

Divine Infant Parish

Annual Report

June 2019



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Pastor's Message

“The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

Dear Friends in Christ,

I’d like to begin my message with these words of Pope Francis. Every effort and every project or program we put in motion should bring us closer to achieving this great goal set by the Holy Father. Every year we should challenge ourselves to work together to truly create a place of *“hearing God’s word, growing in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration”*.

With joy and profound sense of achievement I put this report in your hands. I am very well aware that there is always room for self-evaluation and improvement, at the same time we also have this firm and strong foundation to build upon. A great number of dedicated volunteers, enriching our parish family with so many ministries, programs, devotional life, projects and opportunities for personal spiritual growth, are the wonderful “ambassadors” of our parish in this Diocese. This is something to be always proud of. This is who we are as a Divine Infant Parish. My friends let us make sure that those ministries will continue, please keep us all in your prayers, support and promote it as much as you can and always feel welcome to join in.

Let us together thank God for this past year and pray for the continued spiritual and pastoral growth of our parish as guided by the Holy Spirit.

JESUS, WE TRUST IN YOU!

In Christ,

Fr. Waldemar Podlasz SDS
Pastor

“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word, always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.”

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Pastoral Council

Jeff Orser, Chair

Through this year, the Pastoral Council has continued to prioritize the goals and initiatives outlined in the Pastoral Plan. As year 2 draws to a close, I am pleased to report that nearly half of the initiatives have been completed and the remainder are in varying stages of implementation. The significant progress is thanks to you, the parishioners of our faith community, for your support and contributions.

We are blessed at Divine Infant to have a parish community so committed and dedicated in the sharing of their time and talents. On behalf of the Pastoral Council, I wish to sincerely thank you for your continued support and prayerful consideration.

I wish to extend my appreciation to this year's members of the Pastoral Council for their support and great work. The members include: Father Waldemar (Pastor), Deacon Gerry Panes, Caroline Engmann, Patrick Fletcher, Alisa Valks and Nathan Walker.

The Pastoral Council serves as your representatives and as such, is always open and willing to consider your ideas and assist you in any way we can. We are a Parish family that strives to bring everyone closer together and closer to God.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable 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 five members as well as ex-officio members such as the Associate Pastor and the Parish Manager. The Chairperson has agreed to a one year extension to her term.

The 2018 fiscal year ended in a very healthy financial position for the parish. This was primarily the result of the generous response of parishioners to the Renovations Campaign Fund and to the full benefit of the rental agreement signed with TELUS, which provides for a regular 3% increase in the annual growth of rental income. The parish is current in all its payments and in the transfer to the Archdiocese of all diocesan ordered collections through the year.

Three major Safety and Security projects were completed and paid for under the Renovations Campaign Fund, approved by the diocesan centre. The projects included the restoration of the parking lot, with new lining; the installation of a closed circuit security camera system inside and outside of the Church, and enhanced lighting at the entrance to the Church and in the parking lot. All of this was done to enhance the safety and security of parishioners.

After many years, Service Canada introduced new requirements for the Summer Student Program; the benefit of which the parish had enjoyed over many years as well as assisting a young, energetic student. These new requirements prevented the parish from being able to apply for and hire a summer student. This obviously put a greater workload on our caretaker and his assistant over the summer and early fall. As a result, volunteers played an increasingly important role in maintenance work, and helped to meet work targets and to some degree reduced expenditure costs. A special thank you has to be made to our Knights of Columbus Council who have been so generous in their support.

This year saw also the hiring of a new assistant to our parish caretaker. Our previous assistant had retired after many years of faithful service. The parish held a competition for the position, which drew interest from several applicants. The successful candidate has integrated well and proved to be a hard worker.

Cash on hand at the end of 2018 was \$58,080. Deposits to the Diocesan Loan Fund increased from \$171,472 in 2017 to \$176,472 on December 31, 2018. Receivables for deposit amounted to \$4,350. Parish equity totalled \$246,403.

Summary of 2018 Renovations and Major Projects:

- Restoration with yellow lining, of the parish parking lot
- Enhanced LED lighting of the Church interior, front entrance and parking lot
- Purchase and installation of a closed security camera system for the parish
- Annual cleaning and restoration work to the complete parish facility
- Replacement of the rectory entrance wooden steps
- Purchase of materials and construction of a second wooden pulpit
- Extensive repair work to the women's washroom
- Purchase of a new photocopier for the parish office
- Repair work to the sound system
- Repair work to the Church roof and siding
- Pruning of all trees and shrubs on the Church property
- Removal of diseased fir tree in front of the Church entrance
- Construction of a new crèche
- Parish tractor repair and servicing
- Annual inspection and servicing of the parish generator.

