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Library



Refuge Family Sponsorship



Eucharistic Ministry,
Pastoral Care

Divine Infant Parish

Annual Report

June, 2017



Knights of Columbus
Council 7873



Catholic Women's
League of Canada



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Pastor's Message

Fr. Waldemar Podlasz SDS

"Dear brothers and sisters, the Church loves you! Be an active presence in the community, as living cells, as living stones."

Pope Francis

Dear Friends in Christ,

Another year has come and gone. We put together this Annual Report to simply give you a good sense of what is a present status of our many activities, ministries and programs. Every time when I am reading through the Report, two things come to mind.

First, I am always amazed at the commitment and dedication of our parishioners, we should be always proud of ourselves for maintaining such a wonderful and vibrant parish community.

Second, there is that deep sense of gratitude and love, I see this report as an opportunity for all of us to turn to our fellow parishioners and say "Thank you". This is not just a small group of volunteers, they are a good portion of our parish, people with big hearts committing their time, talents and treasure on almost a daily basis. Also, don't forget, we always have room for new volunteers to join any ministry, program or parish group.

Please pray for each other and pray for your parish to be always, in the words of Pope Francis, "*living cells and living stones*".

In Christ,
Fr. Waldemar Podlasz SDS
Pastor

Pastoral Council

Carl Ward, Chair

Another year has passed and Divine Infant Parish continues to grow in faith and community. We are blessed to have our Priests, Deacons, Administrative Staff and a host of dedicated volunteers throughout our ministries. We are especially blessed to have you, the parishioners, who make up our faith community and contribute to the life of the parish in so many ways.

Under the direction of our Pastor, the Pastoral Planning Process is complete and the Pastoral Plan is in the final stage of completion. The Plan will be issued by June 1st. I wish to thank the following Pastoral Council Members for their leadership, dedication, focus and teamwork on achieving this important goal.

- Father Waldemar (Pastor), Jeff Orser, Pamela O'Connor, Jennifer Millenor, Rob Halpin, Madelaine Langedock, Deacon Mike Seguin and Deacon Gerry Panes.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, this has been a wonderful & exciting journey for the Parish. I wish to extend the Council's sincere thanks to the parishioners for their unwavering support and substantial contributions to the Pastoral Plan.

Also, I am pleased to announce the recipients of the Parish Appreciation Award for this year. The recipients are as follows: Mevan and Nirmalee Perera, James and Ruthlin Finter, Shari Kajiura and Vince Amelotte. Congratulations!

Please note that the Annual Parish Picnic is planned for Sunday, June 25th.

Always remember that this is your parish; and, as your representatives, our Pastor and Pastoral Council are always open to and willing to consider your ideas and assist you in any way we can. We are a parish family with a common goal, which is to Love, Praise and Honor Jesus.

Have a happy and safe summer!

Finance Council

Dcn. Jeff Le Bane, Parish Manager; Susan Galarneau, Chair

The Finance Council is an advisory body to the Pastor. Its responsibilities include attending to the temporal affairs of the parish, developing administrative and financial policies, and ensuring the proper maintenance of the parish complex. It consists of the Pastor, a Chairperson and six members as well as ex-officio members such as the Associate Pastor and the Parish Manager.

The 2016 fiscal year ended in a healthy financial position for the parish. This was primarily the result of increased donations and savings. The parish is current in all its payments and there are no outstanding debts. This was the year that also saw the reintroduction of regular religious article sales and a dedicated display area of religious goods for sale.

Several major repair and renovation works were completed, including the resurfacing old the sidewalk in front of the Church, enhancement of the Sanctuary lighting as well as the sound system in the Church. Service Canada continued to provide the parish with funding for a summer student which facilitated our daily maintenance work while these projects were underway. Volunteers also played an important role in maintenance work and again helped to reduce expenditure costs.

Cash on hand at the end of 2016 was \$90,602. Deposits to the Diocesan Loan Fund increased from \$111,472 in 2015 to \$166,472 on December 31, 2016. Receivables for deposit amounted to \$4,925. Parish equity totaled \$261,999.

Summary of 2016 Renovations and Major Projects:

- Annual cleaning and restoration work to the complete parish facility
- Asphalt resurfacing of the sidewalk in front of the Church
- Replacement of the concrete stairway at the parish office entrance
- Installation of cautionary sidewalk signs at the entrance to the Church
- Enhancement of the Sanctuary lighting in the Church
- Enhancement of the sound system equipment in the Church
- Pruning of all trees and shrubs on the Church property
- Maintenance improvements to the parish computer system
- Annual inspection and servicing of the parish generator

Following on the results of the parish survey, the Finance Council has approved the introduction in 2017 of quarterly reporting on parish revenues and expenditures. These reports will be available to all parishioners as inserts in the weekly parish bulletin. Working on the basis of these reports, a detailed year-end report will be prepared, which will replace the present narrative and format in the annual report.

Liturgy Committee

Marilyn Geis, Chair

The Liturgy Committee are the ones who work closely with the Pastor and Clergy to bring together the various parts required to mould each liturgical celebration into an act of worship by Christians gathered to celebrate the mystery of Christ.

The Liturgy Committee is comprised of Children's Liturgy, Music, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers and Sacristans. Leaders of each ministry have submitted individual annual reports as shown below.

Children's Liturgy

Rebecca Cherry, Leader

The Children's Liturgy is responsible for organizing and presenting the liturgy to children ages two to twelve. Our goal is to help children understand the gospel and prayer at their level. There are three different levels offered; preschool (ages two to senior kindergarten - parents accompany children), junior (grade one to students preparing for 1st Communion), and senior (students who have received 1st Communion, until grade six). Children's liturgy is offered three Sundays a month from September to June. We currently have seventeen volunteers; five volunteers lead the preschool group in simple prayer, song and craft, five volunteers for the junior and four volunteers senior groups who guide the children through the liturgy and engage the students in discussion centered around the gospel, and three volunteers who assist the leaders. We are always looking for new volunteers who enjoy working with children and families and I hope to do more promoting in the fall.

