



Our Lady of Peace

Pastoral Council

# Annual Reports

## 2018 – 2019

Annual General Meeting – March 31, 2019

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**† Live, Love, and Lead Like Jesus †**

## Pastor's Report - *Father James*

I like to personally thank all parishioners for the relationship with Jesus Christ and relationships with one another that we have cultivated in this parish. Your joyful response in embracing all the new ministry outreach, and stewardship mission initiatives that we undertake has really helped our parish's vision and mission. Everybody has been very supportive and feeling part of everyone else life in moments of joy and moments of struggles and this has made our church an involved congregation. As Catholic Christians, we all have responsibility to build the kingdom of God and it is so visible to all that we have adopted the biblical concept of "welcoming the strangers" and especially knowing that the stranger-guests and new parishioners may have something to offer "us, the receptive host" (Genesis 18 and Matthew 25: 35-40).

For the year 2018, our vision after our church renovation project of 2017 was to focus on congregational membership transformation for spiritual and financial growth. To embark on this successfully, we needed human and financial resources to aid our spiritual understanding of our baptismal commitment through new ministry initiatives. By baptism, the Christian is called to growth in personal holiness and to the transformation of society through evangelization. I invited us as church to embark on this vision with a view to balancing social mission, and spiritual growth and you responded generously. Just like the early Christians in the Acts of the Apostles, our efforts at transforming our community of grace and helping us attain personal holiness and community holiness is working.

Through your active participation in the parish' life this past year, I am happy to announce that we finished the year 2018 with a \$9,182,000 net surplus. The various fundraising activities of all the different groups in the parish netted \$38,542,000. Special thanks to all for your support of our daily operations and budget. Because of your support in 2018, we have been able to install a new baptismal font, a new presider chair to replace the almost 40 year old one, installed new sanctuary LED florescence lights and we were able to achieve over 83% of our goal for the Annual Archbishop's Appeal. And with your help and your donation, we plan to purchase new Mass vestments and to renovate the rectory bathroom.

Your donations continued to help us have a Catholic Church presence in the Uplands and the North East area of the City of Regina. Your support continues to help us with our operating budget costs and also in the on-going paying down of our church mortgage accruing from the major church renovations that we undertook in 2017. May Christ our Saviour continue to renew our hearts and rekindle the desire in us to build a parish church to be handed over to the next generation like our ancestors did for us.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

Fr. James Owolagba, Pastor

## **Chairperson - *Brian Martens***

Greetings, everyone.

Well, another year has passed. We're continuing to settle into our renovated space and continuing to develop our new identity as Our Lady of Peace. We have welcomed many newcomers, but also lost many long-time friends. Through it all, our faith stands strong and carries us forward.

My term as Pastoral Council Chair is up and as such I will be stepping aside. I'd like to thank the entire parish community for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I cannot express enough how much I have appreciated being welcomed back into the community I grew up. So many friendly faces and friendly smiles. So many that are willing to pitch in when the need is there.

A sincere thanks to our Parish staff, without whom we simply wouldn't be able to deliver the faith programs, community service and fund-raising events that we do. Ebere, Stacy, Teddy and Robert have done a marvelous job, and we are lucky to have them.

And to all those who volunteer for various ministries, committees and fund-raising events, thank-you. You truly are the fabric of this new and emerging Parish.

Our spiritual journey continues. Father James leads us tirelessly with the support of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Bolen and our entire faith community behind him.

We look forward to continued blessings and growth in our relationship with God.

## **Secretary - *Jackie Bahan***

This will be my last year (effective July) as Parish Council Secretary.

I have been serving as Parish Council Secretary for about 4 years. When I first started, I was a bit nervous as I wasn't even sure what Parish Council did!

I now have a better understanding (and appreciation) for everything that goes into making Our Lady of Peace the great place it is. I feel privileged to have been able to get to know and work with so many good people who really care about and take pride in serving this church and the community it lives in.

If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please let me know. I would be more than happy to answer any questions you have and show you the ropes!

## **Finance - *Dennis Gibbs***

See attached reports

## **Deanery - *JoAnne Zuck***

The Deanery council had a couple of changes in the fall with Jeanine Manns stepping down and Judy Kluck taking over as chair. Fr Ed Hengen was reassigned to the Carlyle parish.

In the spring, council started working on plans for a one day Mission at Little Flower Parish. The mission date was May 12, 2018. Time: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The theme was Mercy & Evangelization, with Harley Packer. The conference was poorly attended. The food was donated to the Marion Centre.

