



# THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

Annual General Meeting Report 2016

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## 1. Baptism Preparation Program

From September 2015 through May 31, 2017 baptisms were predominately conducted on the last Saturday of each month starting at 1:00 pm. 39 children have been baptized at our parish through the month of April. The Rite of Baptism outside of Mass is normally celebrated by Deacon Wayne Lee.

Parents are obliged to attend a preparation course over two evenings prior to the baptism. The course has multiple goals:

- Meet all participants where they are on their faith journey without judgment and welcome them to the parish with love;
- Inform the parents and godparents of their duties and obligations by agreeing to have their child baptized;
- Give them an understanding of what they can do to bring their child up in the faith;
- Witness to the participants through personal testimonies (our experiences as Catholic Christian parents) and by proclaiming the Kerygma ;
- Give parents and godparents an understanding of the theology, signs, and symbols of the rite and the way in which the rite will be conducted at Good Shepherd; and
- Answer all questions openly and honestly; even if it is just to say that you don't know.

Although there is no fees associated with baptism, a suggested donation of \$80.00 from those able to give helps to cover administrative costs and items which are given to the family, which are as follows:

- Booklet on baptism
- Certificate of Baptism
- Baptismal candle and box
- White stole
- Bottle for Holy Water
- Handouts

Deacon Lee leads the baptismal preparation team. Gillian Keenan stepped down from her role handing over her role as coordinator to David Bourrier. One or two members of the team assist at the sacrament. The parish secretary (Bonnie) carries out all administration and document preparation and schedules the families for their baptismal preparation and baptism date.

## 2. Bible Study

We have a very lively, thriving Bible study program in the parish with 16 regular participants, so here an update to include in the AGM reports.

We have been using the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Each participant receives 2 books: a commentary and a study guide. The study guide provides 18 questions for each lesson in the study, some of them requiring a factual answer and others inviting the participant to relate the

scripture passage to some aspect of their life. Each week, we begin the session with discussion of these questions. The session wraps up with a lecture of about 20 minutes on a DVD.

The program is offered twice a week - on Monday evening or on Wednesday morning. We meet in the Fall and then take a break during the Winter and pick up again after Easter.

Last Fall, we studied St Paul's letters to the Galatians and the Romans. Much of our Christian theology originates in these 2 letters, so they certainly presented a challenge.

Currently we are studying Isaiah and frequently comment that we can sit with Isaiah in one hand and the daily newspaper in the other and not much has changed in 2800 years. It is proving to be a very enriching study.

In order to allow time to order the materials for the Fall session, there will be a notice in the parish bulletin in July. Everyone is welcome.

Regards

Charlotte Gupta

### **3. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS)**

CGS is a Christocentric program that introduces children to biblical and sacramental themes in a way that embraces their youth, joy and capacity for prayer. The program takes place in a Montessori environment called an atrium. The Good Shepherd Parish is currently offering Level 1 of the CGS program which welcomes children ages 3, 4 and 5. It is anticipated that in the coming years, Levels 2 and 3 of the CGS program will also be offered. These upper levels welcome children ages 6 – 12.

This past year, an atrium was prayerfully set up in the basement of the rectory and one full year of CGS sessions has taken place. The atrium is full of child-sized materials that children work with during the weekly CGS sessions. The program builds week to week on liturgical, biblical and sacramental themes in a way that embraces the children's youth and capacity for prayer.

Sessions ran from mid-October to mid-April and the catechists were happy to welcome 19 children (from 14 families) into the atrium. The children explored life in the church, including altar nomenclature, the life of Jesus, including Biblical geography, and the parables, including the parable of the Good Shepherd which is central to level 1 in the atrium. The children also had the opportunity to wonder about the sacrament of baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The catechists feel so blessed to be working with the children in the atrium and to be helping them discover the beauty of their relationship with God. Registration for the 2016-2017 year will begin this summer.

Beth Jaz and Sarah MacDonald McLean

## 4. Christian Meditation

The Christian Meditation group meets every Monday afternoon at 1:30pm. We have a core group of approx. 12 participants who come to pray in a contemplative way by using a mantra "Maranatha".

During the year the Ottawa area committee sponsors 4 events: in the fall, Advent, Lent, & a silent retreat which all may attend. There are over 40 groups in the Ottawa area alone & because it is a non- denominational ministry all are made to feel welcome.

At our meetings each week, we open with prayer; listen to a talk given by Fr. Laurence, a Benedictine monk, or another Christian meditator; play a couple of minutes of music & then 25 minutes of silence

repeating our mantra silently so that we can focus being in the presence of God; then a couple minutes of music & a reflection is then read; Lord's prayer is repeated & then a closing prayer. A discussion may follow after our meditation with regard to the talk depending on the group's wishes. The whole meeting time is less than an hour. Even Jesus prayed in a solitary place: Mark 1:35

If anyone wishes to join our group on Monday afternoons, please feel free to do so as all are welcome.

Gail Lussier

## 5. Cursillo Report

Our motto is: **Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ**

### **WHAT IS CURSILLO**

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "little" or "short" course. It begins on a Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. During those three days the Cursillistas (those attending) live and work together, listening to talks given by priests and laity. As the daily celebration of Eucharist is a central feature of the Cursillo experience, the weekend is best suited to Catholics.

**ONE DEFINITION STATES:** The purpose (or goal) of the Movement is to make Christian community possible in neighborhoods, parishes, work situations and other places where people live the greater part of their lives. It makes possible for anyone in the world to live a Christian life in a natural way."

**THE CURSILLO MOVEMENT:** is a powerful instrument of renewal in the Catholic Church. Its aim is to concentrate closely on the Person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The Cursillo gives those who attend it a living understanding of basic Christian truths and the desire to serve the Church. Furthermore, it provides a means to continue the Christian formation that just began in the three-day exercises.

The first Ottawa Cursillo was held in 1966, the same year Pope Paul VI designated Cursillo a renewal movement of the Church and named St. Paul as its patron.

This marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Movement and a Gala will be held Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6pm at the Tudor Hall

This year mark your calendars for the 140<sup>th</sup> Women's Weekend is Oct 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.

And the men's weekend is Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

All Cursillo Weekends are held at the Notre Dame de la Providence at 1754 St-Joseph Blvd. Orleans, ON.

