

Holy Cross Parish

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING June 01, 2022

MISSION STATEMENT

“The people of Holy Cross Parish are a community of clergy, religious and laity who, strengthened in Christ, and thankful for our blessings, seek to root ourselves in an authentic Christian community which is called to serve God in praise, each other in sharing, caring and healing, and our brothers and sisters, near and far, in prayer, peace and justice.”

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Pastor's Report

Dear Parishioners,

Covid 19 has taught us many new lessons. Like any other institutions, the negative impact of the pandemic has put a tremendous challenge on churches. One thing we learnt is that things cannot be planned as we used to do it for the future.

Every year Holy Cross used to conduct an AGM to review together the activities of our parish and plan for the year ahead. Due to Covid, we were not able to come together in the year 2021. I am glad that we were able to come together to celebrate our faith in 2022 this year.

My sincere thanks to all those who made Holy Cross Parish active, vibrant, and creative at this challenging time. I would like to mention a few of my observations.

SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES

I am happy to mention that Holy Cross Parish has been an example of exploring various opportunities to reach out to our parishioners. We made use of the provincial health guidelines by planning for people to gather in the hall and updated our audio and video system. We were pioneers in recording and live streaming our Sunday Masses. My sincere thanks to St. Francis Studio for the hard work as well as our family music teams. The role of greeters as well as the cleaning crew members were exceptional.

We tried to make a spiritual journey with our parishioners at home during Covid by offering a series of reflections based on the book of Peter Kreeft animated by Deacon John Kennedy, as well as an Alpha course.

RETIREMENT OF DEACON JOHN KENNEDY

After so many years of service to our parish, Deacon John Kennedy is officially retired from his assignment as Deacon at Holy Cross Parish. I am so grateful to Deacon John and Sue Kennedy for playing a major role in leading and shaping the parish. May God continue to bless your family and your intentions. In fact, we never retire from serving others!

PARISH FINANCE

Even though there is a separate report regarding the finance, I like to thank all of you for your sense of belonging by contributing financially even by making a trip to the office to drop your envelopes. As expected, our regular revenue had been dropped to a certain extent. But we were also blessed with some generous donations from the Estate Wills of those who cherished the memories of Holy Cross Parish which covered our major project expenses. If we must move from maintenance of the church building to an evangelizing community, parishioners need to be aware of the increasing cost of the ordinary as well as the extra ordinary expenses. After all, registering with a parish implies sharing of the responsibilities with your treasure, time, and talent.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

As you may be aware, Holy Cross Church is a 55-year-old building which needs upgrading, repairs, and maintenance at regular periods. I am so grateful to our building committee team who has taken up so many initiatives to address these issues even at this challenging time.

Special thanks to Armando and Jane Prini for renovating the staff kitchen which needed much attention. They volunteered their skills and time. We finished the project just with the purchase of materials. Special thanks also to Tony Labadie for taking care of our parking lot repair issues. Some major issues regarding repairs and maintenance will be addressed in the Building Committee Report.

We will greatly appreciate if you give your skills and expertise at the service of the church.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Holy Cross Parish had been very supportive of the global as well as local needs of the Church. I am so grateful for your financial donations towards the Claretian Missions, St. Vincent de Paul, Elimu, the Food Banks, Share Lent, and the Chalice sponsorship program for children and so on.

COMMUNICATION MEDIA

One of the blessings of the pandemic is the use of social media and other means of communications. We joined the Flocknote mailing system to register for the Masses and to alert the parishioners about the last-minute changes. Some ministries are making use of this tool for the internal communications between the members. Fortunately, so many free resources are available on social media for your spiritual nourishment. Thanks for the appreciation of our recorded Masses and Funeral services, phone calls etc.

I am happy to announce that the Parish has renewed the subscription for FORMED website for another year. Your feedback will be appreciated for an evaluation in the future.

FAITH FORMATION

As we are slowly coming back to our communitarian way of sharing our faith, I hope to revitalize our ministries soon. We are in dialogue with an organization called "Couples for Christ" to plan programs for the youth, seniors, and preparations of our Confirmation candidates. We are so happy to have a strong Sacramental team for First Holy Communion under the leadership of Serena Rebello-Robert. A leadership formation program is going well in collaboration with CCO nominated by Jane Prini.

VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRIES

Holy Cross Parish had been an active parish on different creative ministries. The Knights of Columbus, Hospitality team, Pastoral Care team, the Music Ministry and so on have played a major role in shaping our parish. The dynamism of and life of the parish depends on the volunteers in different ministries. There is a growing tendency to be satisfied with sacramental participation and financial contribution. Many feel inadequacy and imperfection to step forward to join with ministries. By building up the parish, you are building up the Body of Christ. I hope and pray that you will seriously consider your Baptismal call to nourish the church with your spiritual gifts. It is not a place for competition or performance but a common home for everyone to find spiritual nourishment and rest. Jesus said *"I am vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him, will bear much fruit"* (Jn 15:5).

FINAL REMARKS

It has been a privilege to be a Pastor at Holy Cross Parish at my second coming!! We overcame some challenging moments of Covid with the grace of God. I feel the need to re-energize my ministry. I will be away for 6 months. In my absence, the two other Claretian Priests will look after your spiritual and Sacramental needs.

I will keep and cherish your love, prayers, and well wishes, even though I will be away from you.

