

Annexes to the Annual Report 2015-16

Detailed Input to the Annual Report

Section 1: Community Life

Catholic Women's League

St. Basil's CWL has been quite active during the 2015-2016 year. The Council meets at 11:00am on the second Saturday of each month, September to June excluding December.

In September (Sep 26), the members of the Council provided refreshments following the Pro-Life Mass at 10:00am.

In November, members provided a Guard of Honour at the funeral of Gisele Csombok, a long time member. The Annual Christmas Bake Sale was held a little earlier than usual this year – the week-end of Nov 14/15 due to other commitments. A substantial amount was raised for the Council, as well as funds raised for Campaign Life by the selling of meat pies.

The Annual Diocesan Advent Retreat was held on November 28 at Holy Spirit Parish in Stittsville. Four members of our Council attended.

In January three members of the Diocesan CWL were guests at our meeting – Joanna Sisk, Diocesan President, Sharon St. Jean, Diocesan Past President and Historian, and Onagh Dooley, Diocesan Organization Chair and President-Elect. They were present at the request of the President to offer suggestions and comments about how to proceed in the future.

No meeting was held in February.

At the March meeting, we were informed about Blessed Elizabeth Turgeon who was declared "Blessed" in 2015 and who is the Diocesan model for this year. During the month of March, the President attended the League Development Day on March 19 at St. Martin de Porres Parish.

April is the month of CWL Diocesan Convention and four members attended on 23 April at Good Shepherd Parish. The day was well planned and very meaningful.

On May 1 the CWL co-sponsored with Mission and Social Justice, a discussion on Euthanasia and Assisted Dying. A panel of three members presented various aspects of the subject. The members of the CWL provided refreshments. As well, the President spoke about the issue of palliative care and presented the petition the CWL at the National level is sponsoring. The petition, to be presented to the House of Commons in Parliament assembled, asks that palliative care be identified as a “defined medical service” under the Canada Health Act, so that provincial and territorial governments will be entitled to funds under the Canada Health Transfer system to be used to provide accessible and available hospice palliative care for all residents of Canada in their respective provinces and territories.

The year will closed with a pot-luck lunch to which all women of the Parish were invited, on Saturday, June 11.

Social Activities

This year the social activities coordinator Lorraine Shields organized the roast beef dinner, reception for vets and receptions following the Easter Vigil, First Communion & Confirmation. Many volunteers helped with the planning the menu, ordering the food, shopping for required items, setting up the hall, making the tea & coffee, serving, cleaning up and washing any linens that were used.

The roast beef dinner usually brings in a profit, which is then deposited in the Community Life account (** PLEASE CONFIRM **).

St Basil's Ladies Bridge

The ladies Bridge group has been in existence for well over 45 years. It is a group of women that have established long lasting friendships and have been playing bridge in each other's homes, from fall to spring on a yearly basis. This season (2015-16), just like all other seasons for at least 25 years, starts off with a kick-off luncheon in September held at a restaurant. In 2015-16 it was held at Kristy's on Richmond Rd. There is an annual fee to play and schedules of teams are

distributed at the kickoff luncheon. The next event held by this club is a memorial mass in early November - held at St Basils to remember the deceased members of the club. It is a lovely mass where each deceased members name is mentioned individually. It used to take place on a Saturday morning, but for the last several years, it is held as part of a weekday mass. This mass is followed by a coffee and muffins event held in the church basement, club members and 9am mass attendees are invited.

At the end of the year, in early June there is a closing banquet dinner. This year, like last year, it will be held at Algonquin college international dining room. At the banquet, token prizes are awarded for high scores etc. The balance of the money it has collected from the annual fees is given back to St Basil's as a charitable donation. Sometimes the donation is specifically earmarked and other times it is not. For example, several years ago, the ladies bridge club monies were donated for the purchase of the dishwasher in the parish hall, another more recent time the monies went to renovations in the rectory, and other times, it simply goes to general donations to the parish. As the club gets smaller (members are getting older...), the size of the donations get smaller. A few years ago, when there were approximately 20 teams of two women per team, the amount of the annual donation was approximately a thousand dollars. This year 2015-16, depending on last minute expenses, the amount of the donation should be approx.. \$700 to \$750.00. In 2015-16 there are 13 teams of two = 26 members plus 3 or 4 past members that play as spares.

Section 2 : Christian Services

Refugee Committee

The parish welcomed the Al Dabei family this year. With the support of a very active refugee committee the family has settled into the city and begun the process of adjusting to school and life in Ottawa.

We are looking forward to continuing support for the Al Dabei family while we apply to sponsor a new family.

Mission and Social Justice

This year Mission and Social Justice focused on Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment *Laudato Si*.