**OUR GOAL:** is our Parish should have at least 4 people do a weekend per year. To raise enough money to offset the weekend cost. Also to start an Ultreya at the Good Shepherd Parish the first Saturday of each month starting April 2, 2016, excluding May 7 as it is the Knights of Columbus and CWL annual garage sale.

Helen Lemoire

The Good Shepherd Parish  
Representative

## 6. Catholic Women's League (CWL)

Number of Members: 89

Number of Life Members: 0

During this period, our parish council brought life to the Objects of the League and to the League's Mission Statement. We have described one outstanding activity under this standing committee by which we were able to show how the theme **One Heart One Voice One Mission** was used and followed.

### **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT**

A station of the cross was shared with the parish during lent, and a Marian devotion was opened to the parish in May. We hosted the World Day of Prayer with a Cuban theme on March 4; not only our parishioners attended but other denominations members as well.

### **ORGANIZATION**

Five 10-year, five 25-year, two 40-year and one 50-year service pins and merit awards will be presented to various members in June.

### **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**

During the past year, we celebrated Mothers, Fathers and Family on their special day. We encouraged family prayer with our Advent and Lenten Prayer Cards.

## **COMMUNITY LIFE**

Have asked members to focus on their own family according to Pope Francis's message, and then extend our attention to other council members, parishioners and community at large. Many CWL members are participating on the Syrian Refugee Committee. Our work for the dignity of all included providing Prayer Shawl to those who are unwell. It is our way of supporting those who need support during their struggles with their illness.

## **EDUCATION AND HEALTH**

We highlighted the prayer for those living with mental illness and how we must comfort them in their darkness. How we need to provide the best care for our dying and support of families through the benefits of hospice palliative care. Also to avoid using plastic microbeads, a major source of plastic pollution in the Great Lakes, found in popular brands of personal care products.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

An e-mail address, [gsp.cwl@gmail.com](mailto:gsp.cwl@gmail.com) was established for our members to send ideas, suggestions, concerns, anonymously. This enabled members, who can't make it to meetings, to contribute to our CWL council activities and business.

## **LEGISLATION**

We urged our members to write to their Member of Parliament to vote against Bill C-14 Medically Assistance in Dying and reinforcing the need for more and better palliative care for all Canadians.

## **PARISH ACTIVITIES**

Our members are involved in our church as Sacristans, Lecturers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Parish Council, Finance Council, Baptismal Preparation, Ushers, Altar Servers, Music Ministry, Environment, Widows and Widowers Friendship Group, Legion of Mary, Pastoral Care, Pro-Life and Cursillo.

## **ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH OUR COUNCIL DONATED MONEY IN THE YEAR 2016**

Some examples are: Lester B Pearson-scholarship fund, CWL National Bishop Pappin Fund, and other charities such as Fort McMurray, food bank and church landscaping.

## **7. Finance Council**

Dear Parishioners,

Following this statement is the statement of the parish's revenues and expenses as budgeted for 2015, the actual results for 2015 and the budgeted amounts for 2016, as submitted to the Archdiocese.

With respect to the actual results for 2015, the parish ended the year with a \$14,000 deficit, not a surplus as expected in January. While the revenue picture improved in the last part of the year, actual revenues did not meet the budget forecast. Expenses were about \$7,500 higher

than budgeted projections, due largely to higher than expected utilities and maintenance expenses.

At the end of 2015, the parish's mortgage balance was just under \$719,800.

With respect to the budget for 2016, the parish is projecting a small surplus for the year. Revenues are projected to be slightly higher than 2015 actuals. The Finance Council feels that the forecast for collections, credit cards and PAC collections, our main sources of revenue, is not unreasonable given that it is less than amounts collected in 2014 and reflects the pace of collections during the second half of 2015.

In terms of expenses, the projection for 2016 is higher than the actual amounts for 2015. Operating expenses are expected to be lower than 2015 levels, mostly due to lower interest, bank charges and Diocesan Tax. However, administrative costs will increase, payments on the mortgage principal will increase and there is work that needs to be done in the rectory basement to address leakage concerns.

As you will see, it costs over \$400,000 to run the parish for a year, so we need to bring in roughly \$8,000 per week to pay salaries, run the office, keeps the lights and heat on in the church, provide the sacraments, contribute to the operations of the Diocese and pay the interest and principal on the parish's mortgage.

<b>The Good Shepherd Parish</b>			
<b>Statement of Revenue and Expenditures</b>			
<b>Budget 2015, Actual 2015, Budget 2016</b>			
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	<b>Budget for 2015</b>	<b>Actual for 2015</b>	<b>Budget for 2016</b>
Collections from Masses	\$235,000	\$214,258	\$230,000
PAC & Credit Card Revenue	145,000	143,540	145,000
Masses, Weddings and Funerals	13,000	7,767	11,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	13,780	24,493	20,680
Parochial Organizations	3,000	9,771	10,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>409,780</b>	<b>399,830</b>	<b>416,680</b>
<b>Operating Expenditures:</b>			
Administration	138,188	145,982	151,950
Utilities & Maintenance	80,500	88,857	78,700
Cultural and Pastoral	20,800	24,099	20,800
Diocesan Tax	42,600	39,118	35,000
Parochial Organizations	2,500	1,493	2,500
Mortgage Interest & Bank Charges	42,300	39,465	33,500
Masses, Funerals & Weddings	2,500	-	-
Miscellaneous Expenses	10,000	5,978	7,100
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>339,388</b>	<b>344,992</b>	<b>329,550</b>
<b>Operating Revenue over Expenditures</b>	<b>70,392</b>	<b>54,837</b>	<b>87,130</b>
<b>Extraordinary Expenditures:</b>			
<u>Major Repairs or Replacements</u>			
Repairs to Rectory		5,276	10,000
Unforeseen repairs	5,000		5,000
	5,000	5,276	15,000
<b>Other Outflows:</b>			
Mortgage Payments (principal repayments)	61,638	63,505	68,411
<b>Total Revenue over Outflows</b>	<b>\$3,754</b>	<b>(\$13,943)</b>	<b>\$3,719</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Information:</b>			
Mortgage at December 31, 2015	\$719,766		

*Table 1 - Budget 2015, Actual 2015, Budget 2016*

Following this statement is the statement of the parish's revenues and expenses as of the end of April 2016, including comparison to the amounts budgeted for 2016 and the actual results for this period in 2015.

Figures for 2016 include both revenues and expenditures for Ordered and Special Collections, so for comparison purposes with budget and 2015, these amounts are removed.