The council gathered and recorded any and all prayer practices and sacramental preparation materials and classes at our parishes. The idea was to share and distribute the information to the parishes.

Discussions are ongoing about clergy sexual abuse, Truth and Reconciliation, protocol and how as parishes we can help. No fee or registration. Still planning so more information to come.

## **Pastoral Care - *Irene Grad***

At Our Lady of Peace Parish, we have dedicated ladies who so faithfully visit and bring Holy Communion to the shut-ins in the community. Many thanks and appreciation go to Maxine Litzenberger, Nina Macknak and JoAnn Zuck for this ministry. We welcome Patty Shewchuk who will be helping with this ministry.

Throughout the year Father James administers the sacrament "Anointing of the Sick" to the shut-ins in the parish and hospital. Thank-you Father. Prayer shawls crafted by our Seniors, blessed by Father are given with a card to shut-ins, hospital or nursing homes. Thank-you to CWL who donate cards and cookies at Christmas that are given to our shut-ins.

Many thanks to Father James who once a month visits and celebrates Mass with the Elders at Regina Lutheran Home which is greatly appreciated by the Elders and Staff. Many other Elders join in the celebration for a blessing given by Father. About twice a year, Father also administers the Sacrament "Anointing of the Sick" to Elders at the home. Thank-you to Tillie Tourney, Agnes Joo and Sadie Zerr who always come every month to help the Elders with walkers and wheel chairs to be able to attend Mass.

## **Annual Appeal – Antonette Rothecker**

In the early part of this year the Appeal Office sent out their first mail out.

This was to get to some of the people who are not away for the summer months. This small amount of collections is a cushion for the remainder of the big amount required.

The program starts in September by having a supper and speakers.

The monies collected is for programs that the parish wish to have and need funding for to assist all in keeping our faith strong.

The Appeal goal for 2018 was \$1,600,000.00 for all of the Diocese. We made \$17,323.00.

Our goal for Our Lady of Peace was \$20,846.00. We increased our donations from last year to this year by \$3,448.70.

We made 83% of our goal for 2018. I hope with the grace of God, we, the parishioners will keep on increasing the amount to make our goal for 2019. I would like to thank my assistant, Jackie Baran and Doris Frei for their help in calling the parishioners. I believe with this help we came close to our goal. Thanks girls.

Let us all make an effort and make it happen.

## **Pastoral Assistant - *Stacey Grunert***

### **Education**

We once again held Vacation Bible School in July. There were 31 children in attendance. The program was a great success and the children enjoyed the week. We had several parishioners who joined the team. Thank you for all your work.

#### 2017 Sacraments-

- Baptisms -
  - Infant- 19
  - Children -3
  - Adults - 3
- Confirmation – 28
  - Children – 22
  - Adult - 6
- First Eucharist – 28
  - Children – 22
  - Adult -6
- First Reconciliation - 14
- Marriages -2
- Funerals - 6

I would like to thank everyone who assisted with Sacrament preparation in 2018.

### **Ministry**

Father James and I attended monthly pastoral visits at St. Gregory and St. Michael Schools.

I assisted St. Gregory and St. Michael schools in planning and preparation for their school liturgies.

Attended and assisted at liturgies at O'Neill High School.

Assistance is given to grieving families with funeral planning.

Attended youth ministry workshop to understand the ministry and engage youth in our parish.

Attended monthly Deanery Clergy meetings.

Scheduled musicians for liturgies as well as provided music for many liturgies.

Children's Liturgy numbers are up and some Sundays we will need to split the groups as there are too many children for one group. We would appreciate more teachers.

It is my pleasure to serve Our Lady of Peace Parish.

## **Membership - *Doris Frei***

Parishioner numbers change throughout the year due to: new membership, parishioners moving, births and deaths. Currently we have a Total Family Count of 450 and a Total Member Count of 974, up slightly from this time last year.

Welcome packages are given to newly registered members and this package includes: a letter from Father James, information about the parish and an invitation to share their time and talents within the parish by helping with ministries and/or volunteering with parish events and activities. New members are also offered a 100 Year Archdiocesan Book.

To assist with keeping the parish membership list up to date, I ask the parishioners to advise the parish of any changes to their information. This can be done at the Information Desk or by contacting the parish office.

Blessings to all and wishes for a safe and happy summer.