There have been many changes over this past year; there are three new volunteers. We continue to have space concerns with the preschool group. The preschool group is now meeting in the main hall and the junior group is meeting in the small room off the main hall. We are very pleased that our preschool group is continuing to grow, but we've now outgrown the small room

off the main hall. This will create some problems in the fall and winter next year when there is an increase in attendance with the junior group as more families attend the children's liturgy mass in preparation for their child's first communion. The numbers attending our senior group have also increased this year. With the help of the Knights of Columbus, the CWL and volunteers we had a very successful Christmas Party in December. We have begun preparation for our year end party in May and we'll take a break over the summer months.

Music Ministry

Garth Periera, Leader

This year has seen some transition with musicians while also experiencing great fruit with new musicians. Lisa-Marie Massey, after many years serving this parish has moved on from leading the Sunday 11:15 am choir and the children's choir. We are grateful for her many years of tremendous service and gifts given to the Divine Infant music ministry.

We are blessed to have Corey Arnold, professional opera singer and choir conductor, take her place in leading the 11:15 am choir and children's choir. Corey is an outstanding musician and an excellent leader for these choirs. In addition, we have added two accomplished piano accompanists to play for these choirs, Rosanne Deluca and Eric McKay. Rosanne also plays at the Saturday 5:00 pm Mass and Eric accompanies at the 8:00 am Mass. Both choirs are looking for more singers so if you are a singer or know of one, adult, teen or child, please contact Corey Arnold.

Finding a good musician willing to get up early enough on Sundays to play for the 8:00 am Mass is not easy but Tim Mouchet, who has played in the parish for many years, has taken on the music for this Mass. We thank Tim for his willingness to share his talents with us at the 8:00 am mass.

We have a new music leader added to the number of musicians for Masses in the parish. Patrick Fletcher, an excellent seasoned musician with plenty of experience in liturgical music is now playing once a month at the 9:30 am Mass on Sundays.

Here is a breakdown of the musicians for each Mass (*The choirs are subject to change depending on the month*):

Date	Saturday 5:00 pm	Sunday 8:00 am	Sunday 9:30 am	Sunday 11:15 am	Sunday 6:30pm
1 st Week	Angela Lavictoire /Rosanne Deluca	Tim Mouchet & Rob Waters	Children's Choir	Adult Choir	Cecile O'Hara
2 nd Week	Tom Lindsey & Steve Moore	Tim Mouchet & Rob Waters	Mike David	Adult Choir	Cecile O'Hara
3 rd Week	Ludy Hollick & Louise Malloy	Tim Mouchet & Rob Waters	Children's Choir	Adult Choir	Garth Pereira & Youth Band

4 th Week	<i>Rotation continues</i>	Tom Lindsey	Patrick Fletcher	Adult Choir	James Pereira & Youth Band
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We would like to see more musicians contribute their gifts. Please let Garth Pereira know if have music ability, singing or playing on an instrument, and would be willing to share your musical gift with the parish. We are also looking into opportunities to provide music and liturgical training.

We are also looking to start a Tech Crew Ministry to operate the sound board and laptop for the projector. If you have a good ear for sound or are comfortable with computers, we would love to have you assist at Mass either on the sound board or the projector. We can provide training for you, please contact Garth Pereira.

Children's Choir and Adult Choir

By Corey Arnold, Leader

Both choirs received a new director this year (myself) who started at the end of November (just in time for Christmas Masses).

The children's choir is doing great. We are very slowly growing in size but we've been somewhat steady since restarting in November. We anticipate losing some members on and off during the summer, but we hope to spur some new growth come the return to school in September. The children are excited to learn harmonies though we still struggle with singing both parts at the same time. It is probably just a matter of time.

The Adult Choir is doing great as well. We've received steady positive feedback from parishioners about the quality of music especially around Christmas and Easter. Membership is an issue as most of our members are quite a bit older than the average parishioner. We have frequent illness and it sometimes requires us to do a less ambitious piece at the last minute because without enough singers in one section we have to revert to something simpler. I am hoping to chat with our two younger members about efforts to seek our new members for next September. We have also set a goal to try and sing more sheet music during mass. We hope to use what we have in the music library as well as seeking new arrangements of well-known hymns so that we can do something more challenging without making it difficult for the congregation to participate.

Both choirs had a great time singing together on Palm Sunday. We hope to do this again in the future.

Altar Servers

Blessilda Donoghue, Leader

Beginning in January 2017, under the guidance of Father Waldemar, I have replaced Ludy and Michelle Hollick as the coordinator for our Altar Server ministry. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Ludy and Michelle for their many years of service and

dedication as coordinators for this ministry in our parish. Their hard work and diligence has been so important – ensuring our servers are well trained, not only in what to do, but also in their overall understanding of the mass. They have actively helped the faith of these children grow as they participate in our various liturgies, and I hope to do the same as I continue in this ministry.

The Altar Server's ministry is special and privileged. Other than the priests and deacons, no one else may so closely participate in the preparation of the Eucharist which is celebrated by Roman Catholics around the world every day. When you serve the priests and deacons, you serve the people of God and above all, you serve Jesus Christ. It is our heartfelt prayer that through this ministry, all our servers grow in their love of their neighbour and in their relationship with God.