Revenues are coming in slightly higher than 2015 levels, but are below budget amounts due to lower than projected amounts for collections. Expenses are significantly lower than 2015 levels and are consistent with the budget. Once mortgage payments (on the principal) are included, the parish was running a small deficit after one-third of the year.

At the end of April, the mortgage is now below \$700,000. The cash position of the parish is good, with over \$80,000 in cash.

It costs over \$400,000 to run the parish for a year, so we need to bring in roughly \$8,000 per week to pay salaries, run the office, keep the lights and heat on in the church, provide the sacraments, contribute to the operations of the Diocese and pay the interest and principal on the parish's mortgage.

**The Good Shepherd Parish  
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures  
For the month ended April 30, 2018**

	Actual to April 30, 2018	Budget for 2018	Diff. Actual to Budget (\$)	Diff. Actual to Budget (%)	Actual to April 30, 2018
<b>Operating Revenue</b>					
Collections from Masses	\$ 73,118	\$ 230,000	( 156,882)	-68%	\$ 68,733
PAC & Credit Card Revenue	45,987	145,000	( 99,013)	-68%	49,009
Masses, Weddings and Funerals	4,370	11,000	( 6,630)	-60%	5,130
Miscellaneous Revenue	4,788	20,680	( 15,892)	-77%	3,080
Ordered Special Collection	14,013				-
Parochial Organizations	3,120	10,000	( 6,880)	-69%	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>145,396</b>	<b>416,680</b>	<b>( 278,418)</b>	<b>-67%</b>	<b>125,952</b>
<b>Operating Expenditures:</b>					
Administration	51,118	151,950	100,832	66%	47,317
Utilities & Maintenance	29,373	78,700	49,327	63%	43,582
Cultural and Pastoral	6,618	20,800	14,182	68%	4,821
Diocesan Tax	5,535	35,000	29,466	84%	9,780
Parochial Organizations	900	2,500	1,600	64%	25
Mortgage Interest & Bank Charges	11,794	33,500	21,706	65%	14,305
Masses, Funerals & Weddings	1,635	-	( 1,635)		1,660
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,519	7,100	3,581	50%	3,056
Ordered Special Collection	14,013				-
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>124,504</b>	<b>329,550</b>	<b>219,059</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>124,546</b>
<b>Operating Revenue over Expenditures</b>	<b>20,892</b>	<b>87,130</b>	<b>( 66,238)</b>	<b>-76%</b>	<b>1,406</b>
<b>Extraordinary Expenditures:</b>					
<u>Major Repairs or Replacements</u>					
Furniture for Rectory		10,000	10,000		
Unforeseen repairs		5,000	5,000		
	-	15,000	15,000		-
<b>Other Outflows:</b>					
Mortgage Payments (principal repayments)	22,463	68,411	45,948	67%	20,205
<b>Total Revenue over Outflows</b>	<b>(\$ 1,572)</b>	<b>\$ 3,719</b>	<b>(\$ 5,290)</b>	<b>-142%</b>	<b>(\$ 18,800)</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Information:</b>					
Loan balance	\$ 697,302				
<b>Fund Balances:</b>					
<u>Bank accounts:</u>					
		Refugee Fund	landscaping	General	Total
Operating	\$ 9,091			9,091	9,091
Refugee (Internal Only)		32,351		32,351	32,351
National Bank	\$ 21,731			21,731	21,731
Masses	\$ 2,635			2,635	2,635
Pre Arranged Contributions	\$ -			-	-
Short Term Deposits - R.C.I.E.C.O.	\$ 50,000			50,000	50,000
					-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 83,457</b>	<b>\$ 32,351</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 115,809</b>	<b>\$ 115,809</b>

Table 2 – Financial Report, April 2016

## 8. Knights of Columbus 2015-10-05

In closing last year's report for the Parish AGM I commented we would be repeating, and hopefully improving upon, the successful programs of past years. Although our Fraternal year is not yet complete at the time of this writing, I am pleased to report that we are well on the way to achieving our goal.

Thanks to the dedication, and the hours of volunteer work of members within our Council, our total charitable distribution for the Fraternal year 2015-2016 is hovering around \$12,700. That will bring the total for charitable donations during the past four years to over \$47,000.

Our major activities consisting of the Christmas Charity Auction and Parish Garage Sale contribute a significant amount to that total. But let us not diminish the value of our other activities, they are equally important. These include the Parish Breakfasts, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, Rona "5% discount card", and our Rose Sunday collection.

The breakdown from this year's activities is as follows:

- The Rose Sunday collection raised more than \$1,400 which will be divided evenly among our Pro-Life charities.
- The Rona "5% discount card" refund totaled \$500, this amount was given to the Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" program for this past winter. *(It was reported that the Archdiocese Association of Ottawa was the number one association in all of Canada in supporting this program.)*
- Net proceeds of just over \$5,700 from the Christmas Charity Auction were used to purchase Christmas food hampers for 35 families in our area. Surplus funds were allocated towards the local food bank.
- The recent Garage Sale is a co-supported event between the Parish's Knights and CWL – each sharing the proceeds, as well as providing a near equal portion to the local food bank.
- The Knights' share of the Garage Sale is combined with the funds raised from the Parish Breakfasts and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner to support a number of charities with a religious, community, and/or church focus. Current designates include youth groups, bursaries for graduating high school students, housing for the homeless (particularly homeless veterans), and seminarians.

Volunteering by Council members does not stop with Council activities; many of our members participate in several church ministries (Mass ushers, Eucharistic ministers, Lector readers, and choirs). Various parish committees have Knights as members. And Knights are always helping with numerous internal and external functions & gatherings associated with the Parish in differing capacities (e.g. Church cleaning & maintenance, school BBQs, Pro-Life campaigns).

The Executive for the upcoming Fraternal year has been elected. Based upon the success of the current year, we look forward to the possibilities for what awaits us. We will strive to maintain our achievements and introduce new programs and activities to respond to the initiative announced by our Supreme Knight: Building the Domestic Church While Strengthening Our Parish. The Knights' principles of charity, unity and fraternity also apply to the family ... the family is the basis of the "domestic church".