God bless you.

Fr. Lukose Kochupurackal CMF

Pastor

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chair: Fran Hadley

This is a time of Change and Challenge, and Holy Cross intends to adapt and grow stronger by benefiting through your gifts and talents received!

Congratulations to the PPC members who have continued to work through the Covid challenge. Holy Cross PPC is one of the few Councils in the Dioceses who have persevered through these 24 months when many other parishes have not.

PPC members welcomed four new members last year, Rose O'Neill, Pauline Houlahan, Trish Brighton, and Marcus Cole. Holy Cross is looking for two replacement PPC members to fill two vacancies as Fran Hadley completed her two two-year terms as PPC Chair and Pauline Houlihan has new commitments as a St. Vincent de Paul executive.

Previous AGM Report included January to April 2020/2021.

WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR STARTING 2021

MARCH

- Parish Centre Modifications on hold till analysis of Ministry needs completed.
- Greeters wearing name tags present at all masses to check registration and welcome parishioners. Greeters began to know and welcome parishioners by name with great success.
- Healing Mass discussion started.
- Increased restrictions impacted Easter traditions, e.g., no processions, no washing of feet, only 10 persons in-doors, etc.

APRIL

- Plans to reopen and welcome back parishioners.
- Purchased YouTube license, no unwanted adds to accompany live streaming.
- Finance reports Revenues are up, as are Ordinary Expenses.
- Requested Revised Estimate to a previous estimate to replace the front deck and front stairs.

MAY

- Virtual AGM as they were insufficient parishioners vaccinated.
- Planned a Grandparent and Seniors' Mass for September.

JUNE

- AGM - Electronically delivered.
- Reported crisis in number of available volunteers as is experienced in most parishes.
- PPC approved recruiting a Volunteer Coordinator.

NO PPC IN JULY AND AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

- Farewell to Deacon John and Sue Kennedy.
- Feast Day--Sept 12 with boxed treats prepared by Hospitality and picked-up outdoors after Mass
- *Sacramental Prep*
 - Missed due to Covid restrictions in 2020
 - On-line for 2021
- *Grandparents and Seniors Mass*
 - Planned for 4 Thursdays in October (very successful) and then once monthly
- *Devine Renovations*

- 5 key systems moving Parish from Maintenance to Mission, identified for PPC to work on
 - (Worship, Evangelization, Discipleship, Fellowship and Ministry)

➤ *Finance*

- Recommended Pastoral Assistant position

OCTOBER

- Volunteer Coordinator position – Stalled
- Faith Formation -Alpha -Stalled
- Faith Formation with CCO – Stalled

NOVEMBER

- *Synod* with Dioceses direction
- *Preparation* for Christmas season
- More Greeters needed for additional masses

Faith Formation

- Alpha for February 2021
- CCO Faith Studies in Jan 2022 with Jane Prini Leader

MASSES

- filling up with overflow in Hall
- Singing permitted while masked
- On-Line registration for Masses

Live streaming of Masses received with positive comments

JANUARY 2022-COVID - YEAR 3

FAITH FORMATION

- CCO with coaching for the series of 5 booklets and small group discussion
- No Lenten Retreat
- Lenten Theme Song-Thrive
- Decorate front walls with tress and green leaves with messages
- Stations of the Cross process modified with no procession, etc

OTHER ITEMS

- Synod training and groups formed for discussions (Leaders - Armando and Nina)
- Grandparent and Senior Masses on hold till restrictions lifted
- Sunday Social on hold till restrictions lifted
- Healing Touch Mass approved to be held after Pandemic

FEBRUARY

- OCCS (Ottawa-Cornwall Catholic Seniors) Alpha for Seniors online in February. Father approved extending invitations to neighbouring cluster parishes (St. Bernard and St. Peters)
- *Sacramental Preparation*
 - First Holy Communion with 56 candidates, a larger group as unable to celebrate in 2021
 - Confirmation with 66% of families choose not to have their children Confirmed
 - Camp Hope as a retreat for the 25 candidates and parents. Successful and organized by Youth for Christ
- *Greeters*
 - Completed two years of welcoming parishioners at every Mass
 - Parishioners enjoyed being welcomed and greeted by name
 - Planning a 'Reaching Out Ministry'
 - Visits to Retirement Homes to celebrate recorded Mass and distribute Communion—On hold until restriction have been lifted

MARCH

- Synod completed and left with this big question, "What do we do next?"
- Traditional Mass responses now available on screen
- Funeral Catering to be contracted out
- Refugee Support discussed. Financial resources available
- Concerns re safety of front deck and stairs- Two-year old report to be reviewed

APRIL

- Synod –major topics include
 1. Improving Youth and Adult Faith Formation
 2. Hospitality to be improved
 3. Better utilization of financial resources
 4. Volunteers not used properly
 5. Restore Live streaming of Masses requested

MAY

- Discovery series going well with engaged participants and excellent Facilitator
- Children's in-person Liturgy on hold. Proposed investing in a part-time staff to lead this Ministry
- Continued Refugee Support -\$8200 to Claretian Ministry in Ukraine
- Parish Divine Renewal to start in Sept. with PPC working group

Another successful PPC year comes to an end. Thank you for your interest and support in the 2020, 2021 and 2022 years.

