



# Holy Cross Parish Annual General Meeting April 23, 2023



***Sustaining &  
Strengthening  
Holy Cross Parish  
as a vital and viable  
Parish Faith  
Community  
in the  
Archdiocese  
of Regina***

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

## April 23, 2023

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**2023 HOLY CROSS PARISH PASTORAL STAFF &  
VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**315 Douglas Avenue East**

Regina SK S4N 1H7

**Telephone: 306-757-1325**

**Fax: 306-757-8641**

**E-Mail: [hc.office@holycrossregina.ca](mailto:hc.office@holycrossregina.ca)**

**Website: [www.holycrossregina.ca](http://www.holycrossregina.ca)**

**PASTORAL STAFF**

PASTOR	Fr. Richard to July 31, then 11 priests covering to the end of 2022.
PASTORAL ASSISTANT & OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	Martin Kondzielewski

**SUPPORT STAFF**

BOOKKEEPER	Rita Gareau
CARETAKER	Jacob Antony

**PASTORAL COUNCIL**

CHAIRPERSON	Pat McGinn
VICE-CHAIRPERSON	Brigitte Leibel
PAST CHAIR PERSONS	Neil & Lori Garchinski
MEMBERS AT LARGE	Bill & Jan Genert
SECRETARY	Vacant

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

LITURGY	Connie Todd & Trudy Rutten
FUNDRAISING	Wayne Rutten John Lebersback
HOSPITALITY	Marie Lebersback & Susan Leier
PERSONNEL	Bill Genert

**FINANCE COUNCIL**

CHAIRPERSON	John Lebersback
CONDO	Pat McGinn
PAYROLL	Rita Gareau
BUILDING & GROUNDS	Wayne Rutten, Garry Kraushaar
COLLECTION COUNTERS	Mike and Sherry Andruschak
SECRETARY	Wendy Kraushaar

**ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES**

CWL	Loretta Jelinski
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	Mike Morris

## **VISION, MISSION, VALUES & GOALS OF HOLY CROSS PARISH**

### **Vision**

We are Christ on earth, bringing Christ to all.

### **Mission**

One family of faith living out the message and work of Jesus Christ.

### **Values**

As a Roman Catholic faith community we value:

1. All of creation as the work of God,
2. Each person as a child of God,
3. Scripture as the Word of God, and
4. Living what we profess to believe.

### **Goals**

The Goals of Holy Cross Parish are to:

1. Meet the needs of our Christian Community,
2. Develop and celebrate our faith,
3. Promote, support and celebrate all vocations,
4. Support and involve youth and children,
5. Support lay ministry and Parish leadership,
6. Reach out to the wider community - to refugees, aboriginal peoples, seniors, the home bound and shut-ins, and
7. Evangelize.

# HOLY CROSS PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

April 23, 2023

## AGENDA

Chairperson: Pat McGinn

Recorder: Brigitte Leibel

Welcome: Pat McGinn

Opening Prayer: Father Carlos Jimenez

1. Call to order: Recognition of Pastoral Council and Finance Council members and staff
2. Agenda
  - a) Additions
  - b) Adoption of Agenda
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of April 24, 2022
  - a) Errors and/or omissions
  - b) Adoption of the minutes
4. Business arising from the minutes of April 24, 2022
  - a) None
5. New Business: Pastoral Council Reports
  - a) Chairperson pg 11
  - b) Liturgy pg 12
  - c) Hospitality pg 16
  - d) Fundraising pg 14
 Acceptance of Reports
6. Finance Council Reports
  - a) Chairperson pg 15
  - b) Collection Counters pg 16
  - c) Building and Grounds pg 17
  - d) Personnel pg 16
  - e) Archbishop's Appeal pg 18
  - f) Condo pg 18
  - g) Budget pg 29
  - h) Financial Statements pg 23
 Acceptance of Reports
7. Organizational Reports
  - a) Catholic Women's League pg 30
  - b) Knights of Columbus pg 31
 Acceptance of Reports
8. Staff Reports
  - a) Pastoral Assistant & Office Assistant pgs 33 & 34
 Acceptance of Report
9. Elections
  - a) Chairperson
  - b) Consideration of participation and involvement in the 2023 year
    - ProLife
    - Spiritual Education
    - Youth
    - Stewardship
    - Social Action
11. Closing Remarks – Pat McGinn
12. Closing Prayer – Father Carlos Jimenez
13. Adjournment

## Holy Cross Parish Minutes of the April 24, 2022 Annual General Meeting

**Opening Prayer:** Father Richard Jasiak, MSF

### **1. Call to order**

Pat McGinn calls the Annual General Meeting to order.

### **2. Agenda**

- a. Add 8 c) Question and Answer period, and change 11. to Father Richard's closing remarks.
- b. Motion – Pam Richaud : *That the April 24, 2022 AGM agenda be adopted as amended.* Seconded – Bill Genert. Carried.

### **3. Minutes of the March 21, 2021 AGM**

- a. No errors or omissions reported.
- b. Motion – Albert Robillard: *That the Minutes of the March 21, 2021 AGM be adopted.* Seconded – Wayne Rutten. Carried.

### **4. Business arising from the March 21, 2021 Minutes**

None.

### **5. New Business: Pastoral Council Reports**

In the 2022 AGM Report, the following reports are found:

- a. Co-Chairpersons: page 11
- b. Liturgy: pages 12-14 – Continuation of COVID protocols: Question regarding sanitization for music ministry: sanitization is still required if someone else will be using a musical instrument within 72 hours.
- c. Spiritual Education: page 15 – Bible studies went well. Difficult to find help. Synod participation was poor.
- d. Hospitality: page 19
- e. Fundraising: page 16 – Golf tournament is scheduled at Aspen Links and will be shotgun start which means more volunteers are required. Thank you to all who assist and volunteer at fundraising events.