Mike Goulet

Grand Knight – Council 9005

## 9. Legion of Mary

Active members: 6 (increase of one since 2015)

Auxiliary (praying) members: 84 (increase of 18 since 2015)

Father Shroff assigned the following work to Our Lady of Guadalupe Praesidium; the work is focused on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy:

- Coordinate Eucharistic Adoration on the First Friday of each month as well as on some major solemnities.
- Lead Divine Mercy Devotions on Fridays at 3PM.
- Coordinate Divine Mercy Devotions on Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Lead the rosary before weekday and First Saturday masses.
- A Legion of Mary information stand is supplied with rosaries, Miraculous Medals, Catholic literature and Legion of Mary information.
- A lending Library is maintained
- 600 laminated wallet cards stating: "I am a Catholic, in case of an accident please call a Priest" were distributed within the parish

Visit the AMICA senior's residence weekly to pray the rosary with residents immediately before the weekly mass or Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion. Increasingly the residents are taking responsibility to lead decades of the Rosary, to read or otherwise assist Father Shroff or Deacon Lee. We provide the parish bulletins and religious literature to the residents.

### New Work assigned in the past year:

- Door to Door Visitation – We visited 127 homes in our church community. We left a bulletin all homes, offered rosaries, rosary pamphlets and Miraculous Medals. We invited residents to come to church and encouraged several people to meet with Father Shroff to discuss specific issues. Thirteen residents invited us to return for another visit. One Legionary would speak while the second would be praying.
- We did bus ministry during the winter months where again one legionary would pray while the second would strike up a conversation with a passenger. The conversations had the goal of encouraging people to attend church. Like home visits, religious articles were distributed to those who wished to accept them. The response from people on the buses was very positive.
- We lead weekly Stations of the Cross on Tuesday mornings following the mass.

## 10. The Good Shepherd Parish Liturgical Committee Report

Meetings: The Liturgy Committee meets four times between November and May. The meetings are mainly to plan for and discuss upcoming Liturgical Celebrations.

Composition: There are presently nine Ministries involved in Liturgy:

Individual Ministries do not exist in isolation. If only one of these Ministry Coordinators does not ensure that their ministry is functioning effectively.....it affects not only other Ministries, but the Priest, Deacon and every person who comes to mass.

Responsibilities: It is the responsibility of the Liturgical Committee to ensure that all liturgical celebrations are adequately supported. That includes Sunday and daily masses - adapting to the particular season or focus - including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion, Reconciliation, Eucharistic and Divine Mercy Adorations, Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, School Masses and services in Retirement Homes..

Pentecost Vigil: Under Father Shroff's guidance, for the past two years, we celebrated Pentecost with a Vigil. This requires extra planning as well changing Saturday mass time from 5 pm to 7 pm.

The Pentecost Vigil gives a well-deserved emphasis to the Birthday of the Church

Corpus Christi Sunday: Also under Father Shroff's guidance, a procession of the Blessed Sacrament is held outside after the 11:15 mass on Corpus Christi Sunday.

Eucharistic Adoration: after 9 am mass every Friday 9:30 -10:30 and every First Friday 9:30-3:30

Special Masses: Two special Masses were celebrated in our parish.

Pro Life Mass and Mass with anointing of the sick

Many people take for granted that there will be music, altar servers, communion ministers, lectors etc..... ..not to mention a sacristan who works quietly behind the scenes - ensuring that everything is in place. With that in mind I would like to acknowledge and thank each and every one of our Liturgical Coordinators

- Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Barb Paquette
- Music Ministry - Steve Chow
- Lectors - Marilyn Olsen
- Altar Servers - Anne Gannon
- Children's Liturgy - Patty MacCarthy
- Sacristan - Donna Dunham
- Ushers - Dennis Rideout
- Liturgical Decorating - Adele Pierce
- Welcoming - Hilary Als

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Parish, the Role, Responsibilities and Needs of the Ministries that makes up the Liturgical Committee.

Chair: Alma Haggart

**Following are Ministry Reports submitted by Ministry Coordinators.**

**a. Welcome Ministry:**

The focus of this ministry is twofold:

1. To greet parishioners and welcome visitors to our Masses on the weekends.
2. To contact new parishioner who have registered and welcome them to the parish.

Successes

Very committed and enthusiastic group of ladies

A great opportunity to get to know our parishioners and make personal contact

Ensure all information is given to us on the Registration form.

Provides an opportunity for parishioners to get involved in the parish through our ministry.

Struggles

More volunteers are required: teens, families are welcome.

May not always reach new parishioners as not all register.

Hilary Als

**b. Ushers:**

Currently have 18 full time and 3 spare ushers.

Several people have had to step aside for various reasons. We could really use some extra help;

- Once again we were able to have a full complement of Ushers for all Christmas and Easter Masses;
- Ushers were available for several special masses throughout the year...i.e. Confirmation Mass and Pentecost Vigil.

Dennis Rideout

**c. Music Ministry:**

The Good Shepherd Parish Music Ministry provides music for many Parish masses and liturgies. The Ministry is very fortunate to be able to provide this service with a solid base of over 25 dedicated volunteers who act as instrumentalists, singers, choir directors, and music coordinators throughout the year. These volunteers provide music at regular weekend masses, Christmas and Easter masses, as well as any other special masses during the year such as Reconciliation Liturgies, First Communion masses, and Confirmation masses to name just a few.

Even with our strong base of volunteers, the music ministry is always looking for interested individuals to sing in a choir, to cantor a mass, or provide instrumental accompaniment during masses!

Highlights:

- The music ministry is successfully able to provide music for most regular weekly (Sunday) masses throughout the year, including over the summer
- The music ministry could always use more members, especially accompanists/instrumentalists (piano, guitar, organ)

Steve Chow

#### **d. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:**

At the moment we have 33 active ministers out of 38.

4 people will be trained by end of May

Many of our EMOHC are getting on in age.

My challenge is to recruit new younger members and some youth

We have adapted some changes this year during our regular masses and especially during the Triduum masses. Next year should go a little smoother after we implement a few minor changes.

Barb Paquette

#### **e. Children's Liturgy**

In December 2015, the coordinator, Danielle Bennett stepped down. In addition, one of the full time leaders requested that she be a substitute leader only. Patty MacCarthy agreed to take over the coordinator duties. However, it was necessary to offer liturgy at the 9am Mass only due to the smaller number of leaders. In March 2016, another leader stepped down. Thus there are currently only three full time leaders. Average attendance at the 9am Mass continues to be around 20-25 children but it is not uncommon to have closer to 30 children.