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, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Lectors, Ushers and Sacristans. Leaders of each ministry have submitted individual annual reports as shown on following pages.

Children's Liturgy

Debbie Olsheskie, Leader

I hope the children of Divine Infant Parish grew closer to God in this past year and I am grateful to God for His guidance throughout the year. With the help of Matthew, Renee, Lynn, Sophie, Joel, Maria and Shari we had the children divided into Primary, Junior and Senior. We combined the three groups together for special occasions.

The Christmas Pageant was absolutely beautiful with so many of the children participating and presenting this pageant to our parishioners. We had an All Souls/All Saints celebration and a Christmas

party with a short skit prepared by some of the children about the true meaning of Christmas. The children made Paschal candles for their families and we discussed the meaning of each symbol on the candle. We acted out some of the “Gospels and puppets visiting were a great hit.

Throughout the year emphasis was placed on kindness and how hurting the feelings of another is like breaking their heart. The children tried to fix a torn, broken heart and saw how hurting the feelings of another is like breaking their heart. We decided that we would try to celebrate Mother’s Day everyday and we didn’t need a special day to thank our mothers and tell them how much we love them. Father’s Day is coming and we are planning a special event for the children and their fathers. We plan on having some special games and activities at the Parish Picnic.

In closing I would just like to say thank you to the parents for teaching manners, kindness and sharing to their little ones. This group of children have to be the sweetest group ever. Please keep these precious little ones safe this summer and we will meet again in September.

Altar Servers

Blessilda Donoghue, Leader

The Altar Server ministry continues to be a special and fulfilling ministry for our youth who participate. Our heartfelt prayer is that through this ministry, all our servers grow in 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 are very pleased to report that we continue to grow in numbers with children ranging in age from the elementary grades through high school. Currently, we have 22 active Altar Servers, up from 12 in 2018. We hope to continue to expand in numbers as the First Communion season comes to an end.

I would like to thank Jackie Kierulf for her dedicated service and assistance in coordinating the Altar Servers at the 9:30am Sunday Mass for many years. She has stepped down from this role.

Anna Thompson remains as the Altar Server Mass Coordinator at the 11:15am Sunday Mass.

Victoria Pusiak continues to support this ministry by coordinating the Altar Server requirements in regards to First Communions and Confirmations.

I am also pleased to welcome Michele Hollick as the new Altar Server Mass Coordinator for the 5:00pm Saturday Mass, as well as Angela Kuntz who is the new coordinator for the 9:30am Mass. Christie Charles moves from an Altar Server role, and will assist me with Mass coordinator duties at the 6:30pm Mass.

*“Every one of us needs half an hour of
prayer each day, except when
we are busy - then we need an hour.”*

- St. Francis de Sales

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Diane LeBlanc, Leader

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, more commonly known as Communion Ministers, are well known to parishioners as they serve communion at all Masses on weekends, weekdays and special occasions. As well as the overall Coordinator, there are Mass Coordinators for each of the five weekend masses who are responsible for schedules and communication with their respective teams.

At the present time we are blessed with about 55 Eucharist Ministers in this ministry. Additional volunteers are always needed and welcome. On special occasions such as Christmas and the Easter Triduum, a full complement of Eucharistic Ministers is critical to meet the needs.

Lector/Reader Ministry

Richard Boulianne, Leader

The Lector Ministry consists of a head co-ordinator, five 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 Time. We have two new Mass co-ordinators, Gary Lowe and Kres Jadan. Lectors are responsible to prepare for their assigned Reading.

There are approximately 70 Lectors in total. New Lectors are welcome to join this Ministry and over the past year we have had 4 new lectors join our ranks.

Ushers/Greeters

Stephane Therrien, Leader

Ushers are present at every Mass to greet the parishioners and to assist them in finding seats. They also help when someone becomes ill or needs special assistance. They work from a schedule so that they should not have to be on duty every weekend, but because of a shortage of volunteers this is not always possible.

Although short of help, the ushers do a great job. Additional volunteers would mean that more people are available for special occasions and would relieve the pressure on volunteers who have to serve almost every weekend. We would welcome more ushers/greeters.

“We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish.”

- St. Francis de Sales

Sacristans

Marilyn Geis, Leader

Sacristans usually arrive about an hour before Mass to arrange the books needed for the proclamation of the Word and the presider's prayers, set 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.

During special celebrations such as Christmas or Easter, extra diligence is necessary to ensure that everything goes as it should. At funerals, daily Masses and sometimes when altar servers are not available, sacristans must not only see to the preparations for the Mass but also act as altar servers.

While we are fortunate to have many sacristans at this time, there is always a need for more to supply enough for each Mass during the weekends, on weekdays, for extra weekday Masses during Advent or Lent, and for replacements for those who must be absent or retire from the ministry due to personal circumstances.