Motion – Wayne Rutten: *That the Pastoral Council Reports be accepted as presented.* Seconded – Connie Todd. All votes in favor, none against, no abstentions. Carried.

## Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting continued...

### **6. Finance Council Reports**

In the 2022 AGM Report, the following reports are found:

- a. Chairperson: page 19
- b. Building and Grounds: page 20: page 18 – John provided financial reporting at Masses. There is an \$8K profit due largely to collections and fundraising.
- c. Collection Counters: page 19
- d. Personnel: page 19
- e. Condo Rep/Archbishop's Appeal: page 21
- f. Budget: pages 22-25
- g. Financial Statements: pages 26-33

John presents an overview of the 2021 financial results and 2022 budget.

Motion – Dorothy Bresciani: ***That the Finance Council reports be accepted as presented.*** Seconded: Patricia Schiessler. All votes in favor, none against, no abstentions. Carried.

### **7. Organization Reports**

In the 2022 AGM Report, the following reports can be found:

- a. Catholic Women's League: page 34
- b. Knights of Columbus: page 34

Motion – Connie Todd: ***That the Organization Reports be accepted as presented.*** Seconded – Dolores Deis. All votes in favor, none against, no abstentions. Carried.

## Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting continued...

### 8. Staff Reports

In the 2022 AGM report, the following reports can be found:

- a. Pastoral Assistant: page 36
- b. Office Administration: pages 37-38

Motion – Curtis Eberle: ***That the Staff Reports be accepted as presented.***

Seconded – Loretta Jelinski. All votes in favor, none against, no abstentions.  
Carried.

#### c. Question and Answers:

Discussion occurs regarding the Tri-Parish consultations and disagreement is voiced about the confidentiality/secretcy of the Tri-Parish consultations. Pat, Pam and Neil have been the delegates to represent Holy Cross but they are not there to make any decisions. All participants at the Tri-Parish consultations are required to keep the discussions confidential in order to avoid the spread of inaccurate information. The next Tri-Parish meeting is April 27 with the Archbishop. Pat McGinn describes the process of the consultations thus far with the Archdiocese: there are four scenarios with respect the future of Holy Cross, St. Mary's and Little Flower: 1-remain status quo; 2-share resources; 3-amalgamations; 4-closures.

Discussion occurs regarding the offering of lunches after funerals as some other parishes have been doing. There is not enough room in the Gerein Centre to physical distance, and people do not use the Church even when they are invited to. The kitchen is inadequate to properly clean according to health regulations.

Motion – Helen Herauf: ***That Holy Cross resumes the coffee and donut gatherings after Masses.*** Seconded – Loretta Jelinski. Carried.

Discussion occurs regarding communications received at St. Dominic School: Why does the school not receive any information from Holy Cross? The decision regarding what information is distributed comes from the school administration.



## Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting continued...

### 9. Elections

Brigitte Leibel will Chair the Nominations.

- a. Vice-Chair: Position is vacant. Motion – Cathleen Devraj: ***That John Lebersback be nominated as Vice-Chair.*** John declines the nomination.

Motion – Patricia Schiessler: ***That Brigitte Leibel be nominated as Vice-Chair.*** Seconded: Trudy Rutten.

Move nominations cease: Brigitte Leibel.

Brigitte accepts the nomination.

- b. Liturgy: Pam Richaud is stepping down having completed several terms.

Motion – Cathleen Devraj: ***That Dolores Deis be nominated as Liturgy Chair.*** Dolores declines the nomination.

Motion – Trudy Rutten: ***That Connie Todd be nominated as Liturgy Chair.*** Connie indicated she would accept the nomination if able to co-chair with someone.

Motion – Marie Lebersback: ***That Connie Todd and Trudy Rutten be nominated as co-chairs of Liturgy Committee.*** Seconded: Dolores Deis.

Move nominations cease: Brigitte Leibel.

Connie and Trudy accept the nomination.

- c. Fundraising: John and Wayne have filled several terms.

Motion – Albert Robillard: ***That John Lebersback and Wayne Rutten be nominated to continue co-chairing the Fundraising Committee.***

Seconded: Cathleen Devraj.

Move nominations cease: Brigitte Leibel.

John and Wayne accept the nomination.

- d. Spiritual Education: Patricia Schiessler is stepping down, having completed several terms.

Motion – Patricia Schiessler: ***That Cathleen Devraj be nominated as Spiritual Education chair.***

Seconded: Helen Herauf. Cathleen declines the nomination.

No further nominations received.

Move nominations cease: Brigitte Leibel

Position becomes vacant.

- d. Consideration of 2022 year with a number of vacant positions.

Motion – Brigitte Leibel: ***That the 2022 AGM elections to Pastoral Council close.*** Seconded: Albert Robillard. Carried.

## **Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting continued...**

### **10. Recognition of Past Council Members**

Ruth is stepping down from the Co-Chair position; Pat McGinn becomes Chair.

Pat offers tokens of appreciation to Wayne, Pam, Patricia, John and Ruth for all the time they have given in support of Holy Cross and of Pastoral Council. A huge thank you to them all.

Ruth provides comments regarding the vitality of Holy Cross and the importance of being united and working together.

### **11. Closing Remarks: Father Richard**

Father speaks regarding the statistics on the Sacraments in the AGM Report (pg 35). COVID did have some effect on the numbers. Funerals, unfortunately, were the most numerous.