## **Liturgy - *Joanne Zuck***

It has been a very busy year, and as always, putting together schedules for the regular masses and special celebrations like school masses, sacraments; as well as, the scheduling of the Christmas and New Year's masses and the upcoming Holy Week masses.

I would like to thank Anita Rieger for her assistance with the mass schedules.

A lot of work goes into the decorating of the church throughout the year as the themes of the celebrations change. Thank-you Irene Haynes for your help in decorating our church and the flower beds.

Thank-you Stacy for all of your help with the liturgy celebrations. Thank-you to all of you who help with the cleaning of the linens and the vessels.

Thank-you to all who have signed up to do the mass ministries. It takes a lot of people to keep the church running smoothly.



## **55+ Seniors Group - Betty Sparrowhawk**

Our activities started up again in September, 2018

\*NEW\* \$10 membership this gives you the opportunity to:

- Play Cards-Tuesday at 1:30 PM Free.
- Forever in Motion-Thursday at 9:45 AM Free
- Knit & Chat-Thursday at 1:30 PM Free
- Monthly Dances-2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM. Live Music, Free Coffee & Dainties. \$5 member, \$6 non-member.
- Stretch & Relaxation-Friday at 2:15 PM. \$3.50 member, \$4.00 non-member.

The membership helps to offset any costs incurred & helps to support our 55+ Senior Group in giving back to the parish, building our community spirit & contributing to our parish needs. (example: new Baptismal Font).

### **Fundraisers:**

November 10th, 2018 a Craft Table at CWL Craft Sale. Thank you to all who contributed craft items & baking. A special thank you to our Knit & Chat group who donated an amazing amount of items. Also thank you to the CWL for the table at no charge.

February 1st & 2nd, 2019 a Book & Puzzle Sale. Thank You to all Volunteers & All who donated Books & Puzzles. Thank You to our Parish Community for supporting this successful event. Mark your calendar for our next Book Sale April 24th & 25th, 2020.

April 6th, 2019 a table at the CWL Flea Market.

### **Special Events:**

December 3rd, 2018 a Christmas Brunch was held at Classic Buffett at 11:45 AM. Great fellowship was enjoyed by all.

February 14th, 2019 the Grade Seven class from St. Gregory attended the Senior Dance at 1:30 PM. Thank You to the students for making this a lively event. Music, Refreshments (lots of tea) & Goodies were enjoyed by all.

Also: Thank You to all who Knit & Crochet lap quilts & shawls. These items are given to the sick or elderly or anyone in the parish who might need an extra hug. Also premie hats are donated to the neonatal unit.

We encourage more 55+ parish members to become involved. We are always interested in new ideas for activities you might enjoy participating in. Give the 55+ Senior Group a call,

drop us a note or come to our monthly meeting usually the 1st Tuesday of the month at 12:30 PM.

Thank You to our Executive:

Secretary: Maxine Litzenberger, Treasurer: Anita Rieger, Cards: Art Judson, Knit & Chat: Donald Exner, Forever in Motion: Rosemarie Koch, Stretch & Relaxation: Naomi Hunter.

## **Knights of Columbus – *Gerald Radicki***

A big thank-you to all who supported the Knight's fundraising efforts through our ticket sales, or by enjoying our pancake breakfasts etc. The football pool tickets last year raised \$2940.00 for the parish building fund and part of the cost of the Presider's chair.

We serve the community by our participation in the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign and by hosting a bingo for residents at the Santa Maria Nursing Home. Our Charity Appeal ticket fundraiser allowed us to donate to the Santa Maria Home, Option Pregnancy Centre and Divine Mercy. As Knights, we support pro-life.

This past year, we again donated winter coats under the Coats for Kids program. Through a donation we supported the Vacation Bible School held at our parish last summer. We plan to again hand out rosaries to those receiving First Communion and Confirmation.

Thank-you to all brother Knight's who helped to serve our parish ministries, with our ticket fundraising and working the breakfasts etc.

Knights lead with faith, protect our families and serve those in need. As we are always looking for new members, please consider joining the order of the Knights of Columbus.

## **Parish School Liaison – *Antonette Rothecker***

Parish Liaison to St. Gregory, St. Michael & Mother Theresa Middle School.

Monthly CSCC meetings are attended at each school. The meetings are to keep the Parish & the schools abreast all activities in school academics and spiritual teachings.

St. Gregory has 285 students, St Michaels have approximately 165 students and Mother Theresa has 63 students. We have new staff at St. Gregory and St. Micheal schools this year

St. Gregory's new principal is Leanne Forrester and vice principal is Carmel Nicolson and office manager is Carry Foord.

