



## St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

the restrictions of the Responsible Ministry Protocol, and it would actually increase the workload of adult catechists.

Kayla may be able to recruit youth group members by speaking to Religious Education classes. Kayla felt that the best time to hold a quick meeting with youth would be following the 11:15am mass on Sunday.

Bill Lawlor offered to be a resource for Kayla if she wishes to bounce ideas off someone. He has experience in working with youth, and has 2 teenage children.

Rick commended Kayla on the document that she had prepared, and thanked her on behalf of PPC. Rick stated that it should be PPC's goal to have a meaningful youth program in place by the end of 2016.

### 2. **PPC Priority 2: Communication:**

1) **"Did you know that...?":** update by Rick Northrup and Wendy Ellis

2) **Development of a presentation to the Parish about PPC:** update by Rick and Wendy

3) **Parish website:** update by Rick and Wendy

The goal of these projects is to increase awareness and improve communication with, and between, the various ministries in our Parish and with parishioners. Rick and Wendy have developed a letter which will be sent to all ministries and organizations in the Parish requesting information such as contacts, calendar of events, items that can be shared in a bulletin insert or on the Parish website. The information received will be used for both the "Did you know that..." project and for the website. The draft letter will be reviewed by Fr. Don, then sent out before the end of December. Responses are to go to Wendy. Sr. Mae Arsenault emphasized that the letter should contain a deadline for responses. Wendy indicated that our initial e-mail to the various ministries received only 3 responses. A list of those ministries that do not respond will be created, so that follow-up phone calls can be made in January. Charles Hache, Denise Isaacs and Sr. Mae volunteered to make calls.

Information must be available to all parishioners, regardless of their degree of computer literacy.

Wendy informed PPC that the beta version of the parish webpage is ready, but still needs to be populated. We will obtain the necessary information in response to the letter mentioned above. Although the webpage could be launched right away, it could "turn off" parishioners because of its current lack of useful information. Rick stated that it should be PPC's goal to have the website running in January.

Rick asked PPC to consider how we would like to present ourselves on the website. It was suggested that we include a statement of our role, photos, and meeting agendas and minutes.

### **New Business:**

1. **Update re: Regional Pastoral Council (RPC):** Rick Northrup advised PPC that he and Fr. Don attended a meeting held on Monday, November 30 at St. Alphonsus Parish, Hampton. The purpose of the meeting was to choose representatives for the Saint John area RPC, as Bishop Harris does not wish to exercise the option of appointing representatives. St. Mark's Parish falls

## St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

under the Saint John RPC; there are also two other regional councils: Fredericton and Miramichi. The meeting in Hampton was not well attended.

Rick emphasized that it was imperative to choose representatives as soon as possible, as the first regional meeting is to be held in January. RPC will meet four times each year. St. Mark's Parish may be able to obtain two spots on the Saint John RPC, one of them being for a youth representative. St. Alphonsus Parish will have one representative. Stephanie Alexander encouraged PPC to choose a representative right away, so that St. Mark's Parish can secure the second spot on RPC.

A motion was made by Peter Bourque and seconded by Mavis Drummond to put forward to the Diocese the name of Kayla Johnson as the youth representative. The motion was passed unanimously and Kayla accepted.

Rick indicated that Peter Bourque had been approached to act as a representative on RPC, in light of his previous work as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee developing the plan for RPCs, but that Peter had declined. Rick suggested that Council approach a former PPC member, to request that he fill this role. Some discussion took place as to whether this position should be filled by a current member of St. Mark's PPC. Mavis Drummond stated that her expectation was that our Chair, Rick Northrup, would fill this role. Pat Cary suggested that having a non-PPC member fill this role and report to PPC was no different than receiving reports from the Parish Finance Committee. Fr. Don emphasized that the representative selected would be expected to provide regular RPC updates at PPC meetings.

Rick offered to contact the person he had in mind regarding the position, if PPC was in agreement. If that person does not accept, Rick will notify PPC members via e-mail, and ask for direction.

Denise Isaacs moved that the person suggested by Rick be asked to act as our representative on the RPC. The motion was seconded by Peter Bourque. Approval was unanimous.

Further discussion then took place relating to RPC. Peter stated that the organizing meetings were poorly attended by the parishes; also, that not all parishes have PPCs and hence, may not be involved. Rick stated that this first RPC must be prepared to offer good advice to Bishop Harris, and that this will require strong leadership. Rick mentioned potential topics, including closing and/or merging parishes and formation of youth groups.

Peter expressed concern whether the membership of the RPC would be diverse enough to reflect our whole region, especially rural parishes. Bill Lawlor stated that rural parishes have different needs urban and suburban parishes. Mavis agreed, stating that the RPB should represent the region, and that rural parishes not only have special needs, but also gifts to offer. Rick noted that there should be a balance between large and small parishes. Fr. Don reminded PPC, that with five zones, other types of parishes would be represented. Rick expressed his disappointment that representatives from other parishes in this zone did not attend the recent meeting.

Fr. Don mentioned that the next step will be to establish a diocesan council, and that those at every level of church life must have some influence.

## **St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council**

The meeting was closed with a prayer led by Fr. Don. PPC members joined the Liturgy Committee for a Christmas social.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 13 at 7pm.**

Meeting will be chaired by Rick Northrup.

Opening prayer will be led by Ian Joyce.

Closing prayer will be led by Ian Joyce.

**2016-03-04: Edited by Anne Stroud for website publication**