

Report from the Parish Pastoral Council – August 2025

A new Parish Pastoral Council was appointed by Fr. Arulraj Santiago in September 2023. The Council members include Linda Dennis as Chairperson, Shannon Moore as Secretary, David Arsenault, Barry Flemming and Ghassan Kassouf. The Parish Pastoral Council Mission is to draw parishioners into a richer and more meaningful experience of parish life and a closer and deeper relationship with Jesus, our brother and Saviour! The Council has regular scheduled meetings every month from September to June.

It has taken time for the new Council members to understand their role, our parish community, and to develop pastoral priorities. Over the past 10 months, the Council has met with the chairs of the Finance and Liturgy Committees, members of the Music Ministry, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus to encourage and foster communication between these groups.

In June 2024, the Council members were invited, by Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, to meetings to discuss our current situation, future possibilities and the need to move ***“from maintenance to mission”*** throughout the Diocese. Responding to the feedback from the June meetings, Bishop Joseph created the Renewal Committee. Its mandate is to foster a mission-oriented renewal in the Diocese. One of our Council members currently sits on this committee and work is ongoing at this time.

The Council was involved in the planning and organizing of the 2024 Family Fun Day. The goal was to create an event that fostered fellowship amongst parishioners, of all ages, but a particular draw for families. Despite a rainy start to the day, the event drew over 100 members of our community who enjoyed a BBQ, lawn games, bouncy castles, face painting and musical entertainment.

The Council also encouraged and supported the 2024 Parish Mission/Retreat with Fr. Eugene O'Reilly. This initiative was in response to the requests of the parishioners, seeking more adult faith formation. Fr. Eugene did not disappoint and provided us with another wonderful retreat attended by many parishioners and friends from across Prince Edward Island.

Finally, we organized and implemented an 8-week faith formation program on The Mass (by Bishop Robert Barron). This was an opportunity for parishioners to revisit the liturgy and the Eucharist. This program was very successful and well attended by 40 parishioners during weekly small group sessions in January, February and March of 2025.

One of the main priorities of the Council is to provide ongoing faith formation programs. At this time, we are reviewing programs which could be offered in the Fall, during the Advent and Lent.

We also encourage you to reach out to any of the Council members should you have any questions or concerns regarding the spiritual well-being of our parish and faith community.

Respectfully submitted by
Linda Dennis, Chairperson