The Path Forward:

The children's liturgy program has not had a full review or any training or workshops in over 5 years. This may be a contributing factor to leader retention. Leaders, past and current, have expressed feeling overwhelmed when dealing with large numbers of children. In addition, they would like to meet to share ideas and techniques. We are blessed to have two wonderful leaders who have shown enthusiasm and dedication to this ministry. One is currently studying to be a primary school teacher and the other is a qualified teacher. Both have committed to staying with the ministry next year and are keen to help review the program.

We are in the processes of planning an initial meeting. In addition a survey will be sent to leaders, past and current, to gather information for a full program review. It is our hope to evaluate all elements of the program including schedules, number of leaders, youth helpers, and types of activities within the liturgies such as music. An appeal for additional leaders will be put in the bulletin and perhaps the coordinator will make a short announcement at an upcoming Mass. Several youth have spoken to the coordinator expressing a desire to help. This is exciting! The role of youth helpers will be discussed and if applicable, a set of volunteer expectations will be developed.

Finally, a special thank you goes to Alma Haggart, Liturgy Chair for representing children's liturgy during meetings for the last several months as the coordinator was unable to attend.

Patty MacCarthy

**f. Altar Serving Ministry:**

Our ministry consists of 2 coordinators: Anne Gannon (administrative) and Matthew Dunham (training), 23 youth and 2 youth assistants: Joseph Keenan and Ethan Pierce. Each of the coordinators have distinct roles. Anne's role is to maintain records of current altar servers (including contact information, availability, roles they are trained for, and their attendance at monthly practices); liaise with the office administration to ensure practices do not overlap with other ministries activities; schedule the altar servers for the 3 Masses held each weekend (done on a monthly basis); distribute training material to the servers; and attend monthly practices with the servers. Matthew's role is to train the servers in the roles of an altar server at monthly practices. Matthew plans and implements the activities at the practices to best teach the roles of the servers. Joseph and Ethan and one other senior server assist Matthew in monthly training as they as available (we are so grateful to them for this!)

In order for the ministry to function best, a minimum of 4 servers at each Mass is required: a Master of Ceremonies (MC), a cross bearer and two acolytes. On special feast days, an additional server, as thurifer is needed. Now have 4 servers who are trained to fill this role (2 for 9AM and 2 for 11:15AM)

At present, we have a shortage of servers to fill the above-mentioned roles, particularly at 5 PM Mass. The 5 PM Mass currently has servers on the first Saturday of the month only, and has traditionally been the most difficult Mass to get servers for. The 9 AM Mass is running at the minimum number of servers to fill all roles each Sunday and could thus benefit from more servers as well. The 11:15 AM Mass has the most servers who attend that Mass, and thus generally has no shortage of servers to fill each role

We run one training session per month from September to June, with an additional two practices the week prior to Holy Week, to ensure that any changes to the liturgy are communicated to the servers as quickly as possible. Also, we request that servers attend as often as possible since it is easy, especially for those serving less often, to forget the steps involved in the roles they are assigned if they are not performing them often.

The steps for preparing prior to Mass are posted in the Sacristy in case any server is unsure of what they are supposed to do. Additionally, they have been instructed to ask the server assigned to the role of MC if they are unsure of anything as that server is the most experienced server that day. Server attendance at these training sessions is low and needs to be improved. We have decided to add an activity of a social nature to the end of the June practice in the hopes that improved interest in practices will take place.

We have lost 6 servers this past year and gained 2, and there are 2 who are not currently able to serve. While the majority of these losses have been to moves, several have been due to servers deciding that they are ready for a different ministry. As more of our servers are nearing the end of high school, they, too, will likely be leaving the ministry and it is our hope that we will be able to attract and train new servers to take their place so that their loss will not be felt too strongly.

During the sacramental prep, Anne spoke to the children about joining the ministry. Hopefully some of the children will feel the calling to do so. Lastly, one of the mothers of a server, Chantal Alden, has graciously offered to launder the robes for us. She does so periodically and we are very grateful to her for this.

With the implementation of the new archdiocese rules regarding volunteer conduct and the requirement to participate in activities in pairs, we are in need of one more adult facilitator who can assist in the monthly altar server training.

Anne Gannon

**g. Sacristan Report:**

The Guide for Sacristans (second edition) states that: The sacristan prepares the things that are necessary<sup>1</sup> for the celebration of the liturgy: the books, the vestments, the vessels, the bread and the wine. But the sacristan does more than prepare the things needed for worship: the sacristan's reverent, prayerful preparation can remind the entire assembly to prepare their hearts for worship.

At The Good Shepherd Parish we are now operating with six sacristans on a regular basis, plus one newly trained sacristan who should be able to serve for half the year as she travels south in the winter. Three of our regular sacristans are away from the ministry now due to illness (theirs or that of a loved one). These 6-7 prepare for and serve some 365 regularly scheduled Masses and the set up and serve for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday Morning. In addition they prepare for and serve at Funerals and Memorial Masses, Wedding rehearsals and Weddings.

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GIRM, 105a.

We also continue to prepare for and assist during the Triduum, additional Masses at Christmas, Reconciliation services, Confirmation; and at times special devotions such as Stations of the Cross and Adoration on the Feast of Divine Mercy.

Another important task is the cleaning and polishing of sacred vessels, cleaning and repairing of Altar linens and the upkeep of vestments and the Sacristy itself.

All this is done in an effort to provide a prayerful environment for parishioners and to assist our priest, Father Shroff and other visiting priests.

We welcome more individuals who feel called to serve Our Lord in this behind the scenes Ministry.

When Sacristans prepare for Mass and other Liturgies, they assist in preparing all parishioners to worship Our Lord and to be sent forth as the Body of Christ.

Donna Dunham

#### **h. Liturgical Decor:**

This year, the second I have been leading this ministry alone, has been easier than the last. I kept below my allotted budget, in great part thanks to the incredible generosity of parishioners in making donations towards Easter Lilies at Easter, and poinsettias at Christmas time.

I have enjoyed the great help of my own children and their friends in decorating for the major feasts: Christmas and Easter and this year Sarah and Gillian helped over Easter time as well. Since they will not necessarily be available to help at each feast, I have been in touch with another parishioner, Ann Villarosa, who has offered to be my helper whenever I require another pair of hands if she is available. This is incredibly valuable to me and will save a great deal of time. It is very good too to involve other people in ministry that is new to them.

Beginning this past January, I began to take more detailed notes on what I plan, order and do for each Feast so that each year the task should become easier.