Parish and Community Life

Marilyn Geis, Leader

The Parish and Community Life committee oversees 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.

Activities this year included an RCIA Vigil Reception on May 31st, which featured fruit platters, assorted desserts, soft drinks and chocolate and vanilla cake made by Blessilda Donohue; a get-together after the Mass for the sick; and provided tea, coffee and cookies for a reception following the Palliative Care Meeting which was attended by members of the Bereavement and Pastoral Team Ministries as well as others.

For many of the social events the CWL or other groups will look after the reception, but 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.

"The Road of Life

*I expect to pass through this world but once.
Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness
that I can show to any fellow creature, let me
do it now... for I shall not pass this way again."*

- Anonymous

RCIA/RCIT

Dcn. Jeff Le Bane, Leader

The Rite of Christian Initiation remains the principal way adults (RCIA) and teens (RCIT) are baptized (catechumens) into the Catholic Church, received into full communion from other Christian communities (candidates) and for those baptized Catholics who have not received all the Sacraments of Initiation, to be prepared to receive them. Earliest Church records indicate that the RCIA has been a Rite in the Church from 371 AD. Preparation is lengthy and requires considerable time commitment from the catechumens and candidates as well as from godparents, sponsors and team members. Conversion is such an important process. The parish program begins in September, with weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings and proceeds through the Easter Season. From the First Sunday of Advent, catechumens and candidates also attend the 11:15 am Sunday Mass and are dismissed following the homily, to reflect on the Sunday Gospel, per the African RCIA model. There are four parts to the RCIA year- the pre-catechumenate (inquiry), the catechumenate, Lent and Mystagogy. The latter are interspersed with important rites that the parish follows faithfully. These include: the Rite of Acceptance (First Sunday of Advent), the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion (First Sunday of Lent) at the Cathedral, the Stations of the Cross on a Lenten Friday, the three Lenten Sunday Scrutinies, the Easter Vigil itself, where the catechumens and candidates receive the Sacraments of Initiation and become fully Catholic Christians, and the Mass of the Neophytes at the Cathedral (usually the third Sunday of Easter Season).

The parish has been blessed with a vibrant program for many years now and receives many inquiries all through the year for both the adult and teen programs from within the parish as well as from all of Eastern Ottawa. The parish RCIA team provides assistance to parishes setting up their own RCIA programs or provides preparation for those catechumens and candidates from parishes that do not have a RCIA/RCIT program.

This year a number of our *very long* serving team members decided it was time to stepdown from RCIA ministry. We can only thank them for their tremendous commitment and support to our ministry work. Several new members have stepped up to be part of the parish RCIA team; former catechumens and candidates who now feel called by the Holy Spirit to contribute to RCIA ministry work. They have already made a significant contribution to this year's program. We were also joined in 2018 by a new assistant spiritual advisor, Deacon Jim Schultz. Deacon Jim has a long relationship with RCIA/RCIT ministry work. We are delighted and blessed to have him with our parish team. Parishioners who have gone through the program have made themselves available to be godparents and sponsors when needed. Because of their generosity of time and service, we are well prepared to respond to special requests for assistance in identifying suitable godparents and sponsors. Our program uses the Journey of Faith reading materials prepared by the Redemptorist Fathers. These are regularly updated and have proved to be popular with both team members and candidates.

It has been close to thirteen years since the parish hosted a RCIA/RCIT retreat for all those who have been involved or gone through the adult and teen programs. The last retreat had a full, one day program with a spiritual theme of ongoing conversion, a guest retreat master, concelebrated Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation available before Mass. The turnout was very large. After much discussion and reflection, we believe the time has come for another parish RCIA/RCIT retreat. We are hoping to hold one this coming pastoral year, perhaps during the Lenten season. This will require careful preparation and communications outreach in the parish.

Finally, while this year's RCIA Journey of Faith concluded on Pentecost Sunday at the Cathedral, our ministry work continues through the summer as we continue to receive inquiries for our Fall programs. Please support those who may be looking to be baptized or come into full communion with the Church.

Baptism Ministry

Linda Moyle, Leader

The Baptism Team is made up of 4 Different Sub-Teams

PRESENTATION SUNDAY TEAM – 2 Members (Cecile & Lori)

PARENT GATHERING TUESDAYS – 4 Members (Pamela & Callum: Mike & Danielle)

BAPTISM CEREMONY TEAM 1 – (4 Members)-(Linda, Suzanne, Sonia & Cecile)

BAPTISM CEREMONY TEAM 2 – (3 Members)-(Dolores, Nina & Barbara)

For May 2018 – There were 9 Children Baptized.

For June 2018 – There were 7 Children Baptized.

For July 2018 – There were No Children Baptized.

For August 2018 – There were 6 Children Baptized.