Christian Education

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Submitted by: Serena Rebello-Robert (Member of Sacramental Team-Holy Communion)

Core Team:

Barb Goski, Simonne Larouche, Shannon Leo, Michelle Mysak, Maureen Proulx, & Serena Rebello-Robert

Supporting Members/Special Projects:

Joe Goski, Debbie Kuchciak, Armando & Jane Prini

First Communion Music Ministry:

Marc Coderre, Eric Edmonds, and Armando Prini

First Communion Altar Servers:

Anna, Daniel, and Joshua Leo

First Communion Mass Slides & Photography:

Miriam Basten, Joe Goski, Armando & Jane Prini

2020

In the fall of 2020, children and families that had participated in the in-person "*Come Join Us at the Table*" from January-March of 2020 were given the opportunity to receive their Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, provided they were comfortable returning to the church and were able to follow the COVID-19 health guidelines. **12 children received both Sacraments in October and November 2020.** A refresher video and preparation materials were provided to them via Flocknote in October 2020. The Core Team supported this endeavour.

2021-22

The 2021-22 year for First Holy Communion started out hopeful, with a Parent Meeting held in October 2021 outlining a series of in-person Liturgy & Teaching Sessions that would be held in February, March,

and April (3 sessions). Registration occurred and information was gathered in order to provide updates/information via the email communication system-Flocknote.

Unfortunately, **in mid-January 2022 a decision was made to move the course to an online format due to the increasing numbers of the COVID-19 pandemic in Ottawa.** It was also decided that the team would offer 3 teaching pre-recorded videos that would help prepare the children and families for their Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion on the same dates that families were to come for their in-person preparation. It was determined the sessions were to focus on: 1. Parts of the Mass & the Sacraments. 2. Sacrament of Reconciliation 3. The Holy Eucharist and Preparation for First Holy Communion.

ONLINE COURSE: "GOD'S MISSION: IS POSSIBLE"

S. Rebello-Robert was tasked to provide the pre-recorded videos/learning portion along with communicating this information to them via Flocknote. To aid in understanding and increased engagement, 3 Learning Modules were developed, along with a course curriculum. The title of the Online Course was "*God's Mission: Is Possible*". The course followed a secret 'agent' theme to assist in the student's understanding of the core concepts of the course. The overall message was "*With God all things are Possible*". The course videos were posted on HC website.

Each module included: A pre-recorded learning lesson provided by team member (20-25 mins long), along with *5 Key Takeaways from the lesson, 4 Activities to try at home, 3 Tips for Parents to support their child's learning, 2 short, animated videos (i.e., 2-5 minutes) reinforcing ideas targeted in the teaching video and 1 short quiz* that students challenged to ensure they had mastered the main concepts of the lesson. Each module was sent by Flocknote to the group and had all links to videos and resources directly accessible in the note. Prior to the receiving the modules, a short 2-minute trailer was sent out in late January 2022 offering an overview of the course and to get families excited about participating in the online course.

COURSE COMPLETION:

Active participation in the 'Online Course' was deemed a requirement to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Each time the Modules were sent out, families were asked to confirm their completion. Once they did, they received a 'Confirmation Flocknote'. Following their completion of all 3 modules each student was sent an Online Course completion Certificate.

COMMUNICATION:

The families going forward received regular correspondence from the team from the point of registration. Flocknotes with information, ideas, video, and invitations (along with the Modules) were sent out following the Parent Meeting in October, on All Saint's Day, throughout Advent, Lent, Easter, and now beyond receiving their Sacrament of First Holy Communion.

The team worked closely with **Father Lukose, Barbara Costanza, Holy Cross and Holy Family Schools' Teachers** and members of the **Children's Liturgy Team, the HC Kid's Ministry, HC Communications Team, and the Parish Lenten Team** on special projects (i.e. Children's Virtual Christmas Pageant, A *Sunflower* Planting Project, and *Resurrection Easter Egg* Liturgy).

Information was sent via Flocknote, Mass Slides, Parish Bulletins, the HC Website, and was also announced during the weekend Masses.

WELCOMING OF CHILDREN TO THE TABLE:

On May 01 (24 children) and on May 15 (28 children) **52 children in total received their Sacrament of First Holy Communion.** Each student received an official Parish Certificate, a wooden cross, and a Holy Rosary (on behalf of the K of C). The Music Ministry provided uplifting music, the Knights of Columbus provided support with ushering and organizing the students for the procession, and the Team along with supporting members provided the skill and expertise to assist in making both dates a success. Thank you to everyone for their time, talent, prayers, and wisdom!

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

CAMP HOPE

Submitted by: Pauline Houlahan

ATTENDEES:

- 28 – made up of 24 confirmation candidates and 4 not registered for confirmation
- Couples for Christ Youth Leaders – 4 full-time leaders; 6 volunteer leaders ranging in age from 15-22
- Couples for Christ members – 4 - also attended as it was their first “in-person” youth event since COVID

VOLUNTEERS:

- 15 volunteers – shared 4 time slots to assist in the kitchen: Friday was a dinner and on Saturday there were 3 meals
- 3 Knights barbequed for Saturday night dinner
- Joe Goski set up the sound and projector
- Saturday night Family Dinner – 90 people were served dinner

EXPENSES FOR EVENT:

- Parent packages of information on Camp Hope for March 28th parent meeting
- Candidate gifts
- Groceries
- Meals – Subway and Pizza Pizza
- Mileage for CfC Youth Leaders to travel from Toronto
- Total cost of event - \$1,200

THE PROGRAM CONSISTED OF:

- Ice breaker games
- Talks by full time Youth Leaders
- Open discussions
- Small group discussion
- Games
- Small group skits – each group presented a skit on a parable
- Music ministry with youth singing
- Quiet reflective time writing letters to parents
- Mealtimes and snack breaks

- Cell phones were collected at the beginning of each day and returned to the youth at the end with NO objections that I heard
- Lots of laughter! Lots of energy! Lots of JOY!