New things this year: I began but didn't finish re-painting the Nativity set and Nick Jaz gave a few of the figures extra support with wooden frames. Both these jobs will need to be finished for next Christmas in order for the figures to look good and to stay standing.

For Holy Thursday I painted and gilded with gold leaf, a tabernacle to be used in the Day Chapel. Father and parishioners seemed to be pleased with the result. My goal was to make the Altar of Repose as beautiful as possible for Holy Thursday's time of adoration.

My ultimate goal in working in this ministry is to bring beauty to the church for all Feast days and celebrations so that liturgical decor becomes a way of evangelizing and helping people to love attending Mass at our parish.

Adele Pierce

## **i. Lectors:**

1. Presently there are 36 ministers who proclaim the Word or take the role of Moderator at the regularly scheduled Sunday Masses, all on a monthly 4-week rotation. There are an additional 15 persons who have offered to serve occasionally and are on the spare list.
2. This Ministry is always in need of additional persons to consider offering their service to the parish through the proclamation of the Word. Being on the spare list allows flexibility for those ministers who are unable to commit to a regular spot, as well as affording a pool of substitute ministers as vacancies arise.
3. All ministers of the Word were generous with their time when the request for lectors/moderators went out for the myriad needs during the Triduum, the Pentecost Vigil Mass and the extra Masses over Christmas. Through their generosity of service, the Parish benefitted greatly from the prayerfully proclaimed readings.
4. The parish provides a Sunday Missal to each minister to enable their prayerful preparation of their readings. Workbooks for Lectors are ordered for those ministers who request one; these are paid for by each individual.
5. This year three members have stepped down from this ministry and one has moved to another city; others from the spare list have accepted full time commitments. A Lector Ministry training session is being planned for new members of this ministry; new members are always welcomed.
6. All ministers are to be commended for their dedication to this Ministry. Their prayerful preparation and commitment to the schedule, as well as to stepping up to fulfill short-notice vacancies is a wonderful example of the Christian spirit. The parish is very well-served by their contribution to our liturgies.

It is a great honour to serve the Parish in this Ministry.

Marilyn Olsen

## **11. Marriage Preparation**

This year Adrian and I welcomed 10 engaged couples to the course. They came from different parts of the city and from different parishes because not all parishes in the diocese offer a marriage preparation course. Regular communication with them began in November, with us encouraging them to read daily e-mail Advent reflections from Bishop Barron or Dynamic Catholic.com. Links were provided. They were also encouraged to begin attending Mass together since many of them did not regularly attend. At this point we answered their questions and helped them to follow the procedures required by the diocese to be properly ready for the Sacrament of Marriage. The course began in January and the seventh lesson ended in March. Those who missed lessons attended make up sessions at our home in March and April.

We had volunteers helping with snacks for the lessons. In particular, Stefanie El Zarka's offer to provide snacks was very helpful. Our speakers were all volunteers as well: five couples including Father Shroff, Chris and Christiane McMullan, Beth and Nick Jaz and Adrian and myself from this parish. Three of our speaker-couples come from different parishes and over time it would be ideal to have these talks given by members of the parish. Ten prayer couples, 9 of them from this parish, were invited to each keep an engaged couple in their prayers and these couples came for the engagement ceremony and social on the last day. We invited other married couples from our parish to attend talks in order for them to see how the course works and to discern helping with the ministry in the future.

The course was a success in that attendees were pleased with the instruction they received and felt it was very valuable to their future marriages. A new initiative was inviting them to be introduced to the parish at a 9am Mass. Only half attended but we are grateful that they did. Another new initiative is to stay in touch with Carol Faure in RCIA so that we can recommend people to one another's ministries and work together more closely in the parish. In the Marriage course we always see some who are not Catholic.

The couples are getting married over the next two years. We make it very clear to them that we are available to them at any time for advice or to help them to make contact with others who might help them in their marriage. We are very encouraging and give them all of the information we have personally as well as books and links to talks and articles that are all valuable in helping them to grow in their faith together and to prepare for married life together. Most of this entire course is about evangelizing since without faith they will encounter even greater challenges in their marriages. The couples who give talks are very inspiring in this way.

One engaged couple asked to help with the course next year. This is a huge success and very encouraging. Each year we note how to improve the course for the following year. We work closely with the leaders of the Marriage preparation course at St Mary's Parish in order that these two courses keep growing better in the same way. We have just given information to Amy and Michael Hall who are new to leading Marriage Prep at Divine Infant Parish, our book list and we will be providing 100% of the contents and method of our course to a young couple looking to start it in a parish in Nova Scotia.

Adele and Adrian Pierce

## 12. On-Going Spiritual Direction



*"In spiritual direction both the director and the directee receive some divine wisdom from their listening to God. The more loving the listening, the purer the wisdom. Then, when the interior disposition is ripe, the Spirit grants also to both of them some particular knowledge or insight."*

*Nemeck and Coombs,  
The Way of Spiritual Direction p.101*

Spiritual direction is a listening together to the God-within the directee that offers nourishment and encouragement for the human/spiritual journey. Are you searching for a deeper meaning to some of life's perplexing situations? Do you experience the need to sit with a spiritual director awaiting Spirit wisdom and 'direction'?

We need to expect our spiritual growth to be like a "Divine Therapy" that releases and heals the patterns of our mental and emotional problems (purification) and awakens our consciousness of the Divine Presence within (transformation).

Within a faith-context, your spiritual director will accompany you in your quest for wholeness; listen to your story and offer wisdom and guidance; suggest readings and prayer styles that will assist you in your spiritual growth and development.

Currently at Good Shepherd parish, there are 6 Spiritual directees voyaging with Christ in formal direction and 10 former directees who continue to grow in their spiritual life supported by this program.

Spiritual Direction Upper Room Home of Prayer: [www3.sympatico.ca/upperroom](http://www3.sympatico.ca/upperroom)

-6987

Good Shepherd Contact: Deacon Wayne Lee - 613-833-1502.

### **13. Outdoor Decoration**

Struggle: two people were willing to help following time and talent weekend but one, upon being contacted, did not reply and the other is not available till June. Another option needs to be investigated if we want Helen's work from last year to be fruitful and if we want the outdoors to look good.

Suggestion: Call-out after Masses one weekend to ask people who are willing to help to just show up on a given Saturday and everyone does a weeding/planting/watering blitz?