Father speaks on Holy Cross being in charge of its destiny and that its actions will determine the future of the Parish. We must ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and for us to be open to listen. More people make the work easier.

Father also speaks of the difficult situation the Tri-Parish delegation is in with respect to its responsibilities to Holy Cross parishioners.

Father's term with Holy Cross was to be 6 years, and we are upon that time now.

We are bonded by our Faith – thank you to all.

### **12. Closing Prayer: Father Richard**

### **13. Adjournment**

Motion – Pat McGinn: *That the Holy Cross Parish Annual 2022 AGM be adjourned.* Seconded: Albert Robillard. Carried.

Next meeting of Pastoral Council: May 10, 2022

## *Pastoral Council Chairperson's Report*

Date: March 25/23

I am delighted to report that Holy Cross Parish is vibrant and energized.

Holy Cross commenced 2023 with several outstanding challenges carrying forward from 2022. COVID is yet with us, but with the relaxation of government and Archdiocese mandates, the situation has abated and become more palatable, allowing less restrictive protocols in masking, distancing and social gatherings. This has fostered a renewal and a most-noticed, better attendance at Masses.

The Archdiocese requested a review of the long-term sustainability of the three parishes, namely, Holy Cross, Little Flower, and St. Mary's. This process entailed several Tri-Parish meetings over three years, extended due to delays brought by COVID. The Archbishop decided to maintain the status quo with the qualified continuing operations of the three Parishes. Each parish is required to submit every 6 months, over a three-year period, a report on its status, performance, successes and failures assessed against its mission, goals, operations, and programming. Holy Cross's report, which was shared with the Parish, was largely well received by the Archdiocese and, as a consequence, the arrival date of Fr. Carlos was moved up with a firm commitment of April 16/23. I want to acknowledge Brigitte Leibel for her authoring of the report and her collaboration with both councils and committees, in having compiled such a comprehensive document that so richly captures Holy Cross's parishioners and Holy Cross's in-depth programming made possible by the outstanding volunteerism.

We were surprised and disappointed in the departure of Fr. Richard. His friendship will be missed by all. Parishioners thank Fr. Richard for his pastoral service and friendship. We will continue to cross paths with him, notably at 4th Degree K of C monthly suppers. In the interim period August 1 /22 and to the present, a host of different priests—15— have served Holy Cross thus far, to provide basic pastoral services with Masses and funerals. Many in the Parish, particularly the Liturgical Committee and our Pastoral Assistant Martin, have orchestrated phenomenal efforts to welcome and facilitate the priests' immersion into Holy Cross. As well, we acknowledge the Building and Grounds Committee Chair, Wayne Rutten, for managing the short-term stays in the rectory condo.

The six-month report encapsulates the extraordinary and multi-faceted programming and services offered by Holy Cross. It makes for an interesting and revealing read. Within the grouping of worship and spiritual life; education and formation; services and outreach; financial services; and diocesan participation, there are descriptions that speak of the faith and commitment of all parishioners with as many as 120 volunteers. Appreciation and gratitude are extended to Parish Council members, Finance Council members, respective committees and their members. Special thanks to Fr. Richard, the 15 visiting priests, our pastoral assistant Martin, our other staff, Jacob and Rita and our volunteers.

## *Pastoral Council Chairperson's Report*

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My appreciation to the Knights of Columbus (K of C), Catholic Women's League (CWL) and to all volunteers engaged with activities such as issuance of the weekly bulletin, up-keep of buildings and grounds, and fundraising (notably the annual golf tournament, fall supper and other dinners through the course of the year).

There is an annual report prepared by the office assistant (Martin) as required by the Archdiocese office, that compiles Holy Cross activities statistically. Of note, there are a few tidbits that I would like to share: there are 200 that normally attend weekend masses; 155 regular contributors, 115 bulletins, 1 baptism, and 14 funerals. There were no First Communions and no Confirmations. Also disappointingly, in our 63 year history, no weddings were performed in 2022.

The congregation is aging and it becomes imperative to continuously reach out to all members and especially our younger members for their participation to maintain and expand committees and programs. We are mindful of the financial challenges and thank parishioners for their increased contributions. We are pleased to see new parishioners within our congregation, some of whom are stepping up into volunteer roles. We now have youth in the Parish with Friday scheduled events with the city-wide Challenge Girl's Club, which nicely integrates into our liturgical programs.

We continue to reach into the community to draw more people to Holy Cross with one initiative of many being the pairing of Holy Cross with St. Dominic School.

I am pleased to have served as Chair. I remain optimistic for the future of Holy Cross.

On this day of the AGM we gather with a warm welcome for Fr. Carlos and we look forward to his pastoral service and his enrichment to Holy Cross's community.

Patrick McGinn P. Eng.

## *Liturgy Committee Report*

Chairpersons: Trudy Rutten and Connie Todd

Sub-committee chairpersons: Altar Servers/Power Point: Pam Richaud ; Liturgical Ministries: Dolores Deis ; Children's Liturgy: Chelsea Adams (activities suspended since March 2020); Music: Trudy Rutten; Environment: Darcy Butchko; Lay Ministries: Connie Todd; Ushers: vacant; Members at Large: Elise Paquin and Robert Mercado.

Committee meetings were held in January, February, March, May, August, September, October, November and December. Thank you to Brigitte Leibel for being our recorder.

2022 Mass Celebrations: Celebrant Fr. Richard Jasiak to August 2022. Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 9:00 a.m.; Saturday at 5:00 p.m.; Sunday at 9:30 a.m. The Rosary was lead by parishioners one-half hour prior to each mass. Reconciliation opportunity was available prior to all Masses.