For September 2018 – There were 8 Children Baptized.

For October 2018 – There were 10 Children Baptized.

SCHOOL AGE BAPTISM-NOVEMBER 17TH, 2018 – 10 Children Baptized.

For November 2018 – There were 10 Children Baptized

For January 2019 – No Children Baptized.

For February 2019 – There were 11 Children Baptized.

There was a Private Baptism on April 07th, 2019

NOTE: There was 1 School Age Baptism Ceremony, but some School Children were Baptized During the Regular Ceremonies.

SPECIAL NOTE; *There were 3 School Age Children who volunteered for the Cross and Candle Bearers for the Stations of the Cross, which afforded them the opportunity to be exposed to a liturgy other than Mass.*

Library

Nina Regimbald, Leader

The Divine Infant Library resource collection consists of a wide variety of subjects with more than 2000 titles. The online library catalog continues to be available to reserve a book, CD, or DVD. There are many Biographies, books for Children & Young Adults, books on Prayer, on Mary and Jesus, Spiritual Healing & Spiritual Life, Papal documents, Faith Development, the Catholic Church, Sacraments, Liturgy, Theology, and so much more. Hundreds of new and used books, DVDs and CDs have been generously donated and continue to grow this parish resource.

Library Services is dedicated to proactively providing Divine Infant Parishioners of all ages with comprehensive faith building reference and general interest material.

Additional volunteers are encouraged to join us to reach the library goal of remaining open Saturday's after 5pm Mass and after each Mass on Sunday (closed during summer months). Thank you to Jennifer Goldstone for her continued support. To volunteer - students are welcome - or be available to provide a few hours to assist with library services, kindly drop by and speak to us after mass or please email dilibraryservices@gmail.com.

Sacramental Preparation

Victoria Pusiak, Leader

School aged Sacramental preparation is for Children enrolled in school 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 16 students over the age of 4 and before the age of 7 received into the faith.

Profession of faith was received by 5 students this year. This is for those student's 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 one in January and one in February. On those cold dark winter nights we usually have 7 priests available to guide the students in this sacrament.

First Eucharist was received by 146 students in four beautiful Masses following Easter, May 4th, 5th, 18th and 25th. The students welcomed the families and proclaimed the word by the readings. It was truly lovely and a wonderful reception of the sacraments.

A portion of the preparation for First Eucharist includes 4 Wednesday evening catechetical instruction in the church, with almost 150 student and families it is a busy time. Fr. Waldemar leads the instruction which also gives them the opportunity to be in the sacred space and learn about specific aspects of our faith increases their knowledge significantly. I also visit the gr 2 classrooms to show a Brother Francis DVD and to chat with the students in the school environment. This also allows those students who are not receiving the sacraments this year to ask questions. I am always amazed at the profound questions and their understanding of Gods infinite love, and how they intend to share it with the world. The tour of the parish church and practice for First Eucharist is such an exciting time for all

Archbishop Prendergast SJ and Bishop Riesbeck CC conferred the sacrament of confirmation on our parish students May 31st and June 1st. We had two groups receive confirmation for a total of 118 students. In the group of students receiving Confirmation we also had 1 student receive their Frist Eucharist. The students were asked to select a patron saint and to prepare a project on that saint. The quality of the projects was outstanding and they were displayed throughout the parish hall at the reception the parish hosted following Confirmation. At the time of confirmation the Archbishop and Bishop confirmed the students in their first name along with their saint name. This has such a powerful impact and affirms the connection between the student and the saint. Every year a few students select saints I may not have heard of before it is always interesting to discover why they select their specific saints.

Father Tavis Goski met with the confirmation students in the classroom 3 times throughout the year. This allows for much discussion and opportunity for questions. Gratefully this is possible with the support of the teachers and principals for which we are appreciative. Each school enjoyed a Confirmation retreat organized in the parish by our youth Coordinators. An evening of reconciliation prior to Confirmation had the students embrace this sacrament and truly approach Confirmation with a pure heart in order to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We continue to see a growth in the number of young families receiving school age 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) continues to increase.

These special sacraments would not be possible without the generous support, guidance and prayers of our Pastor, Associate Pastor and deacons. The actual celebrations are enhanced by the substantial gift of

those who share their talents so selflessly with our parish, namely our Sacristans, Ushers, Altar Servers, Projector Operators, Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and certainly the musicians. Our CWL also provides a wonderful token and rosary to each student for First Eucharist and a lovely bookmark and medal for Confirmation the children are so excited to receive such a special present. A very huge thank you to all.

We look forward to another wonderful year of preparation for our students with registration in October and November 2019! Congratulations to all who received such glorious gifts from God in the sacraments this year.