Couples for Christ now have a full-time youth leader based in Ottawa – she was one of the leaders at our event. We will remain in communication.

I would like to communicate with parents again asking for feedback on the event. I will co-ordinate this effort with Couples for Christ to obtain the best information for future use.

Thank you to the PPC for supporting and trusting in this new venture.

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Tom Flynn and Peter Kvas, complemented by Father & Joe Goski.
Support Provided by Mike Lowe, Frank Bonacci and Armando Prini

The Building Committee holds the responsibility for coordinating repairs and improvements to the Church, Rectory and Parish Office. This report covers the period between June 2020 to May 2022.

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- **Upstairs Kitchen Renovated**
 - Jane and Armando Prini took it upon themselves to completely renovate and redesign the upstairs kitchen and associated alcove to be more functional and efficient. This was a significant undertaking, and their efforts must be recognized individually. Sincere thanks for their many hours dedicated to this work.
- **Parish Hall Kitchen**
 - Ceiling fluorescent lights replaced with LED lighting
- **Office Blinds Replaced**
 - Replaced blinds in Barbara's office due to old ones having become inoperable
- **Refurbished Pews**
 - Sanded surfaces and refinished
- **Covid Preparations**
 - Completed requirements for distancing in church for Mass attendance
- **Tool Room Cleared and Moved**
 - Tool room cleared and non-essential items discarded
 - Moved location and shelves built and brackets installed to hold tools etc.
- **Walkley Road Sign**
 - Built a new roof cover to protect the sign from rainwater damage,
 - Painted the frame
 - Footings to protect the wood posts which are rotting, and secured the sign
- **Church Audio Visual**

Work During Pandemic:

- Camera installed at entrance to film online Masses
- Wiring run to basement to allow for synchronous presentations with upstairs activity

Future Potential Initiatives:

- Prepare an assessment report with recommendations to upgrade audio visual equipment in the church, parish hall and Meeting Room A
- **Reconciliation Room Refurbished**
 - New partitions built.
 - Repainted room
- **Tree Maintenance**
 - Received arborist report on all trees from IFS (Andrew Boyd).
 - Solicited quotations for recommended tree maintenance that led to further assessment of all trees and further exploration of insurance liability. Manotick Tree Movers was the preferred supplier.
 - Responsibilities of the City of Ottawa and plans of Ottawa Hydro (who hold an easement on church property) were clarified.
 - Successfully negotiated with adjacent condominium (CCC585) to share costs to trim trees along parking lot.
- **Modernization Centre Process**
 - Developed process to assess opportunities to enhance functionality of our facility and assess ways to make it more welcoming
 - Input has been received from parish committees. Analysis has begun but overall project work has slowed due to focus on higher priorities.
- **Snow Removal/Spring-Summer Maintenance Contracts Negotiated**
 - Rising costs led to renegotiating both snow removal and spring-summer exterior grounds maintenance contracts
- **Miscellaneous Repairs:**
 - Garage door replaced
 - Expired fire extinguishers replaced
 - Boiler combustion chamber replaced, and motor replaced.
 - Bathroom at entrance and downstairs bathrooms – various items replaced and upgraded
 - Security mail slot added to outside office entrance door
 - Electrical room cleared of many old lights and properly recycled
 - Several other ongoing maintenance items completed
- **Rectory**
 - Further interior and in addition exterior repair work on two basement walls completed
 - Repaired portion of fence which had been vandalized
 - Notified City of Ottawa about unsafe tree in front of 2872 Otterson Drive
 - Solicited quote from Manotick Tree Movers to prune branches overhanging house. Received unsolicited quote from Capital Timber too. Manotick Tree Movers were more competitively priced

CURRENT PROJECTS

- Replace the air handler unit in the furnace room which is the highest priority project. The current air handler is 53 years old. Replacement, currently targeted for the summer of 2023, should lead to better air quality in the church building. It is expected that several options will be presented to the Building Committee
- Continue developing Modernization program guidelines and issues
- Continue project to repair/replace front and side steps to the church
- Assess paving and repair needs for the parking lot

- Replace top burner elements of kitchen stove and have stove professionally cleaned
- Install a bike rack

FUTURE PROJECTS

- **Church Audio Visual**
 - Prepare an assessment report with recommendations to upgrade audio visual equipment in the church, parish hall and Meeting Room A
- **Diocesan “Preventative Maintenance Guidelines”**
 - Assign a prime to complete Diocesan documentation requirement
- **Re-Paving/Re-Surfacing/Permanent Drain Repairs of Parking Lot**
 - Scope to be determined after assessment of needs study
- **Update to basement kitchen to be assessed**
 - Consideration of kitchen counters/cupboards etc. upgrade
- **All cement walkways to be assessed for repair or replacement**
 - This will include assessing repair/replacement of retaining walls.
- **Lighting**
 - Consideration of moving away from fluorescent lighting throughout the church and basement
- **Basement Bathrooms**
 - Replacement of toilets and urinals
 - Consideration to also replace sinks, light fixtures, stalls
 - Totally renovate/redesign???
 - Consideration to replace plumbing in walls to main sewer
 - Consideration to add railing so that parishioners can use both hands for stability

Hospitality

Chair: Karen Flynn

For more than 31 years, the Hospitality Committee has been an active ministry at Holy Cross. Through events and activities that are held throughout the year, we provide occasions for parishioners to gather as community outside of Mass.