Celebrants after August 2022: Fr. Ricardo Escalante, Fr. Eusebio (Seb) Tubale, Fr. Marcel George, Fr. Augustine (Gus) Ebido, Fr. Guy Amedee Ainemon, Fr. Tonny Dizzy, Fr. Sami Helewa, Fr. Daris Moolayil, Fr. Basil Chomos, Fr. John Weckend, Fr. Oliver Inchody Varughese, Archbishop Don Bolen, Fr. J.B. Okai, Fr. Lourdhu Raju Bandhanadam and Fr. Hyacinth Okafor. NOTE: Every August, the bishop rotates the assignment of clergy within the archdiocese. Due to immigration visa problems/delays, the priest assigned to Holy Cross was unable to arrive. We have been assigned interim celebrants.

COVID Guidelines: Phase III guidelines from the Archdiocese were implemented in July 2021. Holy Cross continued to follow these guidelines by being a mask-friendly parish with limitations. We continued to provide hand sanitizer at all entrances, social distancing pews, no Holy Water fonts, no handshaking during Mass, no common Chalice during communion. Sanitizing of church pews and common areas also continued. The safety of our parishioners remained a priority.

Lay-lead Services: Holy Cross provides a Lay service to Victoria Park Care Community and Queen Victoria Estates Residence. A monthly Mass is also provided. Due to COVID restrictions within senior facilities, services did not resume at these venues until March 2022. Unfortunately this ministry was down to one leader providing a celebration once a month. In September a second leader returned so we were able to attend twice a month. No monthly Mass was observed during 2022 due to various reasons (provincial guidelines, residence lock-down, priest illness, no parish priest from August 2022 forward).

Continued...

Lent/Easter 2022: Old palms were burned prior to Tuesday evening Mass on March 1, 2022 with the ashes used for Ash Wednesday Mass on March 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Fridays of Lent saw Stations of the Cross at 6:45 p.m. led by K of C, CWL, Spiritual Education, Pastoral Council, Altar Servers and Liturgy Committee followed by Mass. Parish reconciliation with several priests was April 8, 2022. Triduum masses: Mass of the Lord's Supper was Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m. Good Friday, April 15 was at 3:00 p.m. followed by Vigil of the Cross until 8:00 p.m. Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord, Saturday, April 16 was at 8:30 p.m. Easter Sunday Mass, April 17, 2022 was at 10 a.m.

The September Volunteer Drive for liturgical ministries affirmed the amazing commitment of Holy Cross parishioners. Thank you to all volunteers.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (September 30) was acknowledged by the wearing of orange ribbons at the September 24/25 Masses.

All Soul's Day: November 2 Annual Memorial Mass was celebrated by Fr. Ricardo at 7:00 p.m. Parishioners who had lost family and other loved ones throughout the year were invited. This Mass of Remembrance continues to be a spiritual and heartfelt time for those grieving. Many are thankful for the opportunity to bring a photo, light a candle and reflect on memories of the person who had died.

Advent Reconciliation: Unfortunately due to the shortage of priests a specific reconciliation event was not scheduled for our Parish. Visiting priests continued to offer time prior to all regular Masses.

Christmas and New Year's Masses: The schedule was: December 24, 2022 (8:30 p.m. Fr. Sami), December 25 (10:00 a.m. Fr. Oliver), December 26 (9:00 a.m. Feast of St. Stephen with Fr. Sami), December 31 (5:00 p.m. Fr. Sami) January 1, 2023 (10:00 a.m. Fr. Sami). The latter part of 2022 was a definite challenge for the whole Parish. The community was very saddened by the re-assignment of Fr. Richard Jasiak to St. Martin Parish. A huge thank you to Martin Kondzielewski who, with Pastoral Council, became our liaison with the Archdiocesan office co-ordinating the visiting clergy. As noted earlier in this report we have had 15 visiting priests since August. The scheduling of priests sometimes changed hourly. It was a huge job (and continues to be) but greatly appreciated. We would also like to acknowledge all ministries that worked with the visiting clergy. It kept us on our toes but I think we did a good job as more than once it was commented by the Celebrant... "It's easy to celebrate Mass here... all I have to do is show up... everything else is ready." Many great comments were also given regarding our welcoming environment and music ministries. We are so blessed. Great job everyone!

Respectfully submitted,  
Trudy Rutten and Connie Todd  
Co-chairs, Liturgy

## *Fundraising Committee Report*

Thanks to the leaders and the many parishioner volunteers and friends Holy Cross conducted the following successful fundraising activities in 2022.

- Sunday March 27, 2022 Drive Thru Turkey Supper with 368 meals handed out. Our thanks to Charlotte's Catering from Moose Jaw and the volunteers who worked at distributing the meals. Thank you.
- The Holy Cross charity "22<sup>nd</sup> annual *Cal Murphy Memorial Golf Tournament*" was held on Sunday, June 12 at Aspen Links Country Club in Emerald Park. Due to COVID and the change of location, golfer numbers were down (52) but the golfers, many volunteers and parishioners enjoyed a great chicken buffet and hospitality in the new club dining room. Because of the support of our many golf sponsors, it was a very successful golf tournament. Thank you.
- Sunday October 16, our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Harvest Supper was held at Resurrection Parish Hall. After having to cancel the previous two years due to COVID restrictions, about 250 parishioners, family members and friends enjoyed a turkey, ham, cabbage roll and total fixings supper. Thank you to the chef from Miller High School who catered the main supper, and to parishioners who prepared the cabbage rolls and dressing. Thank you.
- Our successful calendar raffle sales held each November and December provide a source of revenue for our Liturgy, Spiritual Education and Social Action work at Holy Cross.

