

St. Michaels Parish Pastoral Council

Minutes – Thursday November 24, 2016

Attendance: Father Murray Sample, Father Don Pumputis, Sylvain Patry, Yana Adkinson, Darlene MacKenzie, Peter Valiquet, Donna Thompson, Joanne Zwolski, Marinette Laureano, Mark Thompson, Howie Wright, Lola Gualtieri

Absent: Larry McKenzie, Wayne Wolanski

Doug Manners attended briefly to distribute to the PPC members, Parish business cards which reflected the new Parish website. Doug encouraged all PPC members to familiarize themselves with the newly enhanced website at www.stmichaelslondon.ca

Opening Prayer and Reflection.

Minutes from the October 2016 PPC meeting were approved.

Ministry Fair: There was discussion over the current format for the Parish's annual Ministry Fair. After considerable discussion over the pros and cons of the current format, it was decided to place this item on the March agenda for further discernment.

Parish Family Groupings: At the Council of Priests of the London Deanery, the proposal for the family of parishes was rejected. This item is back on the desk of the Episcopal Vicars for further discussion.

HVAC: Father Murray provided an update on the new HVAC system. The heating system is operational; however, it is only functioning at half capacity presently. Father indicated that should the new system require repair work, access to the ventilation ducts will be easily egressed as no excavation will be required from inside or outside of the Church. The entire HVAC contract should be completed by December 16, 2016.

New doors have been installed at the Maitland Street entrance.

Prayer Initiatives: Oremus has concluded and anonymous evaluations were completed by participants. Peter Valiquet indicated that the evaluation was positive.

A "Women of Grace" series is scheduled to commence January 10, 2017 for 10 weeks. Veronica Solis will lead on this prayer initiative.

The Gospel of Matthew series will continue on Thursday evenings until June 2017.

A one day, Men of Faith conference will be held on January 21, 2017, at St. Michael's Church.

There was some discussion about premiering a Father Robert Barron series from "Word on Fire" at a later date.

Father Murray felt that we should pause any new prayer initiatives until the Fall of 2017.

Celebrations and Challenges: Marinette Laureano initiated discussion regarding purchasing a Jumbotron screen for Mass music. Father Murray indicated that an item of this nature was considered, among

other ideas during the Give to Grow Campaign. Due to architectural considerations of the Church and the cost of purchasing the music (which would be displayed on the screen with words only and no musical notes), it was considered unfeasible at this time.

“Yarning with Love” is going to be in Victoria Park this Saturday, November 26, 2016 with the blessing of the City of London. They will distribute knitted items to those in need.

Finance: The Parish bazaar was highly successful having raised approximately \$6,300.00. A portion of those funds will go towards supporting the breakfast program at St. Michaels school, the Refugee Committee and Hospitality North.

The Parish currently has approximately \$45,000.00 on deposit and is scheduled to receive an HST rebate of approximately \$24,000.00. The Finance Committee is of the opinion that the Parish is in sound financial shape with the approach of year end.

The Thanksgiving appeal is now concluded. Total collections were \$44,000.00

Pastoral Teams: Youth Ministry – Sylvain Patry reported that at its last session, the Edge youth group for grades 5 – 8 was a success. They had the largest crowd ever which included parents and grandparents in support. Confirmation registration is now closed and there is an increase in candidates. Monthly class visits for the feeder schools are consistent. Confirmation class preparation in the schools have been scheduled for 40 minutes per month. Confirmation preparation sessions for Saturdays are scheduled. School Masses are scheduled at 1 per month. There has also been an increase in candidate volunteer participation.

Pastoral Ministry – Yana Adkinson has visited all elementary Parish feeder schools and met with all grade 2 students preparing for First Reconciliation. Instruction and guidance was provided. Yana Adkinson will be returning to these schools once again in early December. One hundred and thirty (130) students are registered to receive this sacrament.

RCIA is progressing with 3 candidates and 6 catechumens. Rite of Acceptance for RCIA participants will take place on November 27, 2016 at the 1030 Mass. RCIA for children takes place on Monday evenings. There are currently 10 children attending the program. These children will also partake in the Rite of Acceptance on November 27, 2016. Sacramental preparation for children in public schools takes place every Sunday. There are 16 children in the Sunday program.

Yana Adkinson recently wrote an article for the St. Michael’s Newsletter on “FORMED”.

Yana Adkinson has prepared sign-up sheets for Christmas and New Years Masses for the Christmas Liturgy. A sign-up board can be found in the Narthex.

Father Murray – Father provided each of us with the Christmas Celebrations schedule for the Advent/Christmas Season. Father Don and Father Murray both expressed the importance of evangelizing in the schools. Father Murray expressed that he had experienced many blessed moments while in the schools. Father Murray also reflected upon his “incredible trip to Israel”.

Father Don – Father has been enjoying his visits to the classrooms in the feeder schools. Father Don is enjoying his Q & A sessions with the students. There has been positive feedback from teacher

and administrators in the schools regarding these visits. Father Don expressed his joy at having Father Murray back from Israel.

NEXT PPC MEETING – December 15, 2016