Adele Pierce

### **14. Pro Life**

The Good Shepherd Parish participated in the 2015, 40 Days for Life Campaign by their prayerful presence at an Ottawa abortion facility for one full day; several parishioners proclaimed the Word and many continued to witness at the site throughout the entire 40 Days.

The second Spiritual Adoption Program was completed in December 2015. The campaign displays nine consecutive monthly posters and weekly bulletin announcements to describe fetal growth and development. Parishioners are asked to pray for a spiritually pre-born baby who is in danger of abortion. Father Shroff picked the baby's name from many suggestions placed in a box by parishioners. The name was Maria.

The Parish sponsored two dedicated walkers in the Action Life's 'Hike for Life' fundraiser. Total raised: \$1,298.70.

A baby bottle fund raiser was completed for the Miriam Centre. The total parish donation is not available at the time of this report.

The pro-life corner of the bulletin requests prayer relevant to weekly Gospels and to inform the parish of community resources that provide help with life issues.

The LifeCanada: Pregnant? [www.adoptionincanada.ca](http://www.adoptionincanada.ca) and You'll never regret loving this much [www.abortionincanada.ca](http://www.abortionincanada.ca) business cards encouraging women to bring their children to birth are available in the church. (samples distributed at the AGM)

An assortment of other literature including two new pro-life books, pamphlets and post cards related to current media and legislative initiatives is maintained.

Bill C -14 is currently before the Senate. This Bill legalizes Assisted Suicide and euthanasia. The bill does not provide for conscience right of doctors. All amendments suggested to the Bill were rejected.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Snell

## 15. Pastoral Care

This year our team was comprised of twelve individuals who were ready and willing to respond to the various needs of the parish and the community at large.

Our efforts to ensure our regular masses were carried out at our affiliated seniors residence has been very successful as well as our regular visitations from team members.

Hospital visits, home visits, were also carried out and will continue.

It is our intent to promote wider distribution of our Pastoral Care team and services and this will happen in the near future. We will ensure the bulletin reflects our presence in the parish and that people can call us at any time for assistance.

We are also involved with caring for refugee families, food banks, working at our homeless shelters in times of crisis, and various other ministries in the parish.

We look forward to new members joining the team as there is always room for more people and more helping hands

Our new Chairperson moving forward will be Carol Faure as Sharon Rideout has completed four years and is moving on.

Thanks to the entire team who were quick to respond with visits, bringing communion to the sick, visiting our shut ins and carrying out various other tasks.

We look forward to serving the parish in the year to come. Please pass the word that we are active in the parish.

Thanks  
Sharon Rideout

## 16. RCIA

RCIA started off the last week in September with 1 catechumen for all sacraments, and 4 candidates for the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Our facilitators were Kimberley Jordan, herself having gone through RCIA as well as working with the Blessed Sacrament team, and Marilyn Dunn who asked if she could help when two of our facilitators quit due to illness in family, and personal reasons. Marilyn's help was very much appreciated; she too had come through RCIA and had worked with Carol previously for 4 years.

We had an extremely cohesive group this year with not only a connection between facilitators and candidates, but between the candidates themselves

Our catechumen for Baptism provided us all with some excellent information on the Jewish religion, as he himself was of the Jewish faith. Finally we had 2 sponsors who came regularly every week and provided not only support but contributed immensely.

Without the guidance and commitment of Father Shroff at many of our meetings, and his help with the Rites, we would not have had as successful a year.

The candidates were welcomed to our Church in late January, and were given Bibles and crosses.

In February all attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral and were greatly taken with entering the Doors of Mercy at the Cathedral.

All attended the First scrutiny on the 3rd Sunday in Lent, but sadly our catechumen due to a diagnosis of terminal illness, had to withdraw from the program. We therefore had no Baptism for Easter Vigil.

The candidates chose as their Lenten project to contribute to the Miriam Centre.

All donated money and cheques, including our catechumen who wished to be a part of, and I personally delivered donations to Sister Rita right after Easter.

We had one of the most joyful vigils I have ever experienced in my twelve years with RCIA, again in part to Father Shroff.

This year for the first time had Baptismal robes made which will be used for further adult Baptisms. We established a good rapport with the Marriage Prep team who encouraged their members to seek out RCIA if not Catholic, while we in turn encouraged one of our candidates who became engaged, to seek out the Marriage prep team. We also established a rapport with Sarah MacDonald-McLean who invited the candidates to tour the Atrium.

We also held a mini retreat on Easter Saturday morning which was attended by all, and was a success.

One candidate is already working with children's liturgy, one would like to come on the RCIA team at a later date, and another is seriously considering working within our Parish.

Finally RCIA ended on May 6th with a pot luck supper at Carol's house.

Respectfully submitted

Carol Faure

## **17. Responsible Ministry 2015**

As all ministry heads should be aware this is a very important ministry and cannot function without their support.

This ministry is responsible to ensure that each volunteer completes the required forms which is a basic Time and Talent form, references and/or Police Checks depending on the level of responsibility and risk

Volunteers come and go; therefore it is important that this ministry is aware of all changes in order to keep the records up to date.

Presently we have 228 volunteers in ministries, with approx. 37 volunteers in 3 or more ministries. Thanks to all our volunteers.

### Successes

Excellent results from Time and Talent weekend in the fall.

### Challenges

More timely communication with Ministry Co-Ordinators to keep us updated on additions and deletions to the ministries.

A need to form a committee to update our guidelines overtime  
Needs someone to take over this role.

Respectfully Submitted  
Hilary

## **18. Sacramental Preparation -Fall 2014-Fall 2015**

Good Shepherd Parish Sacramental Preparation team consisted of two parts, a team that prepared the children for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion, generally considered the grade two Sacraments and a team that prepared the children for Confirmation.

The first team welcomed the grade two children in the fall as they registered in the preparation program. We had a total of 56 children register. The cost of the program was \$50 which covered the cost of materials including two workbooks, a cross necklace, certificates and refreshments throughout the program. The children were expected to attend a total of six lessons. They occurred during the latter part of the 11:15 Mass on four occasions. The remaining two meetings occurred in the evening to which we invited the parents to attend. Father Shroff spoke to both parents and children about the beauty of the Mass at the first of these evening meetings. For the second evening meeting, the team led the children through two different

stations on Reconciliation while the parents watched a video intended for adults on the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated May 5th, there were five priests who kindly assisted on this special occasion. Members of the youth band provided the music. The children then received their First Holy Communion on May 7th and 8th at all three of the weekend Masses. It was arranged for each of the children to give a carnation to their mother as it was Mother's Day. After each of the Masses, there was a small reception in the hall where cake, juice and coffee was provided. Each of the children was given a certificate signed by Father Shroff to indicate that they had received both Sacraments.