Thank you to those special Holy Cross parishioners who provide their time and talent to lead and to volunteer at these fund raising events.

*"Volunteering is a work of the heart;  
many hands make light work."*

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne Rutten and John Lebersback  
Co-chairs, Fundraising



## *Finance Council Report*

Holy Cross Parish has effectively managed all aspects of Holy Cross operations through 2022. Father Richard Jasiak completed his six-year term on July 31, 2022. Through the remaining five months of 2022, eleven priests provided their services. Father Richard Jasiak, the eleven priests, the Bookkeeper, Finance Committee members, Pastoral Council, all ministries, the CWL, the K of C and all parishioners contributed to the successful outcome.

For 2022, the net loss of (\$1,797) was realized and was an improvement compared to the annual 2022 budget of (\$2,790). The primary contributors to the outcome were:

- Collections and donations were below budget and below 2021 actuals;
- Fundraising funds were above budget and above 2021 actuals;
- Archdiocese contributions were fully delivered;
- Efficient management of parish expenses;
- Minimal buildings and grounds expenses.

The 2022 Building Fund was capped at the 2021 balance of \$110,782 and all parishioner contributions were directed towards operational needs. The buildings and grounds did not require any major improvements in 2022. The buildings and grounds needs will continue to be reviewed in 2023.

A thank you to Father Richard Jasiak for his leadership and spiritual guidance until his departure, to all supporting priests, to all Holy Cross leaders and parishioners. Thank you to Pastoral Council, CWL, K of C and all ministries for your activities and support. Thank you to the Finance Council members for their efforts and support. The Finance Council members included Father Richard Jasiak, Pastoral Council Chair Pat McGinn, Wayne Rutten, Gerard Woynarski, Gary Kraushaar, Sherry Andruschak, Wendy Kraushaar, and Rita Gareau our Parish bookkeeper. Thank you to Josie Howard for providing accounting expertise and preparing the Parish Financial Reports.

Special thank you to all parishioners for your financial support through the use of envelopes, electronic deposit, e-Transfers and donations. Thank you to all parishioners for your generosity, donation of time and talent and assistance in controlling our expenses, and continued support for Holy Cross Parish,

Respectfully submitted,  
On behalf of Finance Council,

John Lebersback  
Finance Council Chairperson



## *Collection Counters' Report*

Again, things are much the same as last year. We are still using four counting teams and counting every second Sunday. We will continue this schedule for 2023. All teams are working well. The efforts of these individuals to assist with the church's finances is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Finance Council, Rita Gareau and all Collection Counters past and present for their support.

Sherry Andruschak  
Collection Counters' Chair

## *Personnel Committee Report*

A big thank you goes out to Jacob, Rita, and Martin for another successful year looking after the day to day requirements of Holy Cross parish. There are still some COVID procedures in place that they are responsible for to ensure the safety of our parishioners. Thank you again to our dedicated staff as I have not been as active with them as I wanted to be because of my own health issues.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Genert  
Chair, Personnel Committee

## *Hospitality Committee*

Due to persisting COVID restrictions for gatherings, the Hospitality Committee had limited activities again in 2022.

The following activities occurred:

- April 2 - Refreshments were provided for the Lenten Retreat with Sister Aulie
- April 24 - Provided coffee and donuts at the AGM
- November 2 - Prepared and served a reception following the All Souls Mass: 38 people were in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Lebersback & Susan Leier

## *Buildings and Grounds Committee Report*

It has been a busy year at the church with many things happening including maintaining the grounds and landscape around the church, and continuing to respect cleaning regulations and safety standards required to maintain the safe operation of our Holy Cross Parish.

Ensuring sufficient supplies for proper cleaning and operation of church facilities continues to be an ongoing process. Special thank you to caretaker Jacob and many volunteers who continue to step forward to complete the required sanitizing and cleaning of the church and contents.

Some of the work that occurred this year at Holy Cross Parish included:

- Completing a review for fire regulations and emergency lighting which included replacing an emergency light in the church and ensuring all exit lights are properly lit up.
- Installation of additional outside cameras at church entrances.
- Fine tuning of security monitors to eliminate late night false alarms.
- Repair to the parking lot light.
- Inspection of all furnaces and some repairs to the boiler.
- Continued maintenance of heating, water and sewer systems.
- Removing graffiti.
- Fall cleanup and trimming of the grounds around the church.

A special thank you is extended to all our volunteers who offer their time and skills to keep Holy Cross looking great and clean inside and outside, and make our church a safe and welcoming place to come and to worship. To all dedicated volunteers who go that extra mile in maintaining flowers and plants, to Brad for looking after the lawn and irrigation system, we thank you and may God bless you. Thank you to Jacob for his work in the operation of the church.

We thank all of the parishioners/contractors who come to the church and support our many projects ranging from repairs to fundraising.

To our visiting priests, former pastor Father Richard, our church staff, members of CWL, K of C and Pastoral/Finance Councils, thank you for helping to keep Holy Cross Parish a viable community that we can be proud to worship in, to be a part of and to share with the outside community.

“Remember: Volunteering is a work of the heart”  
We need more help - Would you join us?

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne, John, Garry and Gerard  
Building and Grounds Committee

## *Condo Representative Report*

Douglas Park Estates consists of 7 bungalow-style units on the 300 Block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. These bungalows are located on the south side of the street across from Holy Cross Parish's parking lot and the school previously known as St. Andrews (École du Parc). There is a beautiful park at the back for the condo community to use.