Youth Ministry

Jacob Douglas, Leader

Our youth ministry has been up to a lot. Here is a quick look at what we have been up to and in the near future.

Youth Engagement:

- Weekly involvement with youth at St. Peter's high school
- Assisting with monthly retreats for gr. 9 students of St. Matthew's high school
- 13 plus average youth night attendees
- 27 plus average gr. 6-8 attendees
- 250 plus participants from our seven elementary schools and parish confirmation retreats
- Annual Passion Play on Good Friday attracted a large attendance from the parish
- Good Friday retreat (gr. 9-12) - April 19th
- Took youth to the March for Life, May 9th, with other parishioners from the parish

Upcoming event: Steubenville Toronto, July 12-14

Avidazen

At the end of this school year, I will be leaving my position as a co-youth coordinator here at Divine Infant. It has been such a pleasure to work in this wonderful parish community. God has filled these years of service with innumerable gifts in my life. I will be taking with me so many fond memories, friendships, lessons learned, and a parish I will always feel at home in. It has been a joy to serve this parish.

Great plans have been put in place between NET and the parish to ensure the continuous growth and continuity of the youth ministry. Fernanda will be staying on and we are currently looking for someone to replace me. I am thankful for the amazing success that we have seen due to the support of our parish, NET Canada, leaders and volunteers in the youth ministry. So much has been contributed. Please pray about how you may be called to contribute to even greater success in our youth ministry.

As I move on with where I see God calling me I want to ask all of you to do the same. I have experienced first hand what happens when you give God permission in your life, even if reluctantly and begrudgingly at first, steadily increasing, to do whatever He wants. I have been a missionary with NET Canada for five years, three of which were here at Divine Infant. They have left me a little in shock with immense gratitude. I never saw this path for my life but it has often left me in tears. Let God be God in your life and you will join me in saying to yourself, "I can't believe I get to do this!"

Pastoral Care

Jennifer Millenor, Leader

MINISTRY PURPOSE

Pastoral Care is a ministry of presence and outreach to those among us who are sick and/or housebound and unable to attend weekly Mass at church. Parishioners or their family members usually call the parish office with a request for a home visit and we respond to these requests which are focused on the Eucharist. We endeavor to convey our parish community spirit of care and concern to those we serve. We collaborate with the Deacons by enhancing the amount of time and number of facilities that the Parish can serve. We also are a liaison between the parishioners we serve and Divine Infant Priests to initiate Priest visits for other Sacraments such as Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick.

PARISHIONERS SERVED on your behalf: Approximately 200 individuals

Home visits: Served 6 Individuals (Currently 3 as of May 2019)

This year we visited 5 private homes = appx 100 collective hours of service

Retirement and Nursing Home visits: Serving almost 100 seniors
(appx 300 hrs of collective service)

Madonna Nursing Home (St. Joseph Blvd)

Bi-weekly Monday Communion Service to **approximately 40 residents**

Bi-weekly Saturday Rosary Service to **approximately 10 residents**

Promenade Retirement Residence (Tenth Line at the River) Weekly Sunday Communion Service to **approximately 20 residents**

Queenswood Villa (Kennedy Lane East in Queenswood Heights)

Bi-weekly Tuesday Rosary & Communion Service to **approximately 12 residents**

Symphony Senior Living (Convent Glen - Lumberman Way)

Bi-weekly Thursday Communion Service to **approximately 15 residents**

Annual Mass for the Sick: Serving appx 100 individuals

Annual Mass for the Sick (and Reception afterward) ~ Saturday, February 10, 2018

Approximate attendance of 120 people from within and beyond the Divine Infant Parish

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

We are delighted to advise you that this year we began visiting residents of **Symphony Senior Living** with bi-weekly visits on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 10:00am. Residents gather in a group room and there is a Communion for the Sick service as well as some Communion taken to people's rooms if they are too unwell to attend the group setting.

We continue to be active members of a community group called the **Orleans Community Pastoral Care** which unites many Christian Churches (Pentecostal, Anglican, Baptist, United, and others) in common goals to serve those in need of Christian love and support in Orleans.

This year we hosted the first of such meetings at our own Parish Hall.

One Ministry member also participates as a trained member of the **Emergency Spiritual Care Assistance Team** which is a multi-faith emergency response group run by The Ottawa Hospital.

MEMBERSHIP

21 Members of the Pastoral Care Ministry (15: retirement/nursing homes; 6: private home visits)

Of those members, 1 is on sabbatical, 5 are those who accompany to facilities

* 2 New Members over the past year

* 3 Members retired over the past year

FUTURE GOALS

We would like to add weekly or bi-weekly service to the Bruyere Residence and perhaps other facilities in our Parish catchment. There are many retirement homes that do not currently receive service from our Parish and new ones are being built all the time. We also would like to be connected to more housebound parishioners who are unable to attend Mass on either a short term recovery basis or on long term basis. Both of these efforts are currently challenged by a need for additional members in the Ministry.