We joined the Global Catholic Climate movement and participated in the Global Climate March in November.

We held study sessions on *Laudato Si* for adults and joined the Children's Liturgy group to raise awareness of the environment.

With the CWL we sponsored a panel discussion on Bill C14 and "end of life issues"

Various members of our committee represent St. Basil's with different organizations: Peace and Development, Multi-faith Housing, Right Relations (aboriginal issues), Refugee Committee, Ancoura (mental health), Carlington Community Chaplaincy. They report back monthly to inform us and help in future planning.

Our disbursement sub-committee distributes funds raised through the parish Sunday collections for the missions.

The Caring Ministries

Volunteers visit housebound people and bring them communion.

Cards of sympathy are written to the families of those who have died and an annual remembrance service is held.

The prayer shawl ministry has supported 16 people who are going through difficult times with shawls and prayers.

Mass is said twice a month at Medex with volunteers coming to attend the mass with residents. On the alternative weeks, a parishioner leads a group saying the rosary.

Social Action Committee

The Social Action program has supported community outreach programs in our neighbourhood. These include a Food Cupboard and Christmas Exchange Program.

We have also given financial support to a dozen community charities including harmony House, Interval House, Ottawa Mission, Ottawa Salus Corporation, Ottawa West End Community Support, shepherds of Good Hope, St. Ignace's Summer Camp, St. Joe's Women's Centre, Waupoos Foundation, Youville Centre, Carlington Community Chaplaincy and the West End Community Breakfast and Lunch Programs.

Section 3: Worship Commission Highlights

The Worship Commission is comprised of people from the various ministries at St. Basil's and meets throughout the liturgical year to discuss, plan and evaluate the liturgies for each liturgical season.

This year the children's liturgy became more involved in the Sunday Mass during the last Sunday of each month. The children were dismissed every second Sunday and were involved in the readings and the music during the Mass on the last Sunday of the month.

The Veteran's Mass celebrated on November 8th was well attended and many had very positive comments that morning. People are encouraged to include names of loved ones in the Book of Remembrance during the month of November.

The launch of the Jubilee Year of Mercy was initiated during the month December with the display of the Jubilee Banner in the narthex and the Jubilee prayer being recited to open the Worship Commission meetings. "Lord in your mercy" was included to close each Prayer of Intercession during the Sunday Masses.

The celebration of First Communion on April 3rd welcomed 29 children to the table of the Eucharist for the first time. On April 17th Archbishop Prendergast confirmed 8 youth during the 9:00 AM liturgy. On the feast of Pentecost, May 15th,, one adult was confirmed at Notre Dame Cathedral.

Also on May 15th, Jean Goulet, C.S.C. presided at Evening Prayer to close the Easter Season.

On Saturday morning, April 30th a liturgical workshop, "Eyes, Hands and Hearts" facilitated by Heather Reid was held with a good number of participants present. The workshop focused on the theology and spirituality of "why we do what we do". After Heather's presentation on the liturgy participants were invited to break into their specific ministries for discussion and feedback. A booklet was prepared for the hospitality/usher ministry and lectors were presented with a handout on the responsibilities for commentators and lectors. The reorganization of the responsibilities of the trustee and lector was also clarified. It was agreed that more of these workshops should be held in the future.

Children's Liturgy

The children's ministry of St. Basil's Parish has grown both in numbers and activities over the last year.

The focal point of the ministry continues to be the celebration of Children's Liturgy of the Word, which has taken place three Sundays per month during the 9:00a.m. Mass from September to June. Through song, hearing the Word, reflection, prayers and reciting the creed, children are engaged to reflect on and celebrate who Jesus is and how to put His love into action. Numbers vary throughout the year (from around 10 to 50 children), but a growing group of children have been attending regularly.

As a new initiative, Family Mass has been taking place once per month (last Sunday of the month), giving opportunity for more active participation of children and their families in the 9:00am mass. Children/families take on a range of duties including: greeting, ushering, reading scriptures and prayers of the faithful and handing out bulletins.

A range of family-focused activities have been offered following Family Mass and other select Sunday's through-out the liturgical year. While learning together to celebrate the feasts and fasts of the Church, as well as other cultural milestones, children and their families have been given the opportunity to cultivate a deeper love for and knowledge of God and the heroes of the faith. It has brought the parish community together and given children and families something to take home to their domestic churches. Events have included: Backpack Blessing, Advent Brunch and Wreath making, St. Nicholas gifts, Epiphany Party, Candlemass candle-making, Lenten Brunch, Good Shepherd crafts, Easter Basket Blessing, Support for the Food Cupboard and Community Garden, Mother's Day notes, Pentecost Party and Family Games & Picnic.