Altar Serving remains an important ministry and an integral part of liturgies (from Sunday masses to First Communions and Confirmations, to weddings etc.) at our parish. We currently have several senior altar servers who have graduated from high school but still come and serve on an occasional basis; there are ten high school students who serve regularly/occasionally; and seven to nine servers from the elementary schools. Although the overall number of altar servers has steadily decreased over the years, Father Waldemar has started training sessions for new servers. We look forward to having them begin serving at mass in the coming weeks.

Presently, we have three dedicated mass coordinators. Jackie Kierulf who coordinates at the 9:30 am mass, Anna Thompson who coordinates the 11:15 am mass and myself, coordinating the 6:30 pm mass. We are current seeking volunteers to be mass coordinators for the 5:00 pm and 8:00 am masses. Victoria Pusiak continues to support this ministry by coordinating the altar server requirements in regards to First Communions and Confirmations.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Joan Scott, Leader

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, or Communion Ministers as they are more commonly known, serve communion with dignity and humility, impressing upon others the living presence of God. They assist the Priest in serving communion at regular weekend masses, daily masses and on special occasions.

Although this ministry is generally smooth running with no major problems, ministers sometimes do not show up when scheduled and do not find a substitute. This results in the sacristan having to look for last minute replacements. If a particular minister proves unreliable by missing three or more scheduled servings without a valid reason, they may be asked to leave the ministry. From time to time reminders of the need for reliability as well as notifications of changes in procedures are sent out to ministers.

Numbers of Eucharistic Ministers varies at times due to people entering or leaving the ministry because of changing health or family circumstances. There are also a number of ministers who serve communion at daily masses. We are blessed with devoted ministers but additional volunteers would be most welcome at all masses, particularly at the 8:00 am and 11:15

am masses and especially during the summer months. A strong core of Eucharistic Ministers are necessary to supply the needs of special occasions such as Christmas and at the Easter Triduum when both the host and wine are served and extra masses are said at St. Peter High School. At these times of year many people are out of town so it is particularly important that those who are not volunteer their services for the special masses and liturgies.

This is truly a ministry of love and is a blessing for all who are part of it.

Lector/Reader Ministry

Richard Boulianne, Leader

The Lector Ministry consists of 5 Mass co-ordinators and Lectors for each of the five weekend Masses. Each co-ordinator schedules their Lectors for their specific Mass. They also canvas their Lectors to find volunteers for special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. Lectors are responsible to prepare for their assigned Reading.

This past year the Mass co-ordinators met and discussed changes needed to the document “Notes for Lectors” since the use of the Book of Gospels was introduced. At the same time it was decided to produce a small prayer card for all the Lectors.

The past year has seen the introduction of 5 new Lectors which has brought the ranks to approximately 75. It would still be nice to have a few more volunteers for the Youth Mass on Sundays at 6:30 pm.

Ushers/Greeters

Stephane Therrien, Leader

This year the Usher Ministry came under a new leader. The process has been positive and all ushers have been very cooperative in this change. Our biggest challenges are always the special masses like Easter, Christmas and large communions, but working like a big team, we got through these without problems.

We are still in need of more ushers. We welcome the help at all mass times, but there is a huge need on Sundays at the 9:30 am and 6:30 pm masses. Currently we have approximately 60 ushers spread out over 5 mass times and I want to thank all of them for a great year.

Sacristans

Marilyn Geis, Leader

Sacristans prepare for all liturgical celebrations to ensure that the Church is a welcoming, visible sign of love and reverence toward God. They usually arrive about an hour before Mass to have sufficient time for arranging the books needed for the proclamation of the Word and the presider’s prayers, and setting out the chalice, paten, cruets, bowl, altar linens, hosts and altar wine. Doors must be unlocked, vestments, altar and chair cloths, appropriate to the liturgical season or feast day are laid out, lights and the sound system turned on, and candles filled and lit.

We are fortunate to have many sacristans as it is necessary to have a sufficient number for each Mass during the weekends and on weekdays and for replacements for those who must be absent due to illness, holidays, family responsibilities or people who move away or retire from the ministry.

During special celebrations or at Christmas or Easter, extra diligence is necessary to ensure that everything goes as it should. At funerals, daily Masses and sometimes during summer months, sacristans must not only see to the preparations for the Mass but also act as altar servers. For funerals and special occasions more experienced sacristans are also needed as altar servers.

Parish and Community Life

Marilyn Geis, Leader

The social committee is responsible for overseeing events which contribute to parish and community life, such as gatherings for celebrations, to say welcome or farewell, or just to relax, play and enjoy each other's company. Among the activities this year was a reception for newly ordained deacons, a get-together after the Mass for the sick, an after a sacred music concert gathering and the RCIA Easter Vigil reception.

The committee organizes events, decorates the space appropriately, and arranges for the provision of food and drink so that all may enjoy coming together with fellow parishioners for special occasions. They also ensure that the kitchen is always well stocked with items such as coffee, tea, sugar, milk, napkins, plates and glasses. At events, duties include purchasing or receiving donated foods, setting out the food and beverages, seeing that plates are restocked when empty, and then clearing up afterwards. Dishes are washed in the dishwasher and put away in the cupboards.

A small group of persons assist on a regular basis and others offer their services from time to time. Also, some attendees graciously offer to help in the clean up after an event.

Baptism Ministry

Linda Moyle, Leader

The Baptism Ministry team is involved in three specific activities: Presentation Sunday is usually held once per month; Parent Gathering one Tuesday per month, except for Advent and Lent and a Baptism Ceremony is normally held twice per month. During the summer months there is a Presentation Sunday and Parent Gathering at the beginning of July and a Baptism Ceremony in July and August.

In the past year there have been 80 community baptisms and 5 private ones. The number of children at each ceremony varies from one or two to seven or eight.

Volunteer numbers are small but we manage with what we have. If we had more people we could alternate more often. Music always adds something special to the occasion, but it is sometimes difficult to get.