The past 2 years have been quiet ones for the Committee in light of the health pandemic. Popular events such as Coffee Sundays, the Old-Fashioned Supper and Strawberry Sunday did not take place. Our first activity since early 2020, took place last August. Hospitality coordinated the outdoor reception that was held as the parish bid farewell to Deacon John and Sue Kennedy. The Committee provided home-baked items that were boxed up and made available after Mass for parishioners to take home, along with a cold drink.

On September 12th, in celebration of our Parish Feast Day, Hospitality served ice cream and frozen treats outside following the Festival Mass. Many parishioners had a chance to meet Archbishop Marcel

Damphousse following the Mass.

With the return of Club 55 activities in the fall of 2021, Hospitality members have played a key role in providing lunch and refreshments for Club gatherings.

A sub-committee of Hospitality, providing Funeral Catering, is available. Anyone who is interested in using this service can contact the parish office, who will then get in touch with the committee.

Hospitality plays an important role in fostering a sense of community in the parish. We have 'fun' organizing and preparing for many parish events and provide support for others. Our committee numbers have declined in recent years, and we are looking for new members. **Please consider this rewarding ministry if you are looking to help our parish and, at the same time, experience the joy of serving others.**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight: Marcus Cole

Holy Cross Council #10617 Activities in the Faith in Action service program categories of the K of C.

With the gradual reopening of our community and the easing of Covid - Restrictions will enable our council to Implement most of the activities that have been planned. The Executive and Council Meetings have transitioned back to in- Person at the Church, and we have been meeting on a regular basis. We have resumed all of our programs in service of the Parish and the community.

These are the programs we were able to carry out in the Faith in Action service program categories of the Knights of Columbus:

FAITH

- Ushers at weekend Masses
- Ushers at Christmas and Easter Masses
- Processing collections at weekend Masses

FAMILY

- Mother's Day Greetings on Flocknote.

COMMUNITY

- Airport Parkway Cleanup on May 14
- Crèche statutes to Parish Youth.
- Basketball Free Throw contest at Schools

LIFE

- Pancake Breakfast Takeout's
- Christmas cakes for Campaign Life
- Steak and Award dinner on June 11

SENIORS' MINISTRY REPORT

Submitted: Fran Hadley

- **CLUB 55+**
 - Entering our 10th. year, the Club continues to be an active part of the parish. These past two years have had a significant impact on the number of Club gatherings we planned and enjoyed. Not only were our gatherings in the hall but also our much-enjoyed outings were curtailed. We did enjoy our Christmas party with music from Anne Hurley and Jim Vitito and yummy Christmas treats. St. Patrick's Feast was celebrated with everything green and

that was it until the Fall. We look forward to starting back every two weeks with our summer picnics on the Patio for July and August. See you there!

- **GREETERS**

- At the start of the pandemic when registration to attend Masses was started, the Greeters Team came together to help with welcoming parishioners and checking off their registration status. This Team of loyal Greeters has signed on each week with their assignments to be at a specific Mass (over 300 Masses). Their welcome greetings using parishioners' names has made an incredible and positive impression of our parishioners who now smile back (eyes tell the story), happy to feel they belong and are recognized!!

- **PHONE TREE**

- A number of parishioners on this Phone Tree Team continue calling isolated senior parishioners. One member of the Team calls 90 individual parishioners once a month using an alphabetical system to tract the persons to be called on her 3 calls -a -day schedule.

- **FRIENDLY VISITING**

- Similarly, a number of our parishioners receive regularly scheduled visits from a Team of two Friendly Visitors. We have discovered that the family (often the spouse) caregiver, has become isolated, enjoys these visits, and looks forward to the next scheduled one with coffee and cookies ready for the DATE!

- **SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP**

- Members have stayed in touch over these pandemic months and are ready to go back to their gatherings with the last planned lunch cancelled because of Covid lockdowns. Planning twice monthly Wednesday morning gatherings to start again in September where much useful information will be exchanged, and a 15-minute stretching session called *Easy Movement* enjoyed. The Team stays connected through bi-weekly spiritual messages via Flocknote taken from the *Angel Therapy* guidebook, by Doreen Virtue, Ph.D.
- **Good Morning** messages for 18 months now, 90 plus parishioners receive GM Message six mornings a week (nearly 400 Good Morning messages). A faithful and creative Team of researchers contributes on a daily basis, examples of Spiritual, Educational, or just Funny messages which are previewed and posted through FlockNote.

- **OCCS**

- **Ottawa-Cornwall Catholic Seniors.** This is a Diocesan Seniors Ministry that Holy Cross co-founded 2 years ago. Its' role is to be a liaison between the parishes and the Diocese an example is the adoption of Flocknote for all parishes partially funded by the Diocese. OCCS's brings together parishes to learn and share information etc. and be helpful to each other's parishes.

