

ST. KEVIN'S PARISH

SERVING THE ENGLISH SPEAKING ROMAN CATHOLICS OF CAPREOL & VALLEY EAST

4610 St. Therese Street Val Therese, ON P3P 1S5

Tel: 705-969-3663 Fax: 705-969-3262

Web: www.stkevinparish.ca E-mail: pastor@stkevinparish.ca secretary@stkevinparish.ca

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 Absent
Marina Lamoureux	SK Site Absent	Laurie Jones	OLP Site Absent
Aline Radey	SK Site	Marlynn Paul	OLP Site
		Jeannette Rainville	OLP Site

Invited Guest: Laurie Gagnon

Minutes

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 29th @ 7pm

LOCATION: Board Room of St. Kevin Site

Our PPC met on September 29th and discussed the following pastoral issues:

(1) Parish initiatives post-Arise; (2) Re-evangelization of our community; and (3) Refugee sponsorship. The following is a brief summary of the conclusions we reached.

Re: (1) Laurie Gagnon (ARISE coordinator) was present as an invited guest and provided a number of Post Arise options which are available from Renew International.

The Council deliberated for a while, but decided to wait until all the current group leaders and all the current participants have had an opportunity to provide their input about the direction in which small groups should go next year.

In the meantime, Pat Partington's Friday morning group will continue and is open to all interested participants, and "Brewed and Steeped Theology" is new, providing another type of small group experience for those who are interested. Other new opportunities may also arise, according to the wishes and needs that Parishioners may express, and the desire of other Parishioners to offer these opportunities (Lectio Divina, Justice Group/Course, Bible Study, etc.).

Re: (2) Parish (re)evangelization is integrally tied in to our post-Arise direction, and so will follow accordingly. PPC members will, however, continue to prayerfully ponder what direction God may be whispering to us in this area and bring forward whatever may be discerned.

Re: (3) Fr. Michael provided some background information about his ongoing (last 5 years) attempt to engage the Parish in the sponsorship of refugees. In that context, the following letter from Bishop Plouffe, issued on September 23rd this year to all the priests and parishioners of the Diocese, was read:

I would like to inform you of the following regarding initiatives at the parish level for the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

The Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie and parishes are not eligible and are not approved as sponsors for refugees entering Canada. As a result no sponsorship in any format from any Parish is permitted. This specifically means that no contracts, undertakings or commitments for the Parish or any committee can be initiated.

In addition, the parishes are not to provide any financial commitment or obligations for refugees. However I encourage parishioners, as individuals or in groups, to sponsor refugees in their own names and through their own initiatives.

(Full letter is available on the Diocesan Website)

That being the case, Fr. Michael presented a possible way to navigate around these restrictions by indirectly supporting the United Church in Capreol in their efforts to sponsor a family and by providing them, free of charge, the use of our Rectory there with all its related costs covered. The Bishop's office has given an initial approval to this approach. The Council was unanimous in its support of this idea. There may also be an opportunity to sponsor (indirectly) a second family with St. Vincent de Paul's involvement in Val Caron, and that option will be examined separately.

Fr. Michael will provide a verbal presentation of our situation regarding sponsorship at a Sunday Mass in the near future. The hope is that all parishioners will enthusiastically support this initiative, which seeks to provide a safe home for the Christ who is homeless.

Our next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th at 7pm in the Board Room of Our Lady of Peace Site.