Marriage Preparation

Michael and Amy Hall, Leaders

The Marriage Preparation Team is undergoing a couple of significant changes over the course of this year. Firstly, there will be a change in leadership. Michael and Amy Hall will be stepping down as the facilitators. They will remain on the team and help to see a smooth transition take place for the new Coordinators: Dn Mike and Josiane Seguin! The Marriage Preparation Ministry is pleased to see Dn Mike and Josiane return following the brief pause they took while they were going through the Diaconate Formation. They have a deep love for the Lord, for each other and for building up the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony: a pretty good fit indeed! Marriage Preparation is certainly in good hands under their leadership.

This brings us to the next change, the program that has been used at Divine Infant Parish for many years is going out of print, therefore we must consider our other options. There are a number of other good programs available, it is just a matter of finding the right fit. If you are so inclined, please offer a prayer for us to make a worthy discernment in where the Lord is leading this ministry.

We have a strong team of volunteers who assist at the Divine Infant Parish Marriage Preparation course, including 4 couples from our parish, one guest couple from another parish, one new couple and finally a gentleman who serves by sharing his Financial Advisor wisdom. One couple has discerned that it is time for them to move on from assisting with Marriage Preparation. Therefore, to conclude, we would like to express our gratitude to Mevan and Nirmalee Perera for serving the Marriage Preparation Ministry generously over the past 16 years. Thank you for sharing of yourselves to help engaged couples to grow in their love for each other and for the Lord. May many blessings be yours as you continue to love and serve God through other means.

RCIA/RCIT

Dcn. Jeff Le Bane, Spiritual Head; Lynne Kaluski, Coordinator

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Teens (RCIT) is designed to help prepare persons who (1) want to be baptised, (2) to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church from other Christian faith communities and (3) baptised Catholics who have not received the other Sacraments of Initiation.

With the decline in the number of parishes offering RCIA programs, the parish is receiving inquiries and applications from all over the City of Ottawa and from rural areas on the eastern side of Ottawa. Approximately 75 inquiries are received through the year as well as 30 applications. We are also receiving requests from young Catholic adults to audit the program, including from St. Paul's University.

At present there is a special need to have more parishioners involved as team members and a lesser need to have more potential godparents and sponsors. Team members must have a

thorough knowledge of the Catholic faith, be comfortable in giving weekly presentations, lead discussion groups and be prepared to give ample time to the ministry work as RCIA meets weekly and from the First Sunday of Advent, there are Sunday dismissal/gospel sessions during Mass. The Diocese from time to time offers training programs as well as enrichment sessions for all parish RCIA teams. Materials used are constantly being updated.

The RCIA attaches importance to Rites as historically the Rite of Christian Initiation dates back to the 4th Century A.D. There are three Rites of significance during the RCIA year: the Rite of Acceptance (First Sunday of Advent), the Rite of Election (First Sunday of Lent) at the Cathedral and presided over by the Archbishop, and the Easter Vigil, when the catechumens and candidates receive the Sacraments of Initiation as applicable.

Sacramental Preparation

Victoria Pusiak, Leader

School aged Sacramental preparation is for Children who have been re-enrolled in school and are seeking reception of the sacraments. Preparing and celebrating sacraments is one of the many important functions of our parish.

Baptism for school aged students this year had 13 students received into the faith. Profession of faith was received by 2 students this year. This is for those students who were baptized in a recognized valid Christian faith and have converted to Catholicism, one of the parents must be a Catholic for the profession of faith to occur.

First Reconciliation for students in Grade 2 and above was held on two separate evenings in January; 202 students received this sacrament.

First Eucharist was received by 201 students in three beautiful Masses following Easter April 23rd, April 29th & April 30th. The church was full and the Masses so very beautiful. The students were the ones to welcome the families and do the readings. It was truly lovely.

Archbishop Prendergast, SJ and Bishop Riesbeck, CC will confer confirmation on our parish students June 16th and 17th. We will have 141 students receive this wonderful sacrament. In the group of students receiving Confirmation we also will have 7 students receive their First Eucharist.

We continue to see a growth in the number of young families receiving Baptism and First Eucharist. Depending on the size of the birth year this number will always fluctuate. Our parish school class sizes for First Eucharist and Confirmation (for those students who attend the public school board or are in the French Catholic school board) has increased.

Father Matthew has begun instruction in the classroom for Confirmation candidates and this has been met with great success.

It is my understanding that next year is a high birth year for those students who will be preparing for First Eucharist and Confirmation. We look forward to another wonderful year of preparation for these students.

Adult Faith Formation Group

Joyce Mary Rogers, Leader

Our group meets every two weeks to gather to pray and study “Sacred Scripture. To date we have completed a number of projects studying many aspects of Catholicism. Recently, we have completed the Gospel of St. John, the Gospel of St. Mark and are presently praying and studying the Gospel of St. Matthew.

Our main objective is to try and apply the Gospel of Jesus, made known to us through Sacred Scripture, and apply various aspects of the Gospel to our daily lives.

In studying Sacred Scripture, we continuously ask the question “what does this mean for me personally” with regard to our relationship with God. How can I be a servant leader among my family, friends and in our present culture?

Through this endeavour, we have discovered an insatiable hunger and thirst to know the Heart of Jesus more deeply. The decision to deepen our faith walk with others has helped all of us grow spiritually and resulted in forming deep rooted friendships.

We are most grateful to our Spiritual Director, Father Matthew, whose charism for teaching is greatly appreciated and always warmly welcomed.

