

Saint Edmund of Canterbury Parish

Parish Pastoral Council Newsletter – November 2022

“They will know we are Christians by our Love”



Saint Edmund Parish BBQ Sept 17, 2022

Over the past six months, Saint Edmund of Canterbury Parish embarked on a missionary shift inspired by Our Holy Father Pope Francis’ call “Let’s walk together as a Church with the Holy Spirit.” Through our Synodal Journey the newly formed Parish Pastoral Council studied the results, observations and comments that arose during the 18 spiritual conversations with Saint Edmund parishioners from all walks of life and all generations, and discerned three spheres of action to channel our collaborative energies toward the hopes and aspirations of the synod participants and share in the joy of knowing Christ.

The intent of this newsletter is to tie together the principles that are guiding the work being carried out by your Parish Pastoral Council in proceeding on our Synodal Journey under the stewardship of our Pastor, Father Jess.

What is a Parish Pastoral Council?

With Vatican II, Pope John XXIII called for a revision of the 1917 Code of Canon Law. Promulgated in 1983 by Pope John Paul II, the revised code defined a parish as “a definite community of the Christian faithful established on a stable basis within a particular church (diocese); the pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop. The Christian faithful ... are called to exercise the **mission** which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world.

“A pastoral council is to be established each parish; the pastor presides over it, and through it the Christian faithful along with those who share in the pastoral care of the parish ... give their help in fostering pastoral activity.”

Through its collaboration with the pastor, the council shares responsibility for the pastoral activity in their parish centered on a consensus, collaborative and empowerment approach. This includes:

Announcing the word of God to those living in the parish; Instructing lay Christian faithful in the truths of the faith through the homily and catechetical formation; Fostering works by which the spirit of the Gospel, including issues involving social justice, is promoted; Taking special care for the Catholic education of children and of young adults; Bringing the gospel message to those who have ceased practicing their religion; Seeing to it that the Most Holy Eucharist is the center of the parish assembly of the faithful; Nourishing the Christian faithful through a devout celebration of the sacraments; Bringing the Christian faithful to the practice of family prayer and to a knowing and active participation in the sacred liturgy; Striving to know the people of the parish by visiting them and sharing their cares, worries and especially their griefs; Helping the sick, especially those close to death; Making a special effort to seek the poor, the afflicted, the lonely, those exiled from their own land, and those weighed down with special difficulties; Fostering growth between spouses; Supporting Christian life within the family; and Promoting the unity and communion which exists between the parish, the diocese and the universal Church.

How does this fit with the role of Parish Wardens?

Under Quebec Law, a **Fabrique** is an ecclesiastical corporation constituted to acquire, possess, hold and administer property for the practice of the Roman Catholic religion in the parish for which it is constituted. Each parish has six Wardens elected by parishioners serving 3-year mandates, renewable once. This is different than the role of the Parish Pastoral Council which focuses on the pastoral life of the parish.

Who are Saint Edmund's Wardens and Parish Pastoral Council members?

The Parish Pastoral Council is appointed by the Pastor. The members are Benny Augustine, Yvonne Bourque, Cecil Chabot, Vivian Hudson (Vice-Chair), Michael Kieran, Clara Notartomaso, Stephanie Perrault and Dominic Ryan. Three teams have been organized around the priorities identified through the recent Parish Synodal assemblies. They center around: Faith Formation with Stephanie Perrault, Cecil Chabot and Benny Augustine taking the lead; Outreach and Welcoming Ministries with Michael Kieran and Clara Notartomaso; and Social Ministry with Yvonne Bourque and Vivian Hudson.

The Wardens are : Seana Brisse, Cecil Chabot, David Hannon, Patrick Kelley, Mary O'Hagan and Anthony Ronci.

What are the priorities for Saint Edmund of Canterbury Parish?

The Synodal assemblies that took place in May-June 2022 in our parish identified three priorities for our parish in exercising the **Ministries** to which we are all called in teaching and becoming channels of God's love.

1. Faith Formation

Faith Formation is a very important part of our parish life. It includes our children's formation during elementary school, preparation and celebration of the sacraments, and service projects. KidCAFes, family CAFes, and adult CAFes included in the program are also great occasions to receive formation, build our community, and let speakers help us connect our spirituality with our daily life. Lastly, Children's Liturgy, offered during weekend masses, is a great occasion for children to hear God's Word, learn about their faith, and set weekly goals to deepen it.



We are striving to offer enriching programs, liturgies, and activities. One of our goals is to provide ongoing faith education that continues well after confirmation in order for young people and adults to remain motivated throughout their learning experience. Therefore, we are working on different initiatives to offer faith formation to different age groups: youth group for teens (12-17), young adults group (18-35), and sessions for adults. Participating in diocesan activities and events is also a great way to create connections between our youth and other young Catholics who share the same ideal.

Faith formation is based on the unique experience of a personal encounter with Christ. Therefore, we would like to help all parishioners to find Christ in their daily circumstances : family life, school, work, volunteering, and leisure, in order to make the world around them a better place where to live.

We believe that it is important to pay attention to families because faith formation starts at home and continues in learning to pray with the community. Offering inspiring liturgies can help us to be closer to the Lord and to become enthusiastic disciples who share their love of God with others.

We encourage parishioners to engage in informal conversations with others, to get to know them, and to develop long lasting friendships. We also encourage parents and other adults to share their time and talents within our programs in order to assure present and future leadership that is grounded in a truthful experience of faith.

2. Outreach and Welcoming Ministries

Community starts with welcoming and support for all who approach our threshold, and is geared as much as possible to the needs of different persons' circumstances; openness across the cross-sections of our society is crucial.

There are two aspects to consider: Welcoming Ministry and Visitation/Outreach. We should strive to present a consistent approach to everyone we encounter.

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