- **WALKERS**

- Once weekly, a small group of parishioners gathered in the church parking lot, walked over to Money's Bay, enjoyed a picnic lunch, and walked back intime for noon Mass. This activity has started again now that the fear of Covid has lessened, and the weather has improved.

The Seniors' Ministry welcome any suggestions, members, and volunteers to be part of any of the 7 sub-ministries.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our committee is comprised of the prime movers for a number of parish initiatives which are engaged in

feeding the hungry; supporting low-income families in a local community; highlighting injustices in the allocation of the world's resources and in our stewardship of our planet and managing a resource center educating young women in Kenya.

We gather to coordinate our activities within the parish and to support one another. We have also taken on projects such as the parish Jubilee effort to renovate and refurnish the Parish Centre in Attawapiskat. We have a need for additional members who are attracted and wish to become involved in our ongoing activities or simply serve as a member at large. Education in this work will be done by our committee members. All are welcome and the work is rewarding.

DEBRA DYNES FAMILY HOUSE PARTNERSHIP

SUBMITTED BY: Gerri Laird

Since 2011, Holy Cross Parish has had a Partnership with the Debra Dynes Family House (955 Debra Avenue, Unit 85) to support the staff in their efforts to aid the working poor living in this city-subsidized low-income community through various programs and services.

JUNE 2020--JUNE 2021

Together during this pandemic year, both our Holy Cross and Debra Dynes communities experienced increased isolation, unemployment, poverty, and fear, but our decade-long bond of care and generosity continued. While following health protocols the Family House was able to run smaller day camps during the summer, hire six youth for leadership training, operated their food bank through appointments and queueing, resumed programs for After-4 study, tax clinics, and the sewing group.

In September, parishioners donated hundreds of school supplies required for primary and secondary school students, and the last five \$1000 Bright Futures Scholarships (available only to Debra Dynes community residents attending college or university) supported by seed funds provided by Holy Cross parishioners were awarded.

In December, parishioners answered a request for much-needed hats, mitts, and scarves for community families.

JUNE 2021--JUNE 2022

In September, a collection of school supplies was gathered outside the front of the church and delivered to DDFH. and the Debra Dynes Family House had been able to independently raise funds to continue the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and these awards were given out.

At an evening event in the church, in early November, parishioners watched a new video highlighting the moving and inspiring testimonies of young Debra Dynes community residents. They expressed their personal appreciation of the opportunities, guidance and encouragement they had experienced because of the Family House.

In January, facing a frigid winter and hearing that many adults and children did not have adequate winter wear, parishioners provided the largest donation of warm clothes to date (40+ large bags and boxes!) including many hand-knit, brand-new items--even coats and boots.

In March, several parishioners attended a special ceremony hosted by the Ottawa Police Services at DDFH. The occasion was to witness the offer of employment as an officer in the OPS to a young man who had grown up and still lived in the Debra Dynes community. He had received a Bright Futures Scholarship in 2016 and completed his programme at Algonquin College. This was a very happy occasion for the new officer's family and a moment of pride for DDFH and the whole community

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE (D&P)

SUBMITTED BY: Mike Brady

Parishioners were understanding and as generous as in the past, in response to the Share Lent annual campaign for donation to their work supporting our sisters and brothers in the developing world. Under the banner of One World One Family the themes of interconnectedness and care for creation were emphasized in the promotion of the November 2021 drive (postponed from the Lenten period due to pandemic lockdowns) and the Share Lent 2022 canvass. D&P thanks the parish community for their continued support of an organization founded 50 years ago by the Canadian Bishops. More information is available at devp.org.

On April 01, 2022, Members of the SJC led the congregation in the Way of the Cross-reading prayers from scripture and commentary on the struggles for social justice in communities supported by D&P.

Of note was the retirement in 2021 from SJC of Brigitta Fernandez who has worked on promoting the work of D&P in the parish and local schools for many years. We thank Brigitta sincerely for her many years' service.

ELIMU

SUBMITTED BY: Nina Chung

Nina returned to Canada in Dec. 2020 and remained throughout 2022. The Kenyan team is fully in charge in Kenya, as Nina takes on more responsibility for board development and fundraising in Canada. Elimu once again hosted an in-person fundraising event at Holy Cross in Nov. 2021 screening a small documentary about the Pendo Artisan Ragdolls and how sewing skills are changing girls' lives. Over \$8,000 was raised from the event towards school fees in Kenya. Children were able to return to Elimu Resource Centre to access the digital books and resources available to them for their studies.

The Cisco Networking Academy was able to resume and in April 2022 about 30 graduates received their certificates. The internationally recognized certificate boosts their opportunities to find work in the community. The Cisco graduation event was incorporated into the Youth Information Forum which attracted 400 high school graduates who came to learn about their options for planning for their futures after high school. The new Artisan Maker Space is up and running and training sewing alumni in income generating products like cloth bags and backpacks and beadwork to boost their businesses. Elimu continues to expand their Offline eLearning Solution taking digital educational resources into schools so students can get access to relevant quality resources without the need of internet. During the past two years over 40 children and youth were supported to stay in school through Elimu's Stay in School Sponsorship Project.