Youth Ministry

Jacob Douglas and Josee Loiselle, Leaders

Pope Paul VI said that the Church “*exists in order to evangelize.*” Ever since we arrived at Divine Infant in July of 2016 as the youth ministers, we have pushed ourselves to evangelize the youth of Divine Infant as effectively as possible. St. Thomas Aquinas said, “*To convert somebody go and take them by the hand and guide them.*” We are here to build relationships, make meaningful connections, and direct youth towards Christ. A lot has been happening in our ministry here at Divine Infant over the past year. We’d love to share some of them with you:

- Youth Nights (Every Friday: Jr. High at 6:00pm and Sr. High at 8:00pm)
 - Jr. High: grade 6-8
 - Started year with approximately four to six youth
 - Currently have about ten to twelve.
 - Sr. High: grade 9-12
 - Started with approximately eight to ten
 - Currently have about ten to fourteen.

*The actual attendance can greatly vary from one night to another..

- We have a newly refurbished and updated youth office!
- Lunch visits to St. Peter’s high school

- Classroom visits and presentations at St. Matthew's High School. We have also begun to show some of the Alpha film series in classrooms.
- Archdiocesan youth event on Advent and Reconciliation
- Retreat for high school age volunteers.
- Passion Retreat (March 25th // Grades 6-8)
- Think Fast retreat (Good Friday - April 14th)
- Continued formation for youth volunteers (bi-weekly)
- Confirmation Retreats for all Divine Infant 280 confirmandi.
- We will be going to Steubenville Toronto (July 28-30th // Grade 8-12)
- One of our Senior Youth has co-started a discipleship night, Sunday's after the youth Mass. It is a time of fellowship, prayer, faith discussion, praise and worship. (8 - 10pm)

As you can see, so much fruit has been born. It has been such an adventure, beautiful and challenging. We want to thank all of you for your prayers and support. If you feel called, please consider joining us in this mission of evangelization. There is a need for your gifts which God has given you. Please keep us in your prayers and invite any youth you know to join us on Friday nights. God bless.

Pastoral Care

Bev de Montigny, Leader

Pastoral Care is a ministry of presence and outreach to those among us who are sick and/or housebound. Parishioners or their family members usually call the parish office with a request for a home visit and as we respond to these requests, which most often include bringing the Eucharist, we endeavor to convey our parish community's spirit of care and concern to those we serve.

Our team has fourteen members and we are assisted by five other parishioners who accompany us on various visits to senior's residences or long term care facilities. This year our team made weekly visits to nine parishioners in their homes, either over the short or long term, depending on their need. As well, we made on-going visits to two Seniors Residences, Villa and Promenade, serving thirty to forty seniors each week. At Queenswood Villa we lead a rosary and Communion of the Sick service while at Promenade we brought Communion on Sunday to the residents. Members of our team also lead a group rosary at Madonna twice a month and we have recently begun leading a twice monthly Communion of the Sick service there, bringing communion bedside to those who are unable to attend in the Chapel. We were also privileged to lead the Stations of the Cross at the parish one Friday during the Lenten season.

We meet as a team about four times a year to share with and support one another in ministry and to plan the yearly celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Sick which we host, with the assistance of other groups in the parish, on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes in February.

Team members making home visits are required to take a Basic Pastoral Care Course which the majority of the team has completed. This year two team members attended the Fall course and one is presently attending the Spring course which will be completed in May. We are

always happy to welcome new members to join us. If you are a good listener, have a heart for bringing a loving, caring presence to those you serve and are able to devote as little as an hour or two a week to this rewarding ministry, we would encourage you to consider becoming part of the Pastoral Care team.

Bereavement Group

Diane Jemus, Leader

“He sets a time for sorrow, for joy, for mourning, and for dancing.” Eccles 3:14

The main purpose of the Bereavement Group is to encourage the heartbroken mourners with listening hearts. This presence can be through a simple phone call, a card, individual and group counselling, a touch, a book. A teddy bear, a prayer shawl and a social gathering. The group benefits from many resources including DVDs, books, meditations, etc.

Over the past year, we held two well-attended seminars. In November we hosted a seminar on Coping With the Holidays. This seminar featured a DVD presentation by Dr. Bill Webster. There were 17 participants who shared their fears, concerns, hopes and tears. They were encouraged to anticipate the day positively, to communicate their needs and given ideas on how to honour their loved one.

In January, we offered an 8 week seminar on Dealing With Grief, using the DVD Grief Matters. The subjects included understanding our loss, loneliness, faith and meaning, depression, anger, guilt, reinvesting oneself, etc. There were 14 participants who completed the programme. During both seminars, the participants learn from one another in the group sharing. Lead facilitator Sandra Foran fielded questions and provided valuable insights and empathy along with other facilitators. Friendships were born. This group has joined the monthly dinner organized by a “graduate” of the group, Vince Ameliotte. Close to 40 people gather monthly for food, beverage and conversation.

Two more grieving seminars are planned for the fall and winter as well as the Coping With the Holidays. Individual counselling continues throughout the year. The Bereavement Group has also forged a relationship with the Royal Bank for referral purposes. Volunteers include: Sandra Foran, Ruth Spearns, Gina Beauchamp, Fran Tremblay, Lynn Morel, Sarah Rankin and Diane Jemus.

Cursillo Movement

Robert Chamberlain, Leader

To my knowledge, this is the first Cursillo movement contribution to the Divine Infant Parish Annual Report. I am pleased to provide you with a summary as follows:

- At the request of the parish coordinator for the Ottawa Cursillo Movement, I volunteered to be the parish Cursillo representative at Divine Infant (DI). In June 2016, after some discussion and approval from Father Waldemar, I was designated as the parish rep. My role is to be the information link between DI parishioners and the wider Cursillo community. I

made my Cursillo weekend in October 1989. My faith and my life underwent many positive changes, and for that I'm forever grateful.