The new principal at St. Michael is Tammy Appell.

All three schools have vibrant programs, keeping all students scholastically inclined and active. All the students want to have the best education, but these attributes are earned by hard work and good attendance. They are still using the Mathletic's Program and everyone is enjoying this way to teaching.

The School Board has implemented a program where the teachers and parents are involved with the activities the students are in. This year I was invited to a meeting at Mother Theresa Middle School. They started the meeting by an elder smudging, then he spoke to the students after the meeting and supper was served, a very interesting night. They do not have a CSCC group, they have individual class meetings with the parents and teachers.

The teachers are trying to get all classes completed. The CWL have given to each of the three Catholic schools in the area \$200.00 for the Angel Fund and also sponsor a child from each school to attend Camp Monahan in the summer months.

The Knights of Columbus donated 2 large boxes of winter jackets to St. Gregory and St. Michael schools. Every year the CWL gives each child a birthday card for all 3 schools. The students look forward in getting a card each year.

The Knights will also be sponsoring children to go to Camp Monahan.

We can only hope all parents take an interest in their children's learning year and take interest in the curriculum of the schools teaching plus the spiritual aspect of the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All schools are busy getting ready for Easter. Let's wish all is well and hope the students take with them great knowledge learned throughout the year. We wish all a good safe summer vacation. I want to give each teacher extreme amount of kudos for all they do with the children in the schools. They are not only teachers they are mentors, care givers and much more.

God Bless them all.

## **Protocol – *Donalda Exner***

First of all, I would like to thank Father James, my screening committee, the members of the Parish Council and the volunteers of Our Lady of Peace Parish for their continuous support.

The purpose of Responsible Ministry Protocol:

-To respond to and protect the vulnerable members of our parishes and to protect the financial assets entrusted to us by our parishes.

-To respond to the requirements of the insurance carriers of the Western Canadian (Arch) dioceses.

There are two categories for Responsible Ministry Protocol:

-HIGH SECURITY: ANYONE WHO IS DEALING WITH CHILDREN, SENIORS OR MONEY. If you are in this category you MUST get a Criminal Records Check from the Regina City Police. They will require a letter from the parish (Office Manager Rob) indicating that you are a volunteer and the cost will be \$10. If you want to be reimbursed submit your receipt to Rob. The Archdiocese requests that a Criminal Records Check for each High Security volunteer be done every five years. You will be informed when your renewal comes up.

-GENERAL SECURITY: Those volunteers that are Extraordinary Ministers, Readers, Lectors, Greeters, Gift Bearers, and Choir Members etc. do not require a Criminal Records Check.

ALL new volunteers must fill out the General Information Form that you can pick up from Rob or me. If you have been serving as a volunteer and have not filled out the necessary forms please contact me at 306-543-2728. It is up to the coordinator of each ministry to update me on new volunteers so they can fill out the necessary forms that are needed to help keep our records up to date.

## **CWL (Catholic Women's League) - *Irene Haynes***

Another year has turned over too quickly. Our CWL has worked hard to provide for the women of the parish and the rest of the Parish Family. Like everyone else, we are trying to adjust to changes small and large.

Age is one of those changes which is both obvious and deceptive. In short, we keep on going until we cannot. We are tired but not retired. I won't say that we are on our last legs, but if you push us too hard we might fall over and not get up. We are in serious need of some younger women. Aside from that obvious fact, most people have probably not noticed very much change. We have continued to do things we have done before.

We continue to serve at one mass every month, the second Sunday of the month. We had the Woman's World Day of Prayer in March. We are involved with the larger CWL community in the diocese, the province and the nation. We involve ourselves with the schools in our community and with our children at baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> communion and confirmation. We also provide a yearly scholarship for the graduates. We have been donating funds yearly for school projects and for camp fees for school projects for Camp Monahan. We support Visitation House and other local charities.

We provide funeral brunches for our parishioners at a minimum cost and try to support our parish both physically and financially. Many thanks to all of those women who keep baking and keep the family fed.

Our two major fundraisers: The Craft Sale and the Leas Market are still being held. Our profits are smaller due to our smaller facility, but so far we have decided to proceed with them.

Our membership is dwindling and more seems to be expected from each member. On the other hand, it is nice to see how the men and women of the parish are working together to get the various jobs done. Perhaps good will and the Holy Spirit will keep us going for longer than we feel we can manage.

Blessings and Good Wishes for the coming year,