

St. Mark's Parish Pastoral Council

December 12, 2018

In Attendance:

Beyea, Dianne	Ellis, Wendy	McGrath, Lawrence
Burns, Fr. Owen	Glasgow, Mary Alice	Stroud, Anne
Carvell, Trinda	Howe, Marilyn	Vienneau, Ben
Connors, Michele	MacDonald, Mike	

Absent:

Doherty, Bob	Little, Peter	Sullivan, Michelle
Johnson, Kayla		

The meeting was called to order by Chair Michele Connors at 7:15pm.

The opening prayer was led by Dianne Beyea.

The minutes of the November 14, 2018 meeting of Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), were approved on a motion by Mary Alice Glasgow and seconded by Trinda Carvell.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- 1. Continuing Education for Council Members:** PPC members had expressed a desire to participate in continuous learning by reading another book, preferably one dealing with strategy. Michele had requested that Fr. Burns, Wendy and Bill Stroud choose a book for Council. The book selected was *Divine Renovation Apprentice* by Fr. Simon Lobo. Fr. Lobo is currently the pastor at St. Benedict Parish in Halifax. Wendy provided a short introduction to the book before distributing copies to PPC members. Wendy will create a reading guide which she will circulate by e-mail.

New Business

- 1. Catechist Retreat in January 2019:** Mary Alice advised Council that the Annual Catechist Retreat will be held on January 25-27 at the Villa Madonna Retreat House. She clarified that this retreat is open to all who are active in ministry, not only religious education, as many in ministry are catechists in some way. Andrew Wilson, Associate Professor of Western Religions at Mount Allison University, will act as the retreat facilitator. The topic is *"I Believe....What?: Rediscovering The Creed"*. Mary Alice circulated a poster with further information.

Update from Parish Support Team (PST): Michele provided an update about the workshop that the PST hold in early 2019. The workshop is being planned by Michele and Cathy Riganesi and will likely take place in February. They intend to engage an outside facilitator who has experience in guiding church groups in strategic planning exercises. The goal of the workshop will be to define a maximum of five strategic thrusts (outcomes) which will describe what we want from the parish revitalization process and guide everything else. We aim to set specific measurable goals for 2019. Members of both PST and PPC will be invited to participate in the workshop, along with a few others. Michele will provide a couple of potential workshop dates for us to consider in advance.

Minutes by Anne Stroud.

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Anne informed Council that the PST's Communications group are planning an initiative to take place at all of our Christmas Masses this year. Candy canes and specially designed bookmarks will be handed out to adults as they either enter or exit the church (TBD). Candy canes will also be provided for children. The bookmarks include a picture of a nativity scene, a "welcome" and wishes for a blessed Christmas, some parish contact information, weekend Mass times and a New Year's Prayer. This initiative is aimed at reaching those who attend Mass infrequently.

The closing prayer was led by Anne Stroud.

Our next PPC meeting is scheduled to take place on January 9, 2019 at 7:15pm in Room 1.