If you feel you might have a couple hours per week or a couple hours per month to contribute to helping parishioners who cannot attend Mass, please email DI.PastoralCare@gmail.com and we will most happily welcome you into this humble, discreet and loving Ministry.

Bereavement Group

Diane Jemus, Leader

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

Over the past year we held three well-attended seminars. In November we hosted a seminar on Coping with the Holidays which featured a DVD presentation by Dr. Bill Webster. They were asked to share their fears, concerns, hopes and tears and were encouraged to be positive, communicate their needs and were given ideas on how to honour their loved one.

In September and January, an 8 week seminar on Dealing with Grief, using the DVD Grief Matters, was given. Subjects included understanding our loss, loneliness, faith and meaning, depression, anger, guilt, reinvesting oneself, etc. There were 30 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 and 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 as well as a Coping with the Holidays session are planned for this fall and winter. Individual counselling continues throughout the year. Free services also include prayer support, special liturgies and memorial events. Resource materials are available. The Bereavement Group has a relationship with the Royal Bank for referral purposes and people from other areas or faiths are welcome.

“Out of charity, out of justice and out of excusable selfishness - they (holy souls) have such power with God! Remember them often in your sacrifices and in your prayers.”

- St. Josemaria Escriva

Shepherds of Good Hope

Allen Harvey, Leader

Summer of 2018 was another success regarding feeding the needy at Shepherds of Good Hope. Recruiting of volunteers was staged on the weekends of June 2 & 3 and June 16/7. The weather was favourable and people were very generous with their intentions to help.

Additional recruiting was done by e-mail and telephone. A total of 165 Divine Infant volunteers participated. This numbers was lower than expected as we usually have over 180.

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 2082 wholesome meals were served. The number of meals eaten on any given Sunday in July or August ranged from 156 to 304.

Sign-ups for volunteering at this summer's soup kitchen will be held at the back of the church on Saturday/Sunday, May 25/26 and then repeated on Saturday/Sunday, June 8/9.

Madonna Tuesday Tea

Marg Boeckler, Leader

The Madonna Nursing Home is visited weekly by a group of volunteers from our parish. The Madonna Tuesday Tea is held each Tuesday afternoon at the Madonna Nursing Home on St. Joseph Boulevard in Orleans. We now have 28 volunteers, enough to have two separate teas, one in the main floor and a smaller one on the second floor for those unable to come to the first. Our first task is to go around to each room and invite the residents to come to the tea. It is a chance to have a short visit with the residents, and if they agree, to sign them out and take them to the parties.

We have two piano players and three leading singers who direct the singing. The rest of the volunteers serve tea, coffee, or juice to the residents who also enjoy baking provided by the staff, and join in the singing. Bob Gordon has prepared a number of songbooks, such as Country and Western, Faith and Gospel, Doo Wop, Elvis, Remembrance Day Songs, or Folk and Traditional. The residents follow along in the songbooks and join in the singing.

Some volunteers also help feed people at mealtimes, some attend mass for the residents on the third Friday of the month, and then distribute communion to those in their rooms who cannot attend the mass. Gail Chabot has a knitting club that meets every Thursday morning and is a very peaceful and friendly time for the residents. Bob Gordon plays every second Thursday afternoon in the foyer of Madonna and Harvey Rule sings there every Wednesday afternoon.

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

*"As soon as we know the Will of God,
we ought without delay to follow it."*

- St. Paul of the Cross

Cursillo Movement

Robert Chamberlain, Leader

Description of a Cursillo Weekend

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "short course". A Cursillo weekend is 3-days (Thursday evening to Sunday late afternoon) during which participants live and work together, listening to talks given by priests and laypersons.

The teachings of Jesus Christ are presented in a climate of joy and understanding followed by discussion. There is time to attend Holy Mass, Reconciliation, pray the rosary and visit the Blessed Sacrament.

Ottawa Cursillo weekends are held here in Orleans, at Maison Notre-Dame-de-la-Providence on St. Joseph Boulevard near Forest Valley Drive.

After a Cursillo weekend, there are ongoing friendships and fellowship within the parish and the larger Cursillo community.

The Larger Cursillo Community

The Cursillo community usually meets at a central location on a weekly basis and, in some parishes on a monthly basis, to allow Cursillistas (those who have made a Cursillo) to share their walk of Christian living. At this time, the Spiritual Director for the Ottawa Cursillo Movement is Father Tavis Goski. The Cursillo Parish Representative is Rob Chamberlain.