The second team welcomed the grade six children in the fall to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. There were 46 children who registered. The cost of this program was \$30 to cover expenses. The children met for six classes at the parish and chose either Saturday afternoons or Sunday. Both options included attendance at Mass. Auxiliary Bishop Christian Reisbeck celebrated Mass and Confirmed the children at Good Shepherd May 10. After the Mass there was a reception in the hall where cake, juice, coffee and tea were provided.

This ministry involves the entire parish indirectly in the sense that many of the children and parents who attend the Masses for the preparation may be unfamiliar faces. Each time a parishioner makes an effort to smile, or say hello to them it can be considered to be a part of the welcome that we are trying to extend every time they join us. Thank you for your part in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Gillian Keenan

## 19. Good Shepherd Syrian Family Welcoming Committee

*Vision: Our dream is to realize the Pope's and Archbishop's vision in this "Year of Mercy"*

*to serve our brothers and sisters in need and help welcome them into Canada with acts of corporal and spiritual mercy.*

*We thank the Lord for this opportunity to serve.*

- Although in the end the sponsorship never came to its expected fruition, here is an account of what was accomplished.
- Who are the Al Tahsh Family that our Parish was hoping to sponsor?

The family consists of five people: father, Basem, mother Sherine, and their three children: Shahd, (6 years old) Elie (5 years old) and baby Daniel who was born in September.

- Why were we doing this sponsorship?
- War in Syria displaced over 4 million Syrians since 2011, largest human migration since WWII
- Refugee camps overwhelmed by numbers of people needing aid
- Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis called for corporal and spiritual acts of mercy

- Our parish responded to its obligation to help the Syrian people affected
- For many parishioners, it was a photograph of Elan, the drowned boy, that ignited a passion to try to save other victims from the violence and destruction that is war
- When were they to arrive?
- Expected end of March/ early April - exact date unknown - government change in policy - anytime until end of November
- Government met its election target of 25,000 Syrian refugees. Rules changed: no more fast tracking and free travel - Travel loans reinstated instead, no more clothing handouts, no more OHIP cards issued, Visa Immigration Post staff recalled with no explanation to refugees on site, no response from government to our committee letters (last one on April 20<sup>th</sup>)
- No concrete action by government in response to parishioner letter writing campaign or to concerns of other private sponsorship parishes
- No communication by government to the Catholic Centre for Immigration. The staff only know what is reported in the media
- Where is the family now?
- In Ras Baalbek, Lebanon, a town frequently attacked by terrorists from Syria
- Application was approved February 29<sup>th</sup> - day before Government changes
- Medical Tests were completed successfully on April 20<sup>th</sup> 2016
- Interviews with family were held on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2016. They were rejected by the Canadian Immigration authorities due to inconsistencies in their story, and deemed not credible in how they arrived in Lebanon
- What had been accomplished?
- **GS Syrian Family Welcome Committee organized in Jan. 2016 into the following portfolio/teams, met regularly to plan for transitioning to all aspects of Canadian Life for the family:**
  - **Finance**, setting up budget, Child Benefits, Income Tax assistance
  - **Health** (including access to medicines) and Dental (pro bono for dental emergencies for entire family plus free cleanings)
  - **Education**: ESL and extra English tutor for the parents, School options for the children, including summer activities
  - **Pastoral Care** (Transportation of family for Mass at GS, blessing of the apartment on request)
  - **Social / Emotional Support Visits** by the Welcome Team
  - **Job Preparation** (including translation into Arabic of booklet, networking within hotel business to help Basem find work)
  - **Teaching the family how to use OC Transpo**, helping with shopping
- **Fundraising** target of \$22,500 exceeded in only two weeks (**raised \$37,547**)
- **Apartment** completely set up and furnished , rent being paid monthly for the time being, contact booklet to help the family know who we are and what we do

- **Daytime driving team** to take family members to appointments, language classes etc. until the family learned how to use public transportation
- **Nine translators**, including one couple for the family for handling emergencies, were ready to assist our Team Leads and as they met with the family to open bank accounts, set up family monthly budget, get documentation from the government, attend medical and other appointments. There was also a lady volunteer to accompany Sherine to medical appointments
- **Communications** : emails with family, parish bulletin, creation of poster
- How was this Assistance being done?
- **Through the selflessness, dedication, teamwork of the committee**  
As well as:
  - **Prayerful commitment/governance/oversight** and guidance from PC as well as Finance Council, the expert guidance from CCI and Episcopal Vicar, numerous private sponsorship committees within the Diocese
  - **Parishioner involvement**: generosity, help, enthusiasm, including CWL, KofC
  - **Guidance from the Kaneza Family** (Sebu related his experience)
  - **Former Sponsorship** Committee Member Support
  - **Outreach** and generous offers to help if needed by Orleans Mosque
- **In spite of Government representatives** entrusted with lives of the most vulnerable who have acted without compassion and have not been helpful notwithstanding the loving support of our parish. We now await PC direction on how best to move forward.  
We are grateful to share this sponsorship committee story with you. While this family's story has ended, our vision remains as we await PC guidance and direction on how to serve the needy who need help, fulfilling the Lord's commandment "to love one another" as He has loved us.

Diana Dale, Chair, GS Syrian Family Welcome Committee

## 20. Youth Ministry

Over the last 6 years, the youth ministry at Good Shepherd parish has gone from a 10 hour/week position with activities once a week for youth at the parish to a 20 hour/week position that includes activities for youth at the parish, leadership preparation for teen-disciples, outreach activities at elementary and high school levels, Vacation Bible School for elementary students in the summer, and sacramental preparation for grade 6's enrolled in confirmation. This summer is a time of re-visioning for the youth program at the parish, and I will be doing so with the help of Father Hezuk and Pastoral Council. Whatever happens, the program will continue to work within these areas: to catechize adolescents who are in the church, to strengthen ties with school communities to continue outreach to adolescents who otherwise have not heard the Gospel, and to prepare teens to function in ministry positions in the parish and to be Catholic leaders in their communities capable of dialogue, and consequently able to continue the work of evangelization outside parish walls.

Charity Corbett