

ST. KEVIN'S PARISH

SERVING THE ENGLISH SPEAKING ROMAN CATHOLICS OF CAPREOL & VALLEY EAST

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Teresa Cloutier	SK Site	Romaine Chappell	OLP Site
Sue Godin	SK Site	Bert D'Appolonia	OLP Site
Gord Jenkinson	SK Site	Bob Johnson	OLP Site
Aline Radey	SK Site	Laurie Jones	OLP Site Absent
Pat Hinds	SK Site	Marlynn Paul	OLP Site
		Jeannette Rainville	OLP Site

Minutes

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 18th 2016 @ 7pm

LOCATION: Board Room of our St. Kevin Site

Our PPC met on May 18th and discussed the following pastoral issues:

(1) Refugee Sponsorship; (2) Parish initiatives for the Year of Mercy; (3) Parish response to Government sponsored killing; (4) Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace; (5) Accommodation of a specific request re: our sponsored family; and (6) Advertising in the Parish Bulletin.

The following is a brief summary of the conclusions we reached.

Re: (1) Following the discussion of the PPC at our January and March meetings, to go ahead and determine if we have the human resources necessary to sponsor a second family of refugees in Val Caron, Fr. Michael called a meeting for all interested people in the Valley and Capreol on March 29th in our Parish Hall. A full summary report of the results of that meeting is attached to these minutes below. Since that time, there has been no further information received, other than that the window of opportunity for sponsoring families from Syria has been essentially closed to new sponsorships, and it may take quite some time before a family of refugees, which meets our requirements, is available from anywhere else. There is the possibility of an emergency situation to which we may be invited to respond. However, until we are called upon to sponsor a family, no further actions are necessary. So, we are in a holding pattern for now.

Re: (2) The celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday was well received. Positive feedback was also received regarding the new placement of the Image of Divine Mercy in the worship space of St. Kevin's Site.

The St. Kevin's Site CWL has committed to organizing a pilgrimage bus tour to Quebec City (the Door of Mercy) October 17-21st. Information regarding this has been disseminated throughout the Parish. There is room for 58 participants, with about half those spaces already being taken.

Re: (3) With the law regarding government sanctioned killing imminent in Canada (next month), the focus will now shift to protection of conscious rights for Canadians, and to the more effective provision of comprehensive palliative care in all areas of our country. In that regard, we are grateful to the CWL which has spearheaded the signing of petitions in order to bring these important issues to the attention of our government.

Re: (4) Fr. Michael encouraged any members, or any parishioners, who are interested in pursuing issues of social justice through the Parish to consider becoming involved with the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, of course, is also actively involved in social justice work on behalf of the poor, but D&P opens up other avenues of involvement, and in particular on an international level. They work primarily through education and support of grass roots projects around the world. This issue is raised because of a question regarding “Zionism Unsettled”, another social justice project focused specifically on Palestine, which some parishioners wanted to support through the parish. Fr. Michael indicated he was not comfortable with some aspects of that particular project, and could not support it directly through the parish. For those wanting to pursue justice issues in the parish, then, he offered the two avenues mentioned above, both of which are sanctioned by the Catholic Church.

Re: (5) A request was made from the C-VRS group to install either a clothes line or an umbrella style hanger on our property for use by the Alzahrn family. There were a few reservations about a clothes line, but everyone supported the installation and use of the umbrella. Fr. Michael will let them know.

Re: (6) A proposal was raised to sell advertising space to local businesses in our weekly bulletin. The CWL see this as a potential way to raise money for various items of need in the Parish. After a lengthy discussion of the various pros and cons of this idea, Fr. Michael asked Aline to prepare a business case for it. Once received, he will ponder the idea further.

Further notes: Before we concluded the meeting, Fr. Michael indicated that there have been no specific pastoral initiatives begun yet by the Diocese under our new Bishop. This is not surprising, given the short time he has been here, and the pressing need to fill a number of key Diocesan positions. There is talk of establishing any number of new pastoral services for the Diocese, and so there may be new initiatives launched in the next liturgical cycle. Until then, enjoy the summer!

Our next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21st at 7pm in the Board Room of Our Lady of Peace Site.



Capreol-Valley Refugee Sponsorship

Trinity United Church
72 Young St.
Capreol ON P0M 1H0

On Tuesday, March 29, 2016, a meeting of the Capreol-Valley Refugee Sponsorship Group was held in the St. Kevin Site Parish Hall. Invitations were sent to all the local Christian Churches to participate, and we are happy to report that, in addition to those attending from St. Kevin's, there was significant representation from Valley Pentecostal Church, St. James in the Valley United Church, St. Jacques and St. Marguerite Churches, as well as from Our Lady of Peace and Trinity United Churches in Capreol. A representative was present from École Secondaire in Hanmer, and there was also a contingent representing St. Vincent de Paul. In total, there were 30 participants, including four Pastors and Board members of the various Churches. The purpose of our meeting was to determine if we had the resources to sponsor a second family of refugees in Val Caron. In short, the answer we came to was "yes". God is good! The following is a point form summary of what was discussed in arriving at our decision.

† Erv Mantler, President of St. Vincent de Paul, reported that the Society will donate Sr. Frederica Harvest House for the use of a family of refugees for one year. There is some work required to bring the house up to standards for this. Their office space there will be moved to the spare office at St. Kevin's Site during that one year. The house can reasonably accommodate a family of 4 or 5.

† Faye Moffatt, Chair of the C-VRS, gave her input as to what will be required of us in sponsoring a family, along with her recommendations for the potential make up of our family (ages of children). Integration will be a lot easier if the children are younger and similar in age. Given her experience and her position with the C-VRS, she agreed to look after the paperwork required leading up to our family's arrival.

† Laurie Jones, in charge of Integration of the Alzahrán family for the C-VRS, spoke to the level of commitment and trust required of those who will take on the role of integration, and the responsibilities that they will carry.

† Based on all that input, it was decided that we would strive to sponsor a family of 5 – two parents with 2 elementary school aged kids and a possible 3rd child who is younger. We requested a family from Africa. This, of course, is contingent on the case files available to us. Faye will request files from the United Church Office of Refugees and will assess them based on their similarity to the profile we are requesting.

† When a case file is made available to us, we have only about 48 hours to decide if we will accept it. So, when such a file (or files) is presented to Faye, a meeting will be called immediately through the e-mail list gathered at tonight's meeting, and those who are able to attend will make the decision on whether to accept the file or to request another.

† St. Vincent de Paul will look after Housing. Integration will be headed by the following 3 volunteers: Betty Maclsaac, Michelle Jenkinson and Denise Waltenbury. Help was offered by virtually everyone else present at the meeting.

FURTHER NOTES:

All donations to the C-VRS should be made to Trinity United Church at the mailing address shown on the letterhead above (**please mark the donations: refugees**). Individual donors will be issued a receipt for income tax purposes. Churches that are able to issue their own tax receipts may also do that and forward donations in one lump sum.

In kind donations (clothing, school supplies, sports equipment, etc.) are helpful only after the family arrives and their specific needs are known. The Integration volunteers will publicize what donations are needed when that time comes, so please do not encourage these before.

If you do not want your e-mail address sent to the other volunteers who were present at this meeting, please let Fr. Michael know (pastor@stkevinparish.ca). The attachment to this e-mail has those addresses removed and this message was sent BCC. If you do not let him know otherwise, he will send the e-mail addresses out in a few days and will no longer BCC the e-mails.