- DI has 2 posters on the bulletin board describing what Cursillo is about, and announcing upcoming weekends. Four Cursillo weekends are held annually, typically in the spring and fall. A women's weekend was held in March, and a men's in April. The next weekends are in October and November. Brief announcements are also listed in the parish bulletin.
- Over the past 25 years, there are approximately 225 DI parishioners who have made a Cursillo weekend. From June to August, I contacted many parishioners and assisted them in getting/keeping connected with the wider Cursillo community (website, email, etc).
- In the upcoming months, I would like to engage DI parishioners who have made a Cursillo (and others are welcome too) for ongoing friendships and fellowship within the parish and the wider Cursillo community. This will require discussions and approval from Father Waldemar.
- I am available to provide more information on Cursillo to our priests, deacons, other ministry representatives and the parish council. If a brief presentation is possible, please let me know.

Divine Mercy Cenacle

Cindy Kearns O'Hara and Stan Siok, Leaders

Over this past year the Divine Mercy Cenacles have continued to thrive and grow, both in strength of commitment to Divine Mercy, and in the number of Cenacle members. A steady average of 20 members participated over the year in the three Cenacles held weekly every Monday following mass from 7:45 to 9:45 pm. The average number of regular members is now 30, which means a fifty percent increase and the addition of a fourth Cenacle.

There is no cost to the parish other than the use of the church for the two hours on Monday evening.

The two new banners unveiled on Easter Sunday were donated by the Cenacle members.

Shepherds of Good Hope

Allen Harvey, Leader

Summer of 2016 was another success regarding feeding the needy at Shepherds of Good Hope. Recruiting of volunteers was staged on the weekends of May 28/29 and June 18/19. We were blessed with good weather on both occasions and people were very generous with their intentions to help. Additional recruiting was done by e-mail and telephone. A total of 193 Divine Infant volunteers participated. These number reflect the participation attained in 2015.

On the Sundays of July and August, food for hundreds of meals was prepared for cooking and serving throughout the summer. In addition, volunteers assembled thousands of sandwiches

to be handed out at the door. A total of 2079 wholesome meals were served. The number of meals eaten on any given Sunday in July or August ranged from 125 to 305.

Sign-ups for volunteering at this summer's soup kitchen will be held at the back of the church on Saturday/Sunday, May 27/28 and then repeated on Saturday/Sunday, June 17/18.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Anne Seath, Leader

There are about eight ladies who meet together once a month to pray, make shawls, exchange patterns and knitting and crochet advice. There are several others who make shawls at home and give them for the ministry.

In the last year we have presented approximately 40 shawls or lap blankets. They are given to people who are ill, grieving, or going through a difficult time. The shawl is a reminder that the person is "wrapped in prayer." These are always very well received and we have been sent many beautiful cards of thanks.

Madonna Tuesday Tea

Marg Boeckler, Leader

Our group of parish volunteers continue to visit the Madonna Nursing Home and hold a Tuesday Tea. When we have enough volunteers we actually hold two separate teas – one in the large activity room on the main floor, and a smaller one on the second floor for those unable to come to the main floor. We go to each room and invite the residents to come to the Teas and to have a short visit with them. If they wish, we sign them out and take them to the parties.

Three piano players and three leading singers direct the singing while the other volunteers serve tea, coffee, or juice to the residents. Volunteers and residents join in the singing as they follow along in the songbooks which contain a wide variety of songs to suit all musical tastes.

Some volunteers also help people at mealtime, some distribute communion at a mass on the third Friday of the month, while others take communion to those who cannot attend the mass. A knitting club meets every Thursday morning and is a very peaceful and friendly time for the residents. As well as playing the piano every Tuesday, Bob Gordon plays every second Thursday afternoon for the residents in the foyer of Madonna.

After the tea is over, the residents are taken back to their rooms and the volunteers may have a short visit with them. Many of our volunteers now know the residents and some have become friends who visit them at other times. The Tuesday Teas are a rewarding experience for all.

Growth in Prayer Course

Diane Jemus, Leader

The purpose of the Growth in Prayer Course is to help participants develop a loving, intimate relationship with Jesus. The format includes attending biweekly prayer and share meetings on Tuesday afternoons, coupled with daily meditations. The course starts in the fall and ends in the spring with a Christmas break in between.

During the 2016-17 session the group reflected on the writings of Catherine Doherty using her book *Soul of My Soul Coming to the Heart of Prayer*. Topics covered included silence, trust, hope, duty and much more. Her insights help integrate our daily lives reflecting both the Mary and Martha roles in which we live. These insights are always supported by scriptural references and solid Catholic teaching. Catherine Doherty is the foundress of the worldwide Madonna House apostolate – a community of both the laity and clerics. Her cause for canonization is now being investigated.

The course will resume in the fall of 2017. The programme for next year has not yet been determined.

Pro-Life Ministry

Gar Knutson, Leader

The Parish pro-life group is a combination prayer group, education group and lobby group which provides an outlet for parishioners who want to become involved in trying to foster a greater respect for human life of the unborn as well as the aged and infirmed, in our community.

Due to the nature of the issue the group struggles. I understand we are more active than at many other churches. Not everyone is comfortable discussing abortion yet alone becoming active on the issue. Consequently our numbers are modest. We have 6 to 12 active members. More volunteers would be welcome. In particular we need people willing to take a shared leadership role within the group. Our members are extremely involved in other groups within the parish.

We meet 4 times a year and sponsor 6 to 8 activities which include:

September – participate in pro-life street corner demonstration in conjunction with Campaign Life

October – prayer outside Bank street abortion clinic as part of Campaign Life's 40 days for life.

November – sponsor Divine Infant Pro Life Saturday morning Mass

December – sell fruit cakes in support of Campaign Life

February – sponsor an education night at the church

April- participate in Hike for Life in support of Action Life

May – participate in March for Life on Parliament Hill

Other – Coins for Life, Precious feet

We get very good support from the priests and the office staff.

