

## St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

January 11, 2017

### In Attendance:

Beyea, Dianne  
Carey, Pat  
Carvell, Trinda  
Ellis, Wendy  
Glasgow, Mary Alice

Hache, Charles  
Howe, Marilyn  
Isaacs, Denise  
Johnson, Kayla

Lawlor, Bill  
MacDonald, Mike  
Murphy, Dave  
Stroud, Anne

### Absent:

Arsenault, Sr. Mae

Breen, Fr. Don

Drummond, Mavis

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Pat Carey at 7pm.

Pat informed Council of the recent death of Sr. Mae's sister, Judy Arsenault, in Prince Edward Island. Anne will express condolences on behalf of Council on-line. Members were asked to keep Sr. Mae and her family in our prayers.

The opening prayer was led by Mary Alice Glasgow.

The meeting was turned over to Rick Northrup, Chair of the Saint John Regional Pastoral Council (SJRPC), who gave Council a presentation entitled "Saint John Regional Pastoral Council: Information for Individual Parishes". Please refer to that document. Kayla Johnson is also a member of the SJRPC.

Discussion took place both during, and following, Rick's presentation.

Rick informed Council that, following an initial brainstorming session, the SJRPC identified communication as a priority, including communication with Bishop Harris, priests and every parish council in our region. It was decided to seek feedback from all Pastoral Parish Councils (PPCs). A strategy of positive engagement was adopted.

Other points raised by Rick regarding the SJRPC and Diocesan Revitalization include:

1. Our current diocesan pastoral plan dates from 2012. Our own PPC spent time over a two year period reviewing this plan, but where did our input go? There was no mechanism in place to share our input with the bishop.
2. At present, our SJRPC has no representative from St. Stephen/St. Andrews, but representatives have been added from the Black's Harbour/St. George and the Sussex/Norton areas.
3. There is currently no RPC operating in the Miramichi. The Fredericton RPC meets three times a year. The SJRPC meets monthly, except during the summer.
4. The RPC is a mirror image of the PPC, but with responsibility for the whole region, rather than for individual parishes.
5. Bishop Harris feels that co-responsibility and collaborative ministry are extremely important. The laity are responsible to assist their pastor, although this concept is not well understood by many Catholics. Pope Benedict was one of the major writers on co-responsibility.
6. St. Mark's is an active parish and our Council is a good example of one that is exercising co-responsibility. Some parishes have no PPCs, or PPCs that are more administrative than pastoral.

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7. There is a need for parishes to be aware of what is going on in other parishes. We must avoid being "silo" parishes.
8. SJRPC has sent the minutes of all of their meetings to the PPCs in our region. Councils are asked to forward important issues to RPC, which can take the issues to Bishop Harris. RPC is a vehicle for improved communication.
9. The Saint John region is the most diverse and has the most parishes in crises. Our diocese is in a dire financial situation. Many parishes are unable to repay loans from the diocese, or even send in their remittances.
10. There are about 20 parishes in our region and everything is parish-based. According to canon law, a parish may contain more than one church.
11. The priests of our diocese are meeting on February 21 to discuss revitalization. Rick will attend the meeting. Members of all three regional Revitalization Working Groups have been invited to attend.
12. Four models have been prepared by the Saint John Region Revitalization Working Group. Because our diocese is facing significant issues, it is not likely possible to maintain the status quo. The Finance Committee will also have input. Bishop Harris has not yet seen the models. Similar models have been independently prepared for the Fredericton and Miramichi regions.
13. Finances, number of priests, whether parishes are urban or rural and unique geography have been considered.
14. Our revitalized diocese must serve the needs of all people in our area, not just Catholics who attend mass.
15. Models will be presented to the laity in April/May and there will be opportunities for input.
16. Bishop Harris is expected to receive a report recommending a revitalization model from the facilitator in June. Input from priests, laity and RPCs will be included.
17. There is currently no mechanism for RPCs to make presentations to Matthew, a Baltimore-based consultant, who is the facilitator for the diocesan survey, The Disciple Makers Index. A vehicle needs to be put in place so that input from the PPCs can be forwarded to RPCs and on to Matthew.
18. The Diocesan Office is unable to take an active role, due to a shortage of staff and resources.

Comments from Council members included remarks about our responsibility to evangelize and the need for empowerment. Questions were asked about the use of the diocesan website to share information about the revitalization process, the possibility of bring in priests from outside of Canada and mass attendance at the Cathedral, St. Mark's and Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the impending closure of St. Joachim's.

Anne Stroud mentioned that Denise Isaacs had requested two changes to the minutes:

1. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes:** 2. that "...they had already **conducted** the coordinators..." be changed to "**contacted**".
2. **Updates re: Parish Ministries:** 3. that "**Adult Education**" be changed to "**Adult Faith Formation**".

There being no other additions or corrections, the minutes were then approved on a motion by Denise Isaacs, and seconded by Bill Lawlor.

### **Business Arising from Previous Minutes:**

1. **"Did you know?" (DYK) Program:** Update by Anne Stroud: Anne worked with members of the Catholic Women's League (CWL) at St. Mark's to finalize the information contained in the "DYK?". There had been some confusion, resulting from the impending change in the CWL Executive. The

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"DYK?" insert has been completed and will be added to bulletins which will be distributed on the weekend of January 14/15. The Library "DYK?" will appear as a bulletin insert on the weekend of February 4/5. The draft version of the "DYK?" for the Men of St. Mark's has been approved by the "Men" and is ready for Wendy to add a photo. The "DYK?" will be issued in March of 2017. Helen MacDonald, Ministry Coordinator, and Denise Isaacs have submitted a write-up about the Art and Environment Ministry. This could be edited and used as a "DYK?" bulletin insert in April.

2. **Confirmation that Jean MacDonald will provide an update re: the Syrian Refugee Initiative at the February meeting of PPC:** Mike will confirm that Jean will attend our February 8 meeting.

### **New Business:**

1. **Sea Dogs Faith & Family Night:** Pat Carey: Pat presented information about this upcoming event, which will take place on Friday, January 20 at 7pm at Harbour Station. He circulated an event poster. Please refer to the scan of this poster, which is included with these minutes. Although this is short notice, Council agreed to have Dianne add information about the event to our parish bulletin. Pat is willing to attend the event. Some discussion took place regarding the Responsible Ministry Protocols.

### **Updates re: Parish Ministries:**

1. **Liturgy Committee:** Charles reported that he has not received any further communication from the Committee. Rick Northrup suggested that the Liturgy Committee may still be uncertain as to the type of information PPC wishes to receive. Rick is currently acting in Patti Fullerton's place on the Committee.

Due to the time, the meeting was called to a close by Pat Carey.

The closing prayer was led by Dianne Beyea.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 7pm in Room 1.**

Meeting will be chaired by Pat Carey. Minutes will be taken by Anne Stroud.

Opening prayer will be led by Mavis Drummond.

Closing prayer will be led by Trinda Carvell.