Twice yearly, the Cursillo community invites everyone to a "Grand Ultreya" which usually begins with Holy Mass, followed by witness talks and announcements. Everyone is welcome to attend this special experience and feel the enthusiasm of Cursillo, and to enjoy refreshments and fellowship!

Grand Ultreyas were held in June 2018 at Holy Redeemer Parish, Kanata, and in December 2018 at Good Shepherd Parish in Blackburn Hamlet. The next Grand Ultreya will be on June 5, 2019 at Holy Spirit Parish in Stittsville.

Recent Cursillo Weekends

Divine Infant Parish has 2 bulletin board posters describing what Cursillo is about, and announcing upcoming weekends. Brief announcements are also listed in the parish bulletin.

Four Cursillo weekends are held annually, typically in the spring and fall. Women's weekends were held in October 2018 and March 2019. Men's weekends were held in November 2018 and April 2019. Several parishioners from Divine Infant attended these weekends.

To learn more about Cursillo, visit: ottawacursillo.ca, or Rob Chamberlain, chamberlainr.nuclear@gmail.com, or speak to Father Tavis .

"Understanding is the reward of faith, Therefore seek not to understand that thou mayest believe, but believe that thou mayest understand."

- St. Augustine

Pro-Life Ministry

Johanne Brownrigg and Angela Lavictoire, Leaders

PRO- LIFE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

FALL 2018 EVENTS

- Completed the 2018 SPIRITUAL ADOPTION (daily prayer for baby in danger of Abortion) supported using monthly Bulletin updates and pictures on the Bulletin Board.
- Promoted and participated in the LIFE CHAIN on corner of St Joseph & Orleans Blvd.
- Volunteered with parishioners to man *the full 12 hour* PRAYER VIGIL 40 DAYS FOR LIFE outside the Bubble Zone on Bank Street down the street from the Abortion Clinic.
- promoted parish participation for those parishioners unable to come to the downtown location, signed up as PRAYER WARRIORS for the success of the 40 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL. *ALL 12 hours were covered with prayers by our parishioners.*
- Hosted the PRO LIFE DIOCESAN MASS and reception in the hall. There was, as always, an excellent turn out and extraordinary feast of food donated by volunteers from the parish.
- Promoted and sold Christmas Fruit Cakes and more for Campaign Life's annual Fundraiser.

2019 SPRING EVENTS

- requested from the parish a larger bulletin board now titled "RESPECT FOR LIFE". Please consult the board for *upcoming events and up to date literature on LIFE ISSUES.*
- Our Committee requested Special Masses for " all victims of Abortion and all those in danger of Abortion" on December 28, 2018 (Feast of the Holy Innocents) and one in January
- Novena of Masses (St Clare Project) requested for the *closure of the Morgentaler Abortion Clinic* on Bank Street by a Pro-Life person outside our parish but said at Divine Infant Parish from March 25- April 2/19
- Launched the 2019 SPIRITUAL ADOPTION of Baby in Danger of Being Aborted.
- Promoted a new "APP for Life" for phones/tablets which *shows FETAL DEVELOPMENT* for parents and grandparents or anyone *with accompanying prayers.*
- researched and wrote the HISTORY of ABORTION in CANADA in short paragraph form for weekly publication in parish bulletin ending just before the HIKE FOR LIFE & MARCH FOR LIFE
- hosted presentation on PALLIATIVE CARE vs EUTHANASIA with Pastoral Care Team .
Guest speaker was Dr Rene Leiva. It was very informative & well attended on April 13/19.
- Promoted ACTION LIFE'S - HIKE FOR LIFE April 27 /19 featuring our Celebrity Walkers : Youth Coordinators & some of our Youth Group. Parish donations = \$ 475.00
- Participated in the Diocesan Designated WEEK FOR LIFE May 5 -11 2019 .Distributed Literature in bulletins & prepared poster displays.
- Extensively promoted the MARCH FOR LIFE Thursday May 9 on Parliament Hill through bulletin announcements and videos played before Masses. Advertised the bus leaving our church. Our parish had many attendees.
- COINS FOR LIFE is our one remaining Spring Event- *date to be determined.*

Overall, our committee is small but effective. We have done one outreach for volunteers and will do another. The committee is well supported by parishioners and makes us realize that there is *an appreciation for the cause* and the committee's work. There is also *a desire to be well informed on these issues.* We will continue to work to this end.

Catholic Women's League of Canada

Laura Kiraly for Frances Chicot, President

Divine Infant's CWL is an 76-member strong council of The Catholic Women's League, a sisterhood of faith, fun and fulfillment; our national organization is rooted in gospel values calling members to holiness through service to the people of God.

Our theme for 2019 is "Care for Our Common Home". The League is making efforts to become attuned to our need to protect the beauty of our common home, with a particular view to conserving water. We keep prayer in our efforts to serve our parish and our community.