Mom's Morning Out

Amy Hall, Leader

Mom's Morning Out has had a great year of spiritual development and friendship. We have made new friends, studied material that inspired a deeper spiritual life and supported each other in our walk with Jesus.

We started the Fall off with going through Catholic Christian Outreach's faith study booklet: Discovery. This helped us to reset on the basic truths and principles of the Catholic faith. This year we have been working through a book by a local Catholic author, Angele Regnier, called "Forgiveness is Key". What a deep and powerful way to journey through the Lent and Easter season, by evaluating the freedom that we are offered through God's mercy and participating in that mercy in our own personal lives through forgiveness.

We have had 25 regular participants this year and we are always open to newcomers. If you are new to the parish community, are a mother on maternity leave or a stay at home mom, don't hesitate to get involved with this mom's group. With our babies and preschoolers in tow, we meet to share, discuss, pray and support each other. There is always a pot of coffee on and plenty of toys to help entertain the little ones.

This summer, we will plan our usual Park Hopping Adventure where we will rotate through the beautiful local parks and splash pads so we can visit and play in the beautiful sunshine. Please join our facebook group to learn more and to see the itinerary of where we'll be each week! www.facebook.com/groups/1509753112644213 or search "Divine Infant Friends". Alternatively you can contact Amy Hall at hallamymarie@gmail.com or 613-424-6968 for more information.

Library Services

Sylvie Bissonnette, Leader

The goal of this ministry is to support the spiritual growth of parishioners of all ages through lending books, DVDs and audio CDs. We collect, catalogue and prepare the material that is either donated to or bought for the Parish Library. At the moment, the Library is open after each regular weekend Mass, from September to June.

Numbers of volunteers vary but is usually about 20. There is a need for additional volunteers as the aim is to have 2-3 people assigned on rotation to each weekend Mass, plus a few replacements for when the need arises. Volunteers are trained as they join the team.

There are two basic types of functions: on-site services and project-based. The first is on-site services where parishioners are assisted in signing out material and locating wanted

material from the library shelves. They also file loan records and reshelve returned material. Project-based volunteers process books by printing and affixing book and loan card labels.

There are library web-pages on the parish website, which contain additional information.

Refugee Family Sponsorship

Jim Finter, Leader

2016 A Jubilee Year of Mercy has been both a challenging and gratifying year. Divine Infant Parish sponsorship of a refugee family from Syria commenced on February 6, 2016 with the arrival of the Alhurira family. As outlined in last year's annual report the volunteer team set about providing support for the family of six. Accommodation was secured and the home furnished, school registration was completed for the three older children. Medical and Dental services were established. Interpreters were recruited to aid in ensuring the many meetings with the family were productive. The interpreters also provided a valuable service in interactions with medical and dental professionals. The year also included ESL for the parents, and day care for the youngest to prepare her for a structured school environment. The settlement committee also familiarized the family with transportation routes and shopping outlets.

As of September 2016, all four Alhurira children are in school full-time. The youngest, Anji is in junior kindergarten and Karen completing Grade 4 at Divine Infant School. The two eldest continue to do very well and to enjoy their experience at Lester B. Pearson High School. Charbel will enter Grade 9 in the fall and Carol will commence her last year of high school (Grade 12).

One of the key priorities for the family continues to be English language proficiency, Carol and Charbel, greatly aided by some excellent tutoring right at the outset (prior to their arrival at Lester B. Pearson Catholic High School in early 2016), have both achieved an Intermediate level of English language competency, with Sawsan working on level 4 and Adham on Level 2. Both hope to stay in the ESL program to reach level 5.

Employment has been more of a challenge. Adham has had 4 part time positions over the sponsorship program in the food services industry. Adham is continuing with his ESL courses and continues to look for employment. Sawsan currently works weekends at Valrideau Student Residence near Ottawa University. Her goal is to complete a sufficient level of ESL so that she can work in childcare.

The family is currently receiving Social Assistance – Ontario Works as of 1 March 2017. The sponsorship contract has now completed (4 Feb 2016 to 28 Feb 2017 inclusive).

THE FINANCIAL DETAILS:

The Government of Canada guideline for a family of six is that a minimum of \$32,500 be raised to support the family for one year. The Divine Infant parish initial goal was to raise \$40,000. However, due to the generosity of our parishioners \$58,343.00 was raised.

In addition, revenues available to the Alhurira family came from Federal and Provincial government Child Tax Credits and other benefits / refunds as well as nearly \$2,000 of employment revenue.

TABLE 1: REVENUES: \$89,300 (Amounts rounded)

Money raised	58,300
Amount used: \$55,500	
Unused (Surplus): \$2,800	
Other Revenues	<u>31,000</u>
Amount used: \$27,000	
Unused (Surplus): \$4,000	
Total Revenues:	\$89,300
Amount used: \$81,700	
Unused (Surplus): \$7,600	

TABLE 2: EXPENSES: \$81,700 (Amounts rounded)

The expenses included all costs covered under the Sponsorship Program including shelter and utilities, food, transportation, clothing, etc. It also included medical and dental costs that are not covered by the *Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP)* or the *Ontario Health Insurance Program (OHIP)*.

Shelter (including rent and household items)	23,000
Utilities	4,800
Food (including food staples and supplies)	18,100
Dental Care	17,300
Transportation (including public transit)	4,400
Clothing (including initial and seasonal)	3,300
Education	2,500
Miscellaneous	<u>8,300</u>
Total Expenses	81,700

TABLE 3: UNFORESEEN EXPENSES: \$26,450

Some major unforeseen expenses included dental and medical expenses (\$20,000) as well as extended the sponsorship period by nearly one month (ending on February 28th 2017 in lieu of February 3rd, and thus increasing the over all shelter, utilities, and all other basic costs associated with the sponsorship agreement such as those items shown in Table 2 above).