We have an annual meeting once a year, usually in March. At these meetings we hold an election for officers. Sometimes these positions can be a lifetime job. We occasionally will have additional meetings throughout the year if something needs to be attended to.

Since August 1st, we have had three visiting priests live at the condo—Fr. Augustine, mid-September to mid-October 2022, Fr. Lourdu for the month of February, and Fr. Hyacinth from March 16 to April 19, 2023. It is ready for Fr. Carlos arriving for an April 16 start.

Respectfully submitted by:

Wayne Rutten  
Buildings and Grounds

## *Holy Cross's Response to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal*

Our goal was \$30,378.00

- By October 31, 2022, we had \$2,850.00 – 9.4% of the goal
- By November 30, 2022, we had \$6,075.00 – 20.0% of the goal
- On December 31, 2022, the grand total was \$22,884.00 – 75.3% of the goal.

We didn't quite reach our goal but a splendid result all the same!

These monthly percentages are a little different from previous reports. That is because the Archdiocese implemented a new system this year in which they did not report to us monthly. So any money received by the Archdiocesan Office was all included in the December number.

- Total received for Catholic TRC Healing Response – \$650.00

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Gareau

### Archbishop's Annual Appeal

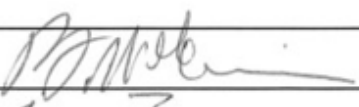


# Financial Statements (page 1 of 7)

## HOLY CROSS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION As of December 31, 2022 (with comparative figures at December 31, 2021)

	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Current		
Cash (note 6)	\$ 24,178	\$ 56,162
Short Term Investments (note 6)	45,101	19,000
Prepaid Insurance	5,414	5,228
Prepaid Expense	722	1,009
Accounts Receivable	294	36
	<u>75,708</u>	<u>81,435</u>
Investments (note 1)	156,384	153,053
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 232,092</b>	<b>\$ 234,489</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>		
Current		
Accrued Liabilities	\$ 2,871	\$ 3,271
Accounts Payable	0	200
Total Liabilities	<u>2,871</u>	<u>3,471</u>
Restricted Funds		
Legacy Fund (note 2)	21,670	21,670
Buiding Fund (note 3)	110,782	110,782
	<u>132,452</u>	<u>132,452</u>
<b>SURPLUS:</b>		
Operating Surplus, end of year	96,769	98,566
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 232,092</b>	<b>\$ 234,489</b>

APPROVED BY THE PASTORAL COUNCIL

	Pastor
	Pastoral Council Chairperson
	Finance Council Chairperson

## *Financial Statements (page 2 of 7)*

**HOLY CROSS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH**  
**STATEMENT OF TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES**  
For the year ended December 31, 2022  
(with comparative figures at December 31, 2021)

	2022	2021
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Pledges and Envelopes	\$ 159,791	\$ 174,948
Fundraising (note 4)	21,319	19,277
Interest Income	3,748	3,041
Sundry	12,255	7,033
	<u>197,113</u>	<u>204,299</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administration (Schedule 1)	\$ 113,934	\$ 116,400
Building and Grounds (Schedule 1)	49,838	44,645
Diocesan Assessment and Retirement Fund	32,320	32,976
Ministries (Schedule 1)	2,818	2,180
	<u>198,910</u>	<u>196,201</u>
<b>(DEFICIENCY)/EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	(\$1,797)	\$8,098
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS, beginning of year</b>	98,566	90,468
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 96,769</u>	<u>\$ 98,566</u>

## *Financial Statements (page 3 of 7)*

HOLY CROSS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH  
SCHEDULE 1  
For the year ended December 31, 2022  
(with comparative figures at December 31, 2021)

	2022	2021
<b>Administration</b>		
Office Operations	\$ 9,586	\$ 11,399
Payroll (note 7)	97,995	98,262
Telephone	6,353	6,739
	<b>\$ 113,934</b>	<b>\$ 116,400</b>
<b>Building and Grounds</b>		
Condo	\$ 10,364	\$ 11,295
Insurance	7,103	8,268
Janitorial Supplies	833	1,336
Repairs & Maintenance	12,411	11,800
Utilities	19,128	11,946
	<b>\$ 49,838</b>	<b>\$ 44,645</b>
<b>Ministries</b>		
Liturgy	\$ 737	\$ 358
Public Relations	517	485
Social Action	0	0
Spiritual & Education	454	219
Stewardship and Youth	1,110	1,118
	<b>\$ 2,818</b>	<b>\$ 2,180</b>

## *Financial Statements (page 4 of 7)*

### **HOLY CROSS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS For the year ended December 31, 2022**

Holy Cross Parish is a not for profit based organization whose mission is to work together as one family; living out the message and work of Jesus Christ.

#### **1. Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **(a) Investments**

Investments are classified as held for trading and are stated at fair market value. Investments held with the Archiepiscopal Corporation of Regina with interest calculated from 2.00% to 4.00% a year and reinvested when received.

##### **(b) Capital Assets**

Capital Assets including the Church, Gerein Centre and office, condominium, computers and furnishing and equipment are owned by the Archdiocese of Regina and therefore are not included in the statements. Holy Cross Parish is responsible for payment of operating, maintenance, upkeep and insurance costs of these assets.

##### **(c) Revenue Recognition**

Donations are recognized when received. Interest and other revenues are recognized as revenue when earned.

Fundraising proceeds that are used specifically for parish enhancements are not included in the calculation of the annual Diocesan Assessment such as the Calendar Raffle. Other fundraising events are recorded and assessed on the net revenue.

##### **(d) Fund Accounting**

The organization operates under the principles of fund accounting with three specific funds in use. They are the General Operating Fund, Legacy Fund and Building Fund.