FOOD DRIVE

SUBMITTED BY: Joanne Lynn

Holy Cross parishioners have long supported 4 local area food banks: the Banff Avenue Community House, the Debra Dynes Family House, the Greenboro Pavilion Food Bank, and the Heron Emergency Food Centre. Current and former Holy Cross parishioners sit on the boards of or volunteer at 3 of these food banks.

Donations of non-perishable food, personal care items, gift cards and cash are solicited 3 times a year and weekly donations are also collected and delivered to the banks, all within 2 days of collection. Food Drives are held before all Masses on the First Sunday of Lent, Pentecost Sunday, and the First Sunday of Advent.

During the pandemic, these dates were flexible to work around lockdowns and weekly donations were suspended until recently.

In 2020, 390 bags of food and personal care items were donated and delivered to the food banks. In

2021, 362 bags of food, personal care items and \$325 worth of grocery store gift cards and cash were delivered to the banks.

The pandemic resulted in lower in-person attendance at Masses, but, in spite of this, Holy Cross parishioners' donations have kept pace with previous years.

Thank you, parishioners, for your continued generosity! Your donations are critical to the needs of many less fortunate people in our community, and they are very grateful for your help.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the Food Drives, the Coordinator is available before all Food Drives to respond. Once again, THANK YOU!

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (SSVP) – OTTAWA SOUTH CONFERENCE

SUBMITTED BY: Pauline Houlahan

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) has been active in Ottawa since 1864. Its role is to serve and aid the needy in all possible ways without regard for religion, condition, or situation. Across the City of Ottawa, It currently has 217 active members and 36 auxiliary members who contributed more than 20,000 hours of time over a 12 month period COVID significantly limited the activities of our works and changed the way we conducted home visits during the last two years.

The Ottawa South Conference has been in operation since November 20, 2014. The conference supports initiatives at Banff St. and Heron Rd through visits in those areas, and funding was provided by parish donations from Holy Cross, St. Bernard and St. Peter churches and private donations.

As a result of COVID, home visits have been held outside, no matter the weather, and consequently result in a much shorter visit with the families. COVID has also eliminated many, if not all, fund raising initiatives that have been part of our community in the past.

During 2021 Ottawa South conference completed 152 home visits representing 486 hours of service. Financial assistance was provided totaling \$11,500 in food and \$175 in clothing and household goods to 151 households comprised of adults and 102 children living in our neighbourhoods. SSVP Stores were closed as per government directives during the past year and as a result, were not engaging in furniture pick up, delivery or sale. Consequently, the needs of our families were greatly affected during these times of closure.

As part of SSVP Ontario's North of 60 Initiative, food items and donations for collected. Products were shipped to Rankin Inlet to help their needy in July of 2021.

The Conference informs their families of the local services available such as food banks, community support centres and other services available at the helpline #211. Information is provided on federal and provincial government programs financially supporting RESP's to fund education for low income youth as a part of SSVP's Seeds of Hope initiative.

As part of SSVP Ontario's North of 60 Initiative, food items and donations for collected. Products were shipped to Rankin Inlet to help their needy in July of 2021.

There are 21 members of the conference, of whom 14 are active making home visits and 7 are auxiliary members supporting the efforts. Thank you for your support of those in need. At Holy Cross Church, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Conference delivers services as part of the parish's Social Justice Initiatives.

Serving Christ through the poor with love, respect, justice, and joy

FINANCE

Dear Parishioners,

The year 2021 continued to challenge us, as public health measures placed severe limitations on our attendance. The restrictions were evident in the collections, which fell 2% from their 2020 level and were 8% below the 2019 level, the most recent pre-pandemic year.

The parish continued to cut all avoidable expenses in 2021. Ordinary expenses were reduced by 8% compared to 2020 and were 74% of the ordinary expenses in 2019. The cost-containment kept ordinary expenses below the income from our collections for the first time in several years.

We benefitted from two extraordinary sources of revenue this year. A bequest of \$50,000 and the federal government's wage subsidy of \$31,861 boosted our revenues on a one-time basis. Combined with interest from our investment in the archdiocese's loan fund and revenues from weddings, funerals, candles, and books, these resulted in a surplus of \$146,020.21.

We are projecting that the surplus from 2020 and 2021 will be completely eliminated in 2022. The budget shown on the third page of this report is projecting a loss of \$215,000 in 2022. This projection is based on a conservative estimate of how much our collections will increase as attendance trends upwards and the need to address the extraordinary expenses that were set aside in 2020 and 2021. This upcoming surge in spending underlines the importance of maintaining an adequate reserve fund to meet planned improvements and unforeseen expenses.

We face two major repairs:

- The air handler in our heating system is damaged and is on the verge of failure. Preliminary estimates are that the final cost of the repairs will be approximately \$200,000. Complicating this repair is the concern that supply-chain bottlenecks may stretch into the next heating season.
- Remedial work on the driveway along the west side of the church is urgently needed. The drains at the lowest point, near the side entrance, are not able to carry away run-off from heavy rainfalls and fast snow-melts. Water flows into the building and floods the elevator shaft.

In addition, we have an array of normal repairs, including work on the rectory foundation, electrical work in the church, and some upgrades in the kitchen.

In 2021, we made contributions to the following charities:

Chalice	Banff Community House	Claretian Fathers of Quebec
St Vincent de Paul Society	Elimu	Debra-Dynes Family House

Thank you to everyone who supported the parish in this trying time. The Lord's work takes many forms; your material support to our parish community is an important sign of discipleship.