Other unforeseen expenses included the replacement of an accidentally damaged stove and cell phone and the purchase of two computers and software for use of by our two high school

students in particular. Five of the six bicycles were donated. They were safety checked and repairs were done.

Extending the Sponsorship by one month	3,400
Dental Care	17,000
Hearing Aids	2,300
Medical (Not covered by IHFP)	300
Computers and Software	1,100
Driver License & Lessons	1,000
Stove Replacement	900
Bikes & Road Safety	350
Cell Phone Replacement	<u>100</u>

TABLE 4: IN-KIND DONATIONS AND PRO-BONO SERVICES: \$17,300

In-Kind donations included the furniture, small appliances, linen and many other household items needed initially to equip and support a 3-bedroom house. Contributions also included donated by the St Francis Of Assisi and Our Lady of Wisdom schools, the Divine Infant Catholic Women League (CWL), the Symphony Senior Home as well as numerous donations (including clothing and household items) from the “Bible for Missions Thrift Store” on Tenth Line. In addition to the \$17,000 cost for dental treatments (Table 3), our two dentists donated much of their time and services to support the dental needs of our family.

In Kind	11,000
Pro Bono (Free Service Dentists)	6,300

Note: These estimated costs are not included in Table 2, Expenses, though they are contributing to the support of the Alhurira family.

Religious Articles Sale Ministry

Monique Sutherland and Mary Michel, Leaders

It was a very busy year, our first full one as leaders of this ministry. We had many sales weekends including an “Inventory Sale” and a “Holy Garage Sale”. We also helped to sell articles brought back from Poland by Father Waldermar to accompany the showing of the play about St. Faustina. This last event was a huge success, both for the play and the sale of articles. We are continuing to add new items to our collection and will have a second “Holy Garage Sale” this summer.

Divine Infant Bridge League

Mary Goodale, Leader

The Divine Infant Bridge League, although not a ministry, is a long running parish activity in which members socialize with other parish bridge players.

This year some 22 parishioners joined the Divine Infant Bridge League. We play a game of bridge in each other's home over the winter months. We get to know each other while playing bridge and socialize afterwards over a cup of tea or coffee. Twice a year we enjoy a pot-luck supper with bridge playing afterwards in the parish hall.

Welcome Committee

Renee Lockert, Leader

The Welcome Committee makes telephone calls to new members of the parish and welcomes them to the community. They let them know of some of the things the parish offers that they might want to get involved in.

The Welcome Committee also would like to form a team of hospitality ministry, people that welcome fellow parishioners and newcomers as they enter the church.

Catholic Women's League of Canada

Teresa Mouchet, President

With planning and discussions by our executive, we have made some changes that are being positively received. At our meetings we have asked women to bring in their special rosaries and share their story of why this one is so special to them. We were introduced to the Divine Mercy Chaplet and prayed the Chaplet until the end of the Year of Mercy. We did a wonderful Advent presentation with prayer – ladies were invited to bring in their advent wreath and share their stories. At the general meeting, we put together stocking stuffers for the St. Joe's Women's Shelter. There was lots of interaction, smiles and laughter during this time. It was beautiful to witness the Holy Spirit at work.

Little things such as changing the table arrangement, having our chair representatives create their own table spaces with sign-up sheets let women coming into the meeting be welcomed, grab a coffee and browse the tables and sign up for various needs. Having our executive spread amongst the membership allows time during the meeting to get up and stretch, grab another coffee and have a second opportunity to browse the tables and chit chat. Adding time for sharing, praying, and keeping reports to a minimum has made a difference. We are blessed to have such a strong Spiritual Chair representative to help facilitate prayer and song. Angela, one of our Spiritual Chair representatives, brought out the piano and led us in singing. She had written two rally songs for us to learn and participate. Although we were all a bit shy and sometimes off key, the room was filled with smiles. I truly believe we are going in the right direction.

On February 25, 2017 we celebrated 35 years as a council and are still going strong. We are actively trying to let our members know of all activities within the Diocesan Council that they are invited to. That way they can witness the bigger part of who we are. As a council our focus is to foster spiritual growth and to tap into the gifts of the Holy Spirit that each of us have been given. There are approximately 88 paid members to date. We have women involved in Music, Adult Choir Ministry, Ministers of Communion, Readers, Greeters/Ushers, Pastoral Care, Bereavement, Baptismal team.

We would love to see our council grow and it would be wonderful to have more members to help volunteer within the parish and community. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month starting with Mass at 7 pm followed by the general meeting and we truly are blessed to have the support of our parish behind the CWL.

Knights of Columbus

Réal Thibault, Grand Knight Council 7873

The Divine Infant Knights of Columbus have been very active in supporting our parish through regular Parish Breakfasts, International Dinners, Paint Nite, and placing a float in the Christmas Parade of Lights. In our parish, the Knights of Columbus have also hosted Rosary Sundays on the 5th Sunday of the month and recently Rose Sunday in support of Pro-Life. Your Knights of Columbus have also raised charitable funds in support of local charities such as the Youville Centre and Miriam Centre, provided bursaries for the two Catholic High Schools and donated to Coats for Kids. We have further engaged with the Youth in our parish and in our community to help foster growth in our Catholic faith. Also congratulations to five of our Council Knights who have just recently become Fourth Degree Knights.

The Knight of Columbus wish to thank the parish of Divine Infant for their continued support for and wish all a safe and enjoyable summer.



Pro Life Ministry

Growth in Prayer Group



Sacramental Preparation

Children's Liturgy





Prayer Shawl Ministry,
Bereavement Group

Parish and Community Life



CWL 35th Anniversary Committee

Shepherds of Good Hope