The Legacy Fund is an internally restricted fund which reports the activities related to disbursement of bequests made to the Parish.

The Building Fund is an internally restricted fund used for future year's building expenditures and enhancements.

## *Financial Statements (page 5 of 7)*

### 2. Legacy Fund

Opening balance in Legacy Fund at January 1, 2022	\$	21,670
Amount for Parish Use as of January 1, 2022		21,670
<b>Balance as of December 31, 2022 for Parish Use</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>21,670</b>

### 3. Building Fund

Opening balance in Building Fund at January 1, 2022	\$	110,782
Amount for Parish Use as of January 1, 2022		110,782
<b>Building Fund balance as of December 31, 2022</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>110,782</b>

### 4. Fundraising

Fundraising revenues are reported on the Statement of Total Operating Revenue and Expenses at net profit. The gross revenue and expenses are as follows:

#### Calendar Raffle

As per requirements of the Lottery License, the proceeds of the Calendar Raffle are distributed as follows:

50% to the Liturgy Committee	\$	1,388
25% to the Social Action Committee		694
25% to the Spiritual and Education Committee		347
	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,388</b>

#### Drive-thru Suppers

Revenue	\$	15,393	
Expenses		9,082	6,312
Net			

#### Golf Classic

Revenue	21,530	
Expenses	6,360	
Net Expense		15,170

#### Missal Sales

Revenue	\$	258	
Expenses		420	
Net			(163)

#### Total Net Fundraising Revenue

**\$ 21,319**



## Financial Statements (page 6 of 7)

### 5. Special Collections

#### Diocesan Collections

	2022	2021
Development and Peace	\$ 2,909	\$ 2,577
Commitment to the Future	11,775	13,240
Needs of the Church in Holy Land	675	725
Needs of the Canadian Church	655	485
Propagation of the Faith	1,120	1,010
Catholic Missions in Canada	513	660
Education of Seminarians	590	695
Papal Charities	665	815
Truth and Reconciliation Response	200	6,345
	<u>\$ 19,102</u>	<u>\$ 26,552</u>

	2022	2021
Designated Collections		
Catholic Women's League	\$ 2,170	\$ 2,409
Flowers	1,230	1,820
Visitation House	100	0
Marian Center	100	50
Mass Intentions	205	185
Ukrainian War Relief	3,746	0
	<u>\$ 7,551</u>	<u>\$ 4,464</u>

### 6. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are defined as bank and cash on hand.

The 3 bank accounts are with the Conexus Credit Union as follows:

Chequing	Acct # 010112344990
Savings	Acct # 010212344990
Personal	Acct # 110112344990

Short Term investment is with the Conexus Credit Union:

	Due date	Interest	Amount
1 Yr Term Non-Redeemable	Jan 26/23	0.60%	\$ 15,000.00
Redeemable Term	Oct 7/23	3.00%	\$ 20,100.68
Redeemable Term	Oct 7/23	3.00%	\$ 10,000.00
Total			<u>\$ 45,100.68</u>

## *Financial Statements (page 7 of 7)*

### 7. Payroll

The Administration Expense for Salary was reduced by the amount of the CEWS Recovery.

	2022	2021
Gross Salaries	\$ 100,599	\$ 95,646
CEWS Recovery	2,604	14,870
Net Salary	<u>\$ 97,995</u>	<u>\$ 80,776</u>

### 8. Measurement Uncertainty and Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. These estimates are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments are necessary, they are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known.

### 9. Financial instruments

#### *Financial instruments - recognition and measurement*

As per Section 3855, all financial instruments are measured at fair value on initial recognition. Measurement in subsequent periods depends on whether the financial instrument has been classified as held for trading, available for sale, held to maturity, loans and receivables, or other financial liabilities.

#### *Investments*

Investments have been classified as held for trading.

#### *Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable*

Accounts receivable include financial instruments categorized as loans and receivables and are reported at amortized cost.

Accounts payable include financial instruments categorized as other liabilities are reported at amortized cost.

## *Catholic Women's League Report*



Holy Cross CWL met in April 2022 — the first time since March 2020 due to COVID restrictions. Members continue to serve the Church in many ways. Those who are able participate in the following ways:

- Serve as sacristans and altar servers.
- Serve on Liturgy teams and Pastoral Council.
- Sing in regular and funeral choirs.
- Assist in parish fundraising events.
- Serve funeral lunches and refreshments after weekday and Sunday Masses.
- Take communion to shut-ins.
- The knitting tree was successful enabling two Catholic schools and Carmichael Outreach to receive winter outerwear for those in need. The Marian Centre staff received personal gifts donated by members at the Christmas social and we began collecting muffins once a month for Sacred Heart School.

Recognition was given to members of long standing:

- 60 years Doris Herauf, Theresa Putz and Louella Butchko
- 55 years Bernice Flaman
- 50 years Delores Maierhoffer and Dianne Lipon
- 40 years Teresa Dreher, Marilyn Lorencz, Betty Stang, Beverley Domm and Liz Maticka

The Maple Leaf Service Pin gives special recognition to a member for continuous dedication and service to our Council and Church. It was awarded to Margaret Preiner.

With the help of donations from Dollar-a-Month, bake and cabbage roll sales, we were able to send financial support to the following: Marian Centre, Sask. Pro-Life, Campion College, Catholic Health Association, Telemiracle, Peru Mission, Catholic Family Services, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Visitation House and Holy Cross Parish.

We are continuing our sponsorship of 15 year old Chelsea from the Philippines under the Catholic Sponsorship Programme “Chalice” which we began in 2006. This donation helps with her education, nutritional and medical needs so she can continue her schooling.