Father Lukose Kochupurackal, Pastor

Joe Goski, Finance Committee Chair

Holy Cross Parish Balance Sheet, December 31, 2021

ASSETS	<u>2021</u>
Petty Cash Fund	250
Bank - Operations Account	80,093.82
Bank - Mass Account (Note 2)	1,440
Accounts Receivable (Note 3)	2,242
Investment at Archdiocese (Note 4)	966,742
Capital - 2872 Otterson Dr. (Note 5)	163,143
TOTAL ASSETS	1,213,911

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	235
Special Collections	6,154
Miscellaneous Liabilities	1,440
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,829

PARISH EQUITY

Unrestricted

Opening Equity Balance	196,534
Current Year Surplus (Deficit)	146,020
Closing Equity Balance	342,554
Restricted – no change (Note 4)	700,000
Capital Assets – no change	163,143
Total Equity	1,205,697

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,213,911
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Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021

1. The people of Holy Cross Parish are a community of clergy, religious and laity who, strengthened in Christ, and thankful for our blessings, seek to root ourselves in an authentic Christian community which is called to serve God in praise, each other in sharing, caring and healing, and our brothers and sisters, near and far, in prayer, peace and justice.
2. **Mass Account**
There is a requirement that the money collected for Masses to be celebrated be kept in its own bank account. A register is maintained to record the details of the Mass intention as well as the date the

Mass took place. Once celebrated, funds are transferred to the general bank account on a regular basis and disbursements for the priest's and Archdiocesan share of the Masses are issued.

**Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the Year Ended
on December 31, 2022**

	Actuals 2021	Budget 2022
REVENUE		
Collections	291,815	305,000
Weddings, Masses, Funerals	7,023	6,000
Other Taxable Revenue	15,320	15,000
Bequests and Special Donations	58,921	5,000
Total Taxable Revenue (Note 6)	373,079	331,000
Interest	30,406	30,000
Sales	8,953	10,000
General	36,979	20,000
Total Non-taxable Revenue (Note 7)	76,339	60,000
Total Revenue	449,418	391,000
ORDINARY EXPENSES		
Salaries (Note 8)	88,569	135,000
Employee Benefits and Expenses	6,160	8,500
Pastoral Work (Note 9)	31,825	40,000
Office Requirements, Telephone	29,474	32,000
Heating, Electricity	20,640	25,000
Taxes, Insurance, Water	13,228	14,000
Diocesan Administration Tax (Note 10)	41,409	43,000
Parochial Organizations	7,667	12,000
Miscellaneous	207	250
Maintenance & supplies	43,708	50,000
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES	282,886	359,750
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES		
Major Repairs or Replacements	17,999	241,500

Furniture, equipment	2,512	5,000
TOTAL EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES	20,511	246,500
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) ON OPERATIONS	146,020	-215,250

3. **Accounts Receivable**

This is reimbursements to be received from CRA for HST credits.

4. **Investment at Archdiocese**

The investment of parish funds in the Loan Fund for Parishes at the Archdiocese. These funds have been gradually accumulated over a number of years and are invested with the Archdiocese. The funds are available to us to cover planned and emergency requirements. The investments earn 3.5% interest yearly. Our policy is to maintain one and a half years of gross income as a cushion against unforeseen eventualities. This is shown as restricted on the balance sheet.

5. **Capital**

The pastor's residence is at cost. Depreciation is not recorded. There is an inventory of all equipment. They are written off as an expense as incurred. Expenses must be approved in advance by the Archdiocese.

6. **Taxable Revenue**

The revenue section of the statement separates revenue between taxable and non-taxable revenue based on the direction received from the Archdiocese. Taxable income is derived from revenue to the parish to support operations either through direct collections or charges for rental, weddings and funerals.

7. **Non-taxable Revenue**

The section includes the revenue received for specific purposes and approved by the Archdiocese as being exempt from the Archdiocesan tax. Currently this category includes sales of objects such as vigil candles, marriage courses, and advertising in the bulletin.

The revenue from special collections envelopes, such as Evangelization of the Nations and Works of the Canadian Church, are deposited to the Parish operating bank account and recognized as a liability owed to the Archdiocese. A cheque is sent to the Archdiocese after the final offerings are received. The Archdiocese forwards the funds from all parishes to the correct charitable organizations. There are nine special collections per year.

8. **Salaries and Benefits**

Expenditures for the priests assigned to the parish, the office staff, and rectory are summarized in these two lines. Included are the related employer contributions for CPP, EI, and Group Medical Plan.

9. **Pastoral Work**

Sacramental and Pastoral work represents expenditures incurred for the various Sacramental ministries such as First Communion, Baptism, Confirmation, music and decorating the church.

10. **Diocesan Administration Tax**

The Diocesan Administration Tax is our parish's contribution to the administration of the Archdiocese. This tax rate is set by the Archdiocese and applied against the taxable revenues defined above. The rate is currently 13% and the parish is required to pay it quarterly. An adjustment is made once the

parish's annual financial reports are completed.

11. **Accounting policies and procedures**

Accounting policies and procedures are in accordance with guidelines set by the Archdiocese of Ottawa. The financial statements are audited by auditors determined by the Archdiocese.