This year we have worked in aid of a number of initiatives and charities. As in every year, we collected donations of non perishable food items and money for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Orleans Resource Centre. Members offered shamrocks for donations to raise funds for St. Patrick's Retirement Home. We held our annual raffle for a chocolate Easter Bunny. Members were at Masses for our Baby Shower, held annually to assist the Miriam Centre. We assisted the Sacramental Preparation Team by preparing the commemorative gifts given to children receiving the First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We have been asked to assist at the annual Parish picnic.

Toward Christmas, we hope to again raise funds from among our membership for Christmas meals for the homeless. We shall also prepare toiletries wrapped as stocking stuffers for the women at the St. Joe's Women's Shelter.

This year we gathered together to celebrate the Epiphany with a potluck brunch. Members were entertained with Christmas themed skits and carol singing. We are planning an end of year get together for members; a car rally/scavenger hunt and a potluck dinner with a country western theme.

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. The CWL is truly are blessed to have the support of our parish.

*"It is our part to seek, His to grant what we ask,
Ours to make a beginning. His to bring it to
Completion; ours to offer what we can, His
To finish what we cannot."*

- St. Jerome

Knights of Columbus

Terry O'Donnell, Grand Knight

Founded in 1981, our Council 7873 is one of 556 K of C Councils in Ontario. We have 250 members committed to Catholic ideals and Programs of Faith, Family, Community and Life.

Marian Devotion “framed” our year of prayer. In November 2018 we welcomed the Holy Icon: Mary, Help of Persecuted Christians with a beautiful liturgy and hosted our annual Mass for deceased members. On May 7th, 2019, we celebrated a beautiful liturgy featuring the Silver Rose - a tribute provided by our Supreme Council in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We are now supporting a young seminarian from Ottawa on his journey to the priesthood via our RSVP Vocations initiative.

In October 2018 our Council participated in a “Steak Dinner” fundraiser at St Joseph Parish Hall to provide financial support to the Miriam Centre - and its sterling work assisting courageous but struggling young women to enrich their lives and those of their young children. A similar initiative in March yielded over \$3,000 for the Youville Centre which “inspires .. young mothers and their children .. to achieve their goals”.

On November 11th, our Council - along with other Canadians - participated in a moving ceremony held at Orleans Legion 632 to honour the heroic sacrifices of soldiers during the two World Wars and other major conflicts. We shall not sleep! In February, our Knights and wives joined with other Knights from Orleans at a “Soldier On” Dinner sponsored by 4th Degree Knights – and participated in a tribute to men and women in uniform; the proceeds assisted military suffering from PTSD.

Fund raising activities featured monthly parish breakfasts. As well, weekly sales of grocery gift cards were shared between our Parish and our Council. Our pop cans collection and Rose Sunday donations in May helped fund the Miriam Centre. An impressive Ontario Charities Raffle tickets campaign achieved revenues over \$6,400 for Special Olympics and arthritis research and treatment. Our Knights connected us to the wider community by serving refreshments to blood donors at regular Blood Donor Clinics; we also assisted at Shepherds of Good Hope.

We continued to recruit new and enthusiastic Knights and engaged our wives and families in Parish initiatives, fund raising and prayer – including Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In June we provided \$500 financial awards to three outstanding high school Catholic graduates.

On May 9th, we joined thousands of men, women and children of good will - including our own clergy and parishioners, members of the Catholic Women’s League and Knights from across Ontario - as we gathered on Parliament Hill in an enthusiastic, respectful commitment to the cause of LIFE.

VIVAT JESUS!

*“Give something, however small, to the one in need.
For it is not small to one who has nothing,
Neither is it small to God, if we
have given what we could.”*

- St. Gregory Nazianzen

SIGN UP FORM
DIVINE INFANT PARISH

Yes, I am interested in joining our parish ministry(s), group(s) or program(s).

I'd like to find out more about

.....

.....

(please, write the name(s) of parish ministry(s), group(s) or program(s) in which you are interested)

My name is

Contact information:

Phone number

E-mail address

(Please, drop this form on the collection basket or bring it to the parish office)

THANK YOU!



Prayer to Honour the Divine Infant

Divine Infant Jesus, I want to give You my hands today. I want to serve You with all my heart and make You known and loved. Doing Your will is the source of my inner peace and joy.

Divine Infant, I give You my hands to touch those I meet with Your love and peace. I ask You to heal those in pain, to encourage the homeless, to console the sorrowing, to provide for those in want. I ask you to reach out to the lonely. I especially plead for the many people suffering from great poverty and injustice.

Miraculous Infant, I believe that You love me and know all of my needs. I place them in Your hands, especially my present concerns (*mention here*). I trust in Your love and care. I want to honour and praise You, now and forever.

Amen.