyl lettering on the breezeway windows or doors.

The Big Give or The Main Event: PPC will look into these events for next year. The Big Give (<https://thebiggive.ca/>) is on the first weekend of June and The Main Event (<https://www.ottawaeastcag.org/main-event-2023>) is on the 3rd weekend of June.

Action items still left to explore from April meeting:

Get together with other churches in the neighborhood. **Action item:** Pastoral Team

Alpha program

Immaculata involvement – invite chaplain, Leanne Davis, to speak with PPC.

Action item: Sue-Anne and Heather

Front doors of church are being left open at Masses to welcome all.

Lights for the signs at the front of the church **Action Item:** Heather will contact the finance committee about this job.

4.2 Commissioning of PPC members

This was set for Sunday, June 11th at Mass. PPC will look at holding the commissioning earlier in 2024, perhaps the Sunday after the first PPC meeting of 2024. Action item: Sue-Anne will contact all PPC members.

4.3 Mass on the Grass

We will need volunteers and the youth to help with the set-up and clean-up. Action item: Heather will contact Immaculata for use of their BBQ and electricity.

4.4 Volunteer Appreciation Event

The pizza team has asked that this event not be held on the June 3rd pizza night. It was decided to hold this event after Mass on June 11th. The volunteers will be recognized at the Mass and there will be special reception after Mass. PPC will look at holding this event in April during the National Volunteer Week in 2024.

5. New Business

5.1 Truth and Reconciliation Committee – Anne Louise Mahoney

The T&R committee would like permission to fly the Survivors Flag during May (May 5th is Red Dress Day), June (National Indigenous History Month in Canada) and September and part of October (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation). PPC agreed with this proposal.

Pride Flag will be displayed in the breezeway window during the month of June for Pride Month. PPC supports this initiative as it is an inclusive and welcoming symbol.

Action item: A few sentences will be included in the bulletin to let the parish know of this decision.

Action Item: A quote for a second flagpole will be obtained by Heather from the Flag Shop.

5.2 Synodality

John Renken, Sue-Anne Hess, Marilyn Muleski, and Pamela Dixon are meeting to reinvigorate this committee.

5.3 Horizons of Hope

This is a [pastoral care/palliative care program](#). Faith Formation Committee will be attending the information session for this program. Grace will also be attending. Rosemarie Hoey has stepped down from the Pastoral Care Team. Jane Staples and other volunteers are continuing to organize the weekly Masses at Villagia.

5.4 St. Vincent de Paul and Multifaith Housing Initiative, [Dream Lebreton Flats](#)

Corry Wink has asked if someone can speak at Masses to ask parishioners to support this project. **Action item:** Anthony will speak with Corry to find out more about this project.

6. Pastoral Team Report

Immaculata held an Education Week Mass for grades 7 and 8 on May 4th. Tim presided. There will be 2 funerals next week for John Dorner and Marg Lackie.

The weekly Masses at Villagia continue and Matilda will be meeting with the social coordinator at Greystone to talk about organizing a Mass there and notifying more residents of Matilda's weekly pastoral care visits.

From Sandwich Club (sent in by Adele via email):

- Sandwich Club continues to provide 150 sandwiches per week for Centre 507. Will adjourn for the months of July and August and resume in September.
- We are in the process of looking for corporate sponsorship or funding for next year.
- Members have indicated that they would be interested in in-person sandwich making. We are cognizant that some of our members have mobility issues, or simply prefer to continue with the at-home model (e.g. our 4-woman team at Villagia). I'm proposing 1 in-person sandwich making session per month, at the parish centre. A session at the end of June would cap off our year nicely and would make for a nice photo op!

From Religious Ed (sent in by Adele via email):

-Sacramental Prep classes are nearly complete! We had nine children celebrate their First Reconciliation on Tuesday May 2. Fr Tim began with an opening prayer and scripture reading. We've been singing Change our Hearts (with lyrics adapted for Reconciliation by Brian Cano) in class each week, and we sang it again before each child was brought to the Reconciliation room by their parents. While the children were waiting for their turn, Brian sang hymns, and the kids and parents were encouraged to sing along. After confession and penance, children were given books to read, and encouraged to write their reflections on the sacrament in their Reconciliation resource (God Has Forgiven You - Go in Peace - adapted from the OCSB doc). After the concluding rite, we had cupcakes and juice in the parish centre.

After 5 sessions of First Communion prep, and 3 sessions of Reconciliation prep, our catechism group is now ready to make their First Communion. Over the next four weeks, they will be celebrating their First Holy Communion at Saturday or Sunday mass, with the last one (Vivienne) celebrating on Pentecost Sunday.

Our final session will be on Saturday June 3. In addition, to mystagogical catechesis and presentation of certificates, we will be engaging in a corporal work of mercy. The kids and their parents have signed up to bring the various components to make 10 Birthday Kits for children at the Centretown Community Health Centre. Danielle at CCHC has sent us the ages and genders for 10 kids, so that we can customize the gifts and colours. We've discussed the notion that as followers of Jesus, we make it our mission to make our world look a little more like heaven. Our sacramental prep kids are very enthusiastic about assembling these Birthday Kits for kids who are less fortunate than themselves.

7. Finance Committee

The financial review has been completed and our accounting files are well maintained. We will be replacing/repairing the windows in the sacristy, replacing the carpets in the parish centre, and getting rid of the squirrels in the ceiling above the sacristy. Finances are in good shape.

8. Other

Action item: Put the church's 70th anniversary on the June agenda.

9. Next Meeting: June 1 at 7pm This will be a hybrid meeting.