We thank the ladies of the parish who have contributed to the Dollar-a -Month collection, knitting tree and muffin programs. These contributions and support are very much appreciated and enable us to carry on with our charitable projects.

CWL meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month with the exception of July, August, September and January. New members are most welcome and invited to join us in our service for “God and Country”.

Respectfully submitted,  
Loretta Jelinski, Chair

## *Knights of Columbus Report*

The Msgr. Gerein Knights of Columbus Council #9859 currently has 50 members and continues to be active in the life of our parish.



The Council resumed its Pancake Breakfasts in October 2022 and these have been well received. These have enabled the Council to make donations to numerous charitable causes, including ALS (\$100), Catholic Family Services (\$100), Clergy Appreciation (Friar's Fund) (\$100), Marian Centre (\$100) and Visitation House (\$100), to name a few.

Other fundraising efforts include the sale of Charity Appeal and Football Pool tickets.

The proceeds from the sale of Charity Appeal tickets (\$370.50) were given to Holy Cross Parish.

The proceeds from the sale of Football Pool Tickets went to:

- Camp Monahan \$280;
- Santa Maria Home \$550;
- K of C Indoor Games \$280;
- Special Olympics \$280; and
- Holy Cross Parish \$1,950.

In addition to these things, our Council has also donated \$400 to the Knights of Columbus "Coats for Kids" initiative, contributed to Regina Chapter to cover cost of Keep Christ in Christmas billboards, and raised funds for both the Knights of Columbus Vocations Endowment and the Displaced Ukrainians Fund. Collections of non-perishable food items were also held during both Advent and Lent and a clothing drive during Advent, with the items collected being provided to Marian Centre and Visitation House.

None of these charitable activities would have been possible without the tremendous support of the parishioners of Holy Cross. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Morris, Grand Knight  
Msgr. Gerein Knights of Columbus Council #9859

## *Parish Statistics*

Year	Baptisms	Marriages	Deaths	Registered Families	Active Contributing Families
2022	1	0	14	313	151
2021	1	1	8	319	150
2020	2	1	12	327	200
2019	4	2	11	352	245
2018	6	1	12	375	275
2017	4	3	5	400	300
2016	8	4	14	400	300
2015	6	1	14	400	300
2014	14	2	18	400	311
2013	17	5	18	548	280
2012	18	9	16	675	324
2011	19	8	16	690	371
2010	22	7	25	740	400
2009	21	6	16	747	410
2008	27	11	22	734	414
2007	14	3	17	705	430
2006	25	9	19	726	416
2005	18	9	15	672	-
2004	23	8	14	680	-
2003	27	15	19	664	-
2002	26	5	26	664	-
2001	21	13	14	710	-
2000	31	13	15	990	-

## ***Pastoral Assistant's Report***

**Funerals:** 14. The first 10 were under Fr. Richard's leadership, and the remaining 4 with visiting priests. The funerals have opened up, meaning that lunches have resumed and attendance has increased. We have kept our preference this year of providing proclaimers from within our own group of church proclaimers, dissuading eulogies or having them outside the church proper. Some families wanted their family members to proclaim and have eulogies in the church. We have had no major problems. It has been difficult to speak from a place of authority when I do not have any. I am looking forward to Fr. Carlos placing his hand over this area.

**Sacraments:**

Marriage – 0

Baptism – 1

Confirmation – 0

RCIA – 0

Note: We have had 4-5 inquiries for baptism this year but after August 1<sup>st</sup> none went beyond the initial inquiry. I think the reality of not having a full-time pastor dissuaded people from coming forward. Same with the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation.

**My Diaconate Update:** I am coming to the end of my fourth year in June 2023. Unfortunately due to COVID we are behind in the instruction that requires person to person interaction (like pastoral visits). There are two initiation rites yet to come before ordination (I was initiated as Lector at Christ the King September 13, 2023). The next one is Acolyte in June 2023 and enrolment in December 2023. That means the Archdiocese is looking at Ordination of the permanent diaconate in June/July 2024. There is a requirement to be in each position for a minimum of 6 months.

My heartfelt thanks for your ongoing prayers, inquiries and good wishes in my journey.

Respectful submitted,

Marin Kondzielewski  
Pastoral Assistant

## *Office Assistant's Report*

Post-COVID sees this year's report very much pointed to where we were before COVID...but not yet arrived. Many things have happened since I last wrote. Some of my work has been unique and varied, as it often is. Here are the highlights.

**Absence of a full-time Pastor:** Since August 1<sup>st</sup>, as you are well aware, we have been receiving the services of many priests. When Fr. Carlos begins his tenure, he will be the 16<sup>th</sup> Priest who has crossed our threshold since Fr. Richard left. You will find a complete listing in the Liturgy Report up to the arrival of Fr. Carlos.

Of these, I have worked with, in an extended way, four – Fr. Ricardo, Fr. Augustine, Fr. Lourdu and Fr. Hyacinth. These priests had the largest share of days spent with us. Each pastor has been unique, each required specific and varied assistance from myself. I have stories to tell over coffee.

My service to them included, but was not limited to, such activities as purchasing home items, driving them to workshops, printing homilies, assistance with composing prayers, providing information concerning Government of Canada and Saskatchewan services, assistance in banking, and answering all manner of questions of what we do for celebrations.

**Challenge Girls Club Joins Us:** It has been a pleasure to have assisted this group with their arrival and settling in here at Holy Cross. The leaders, Kirsten Joubert and Shannon Skolney, have been wonderful to work with. On a Friday evening, it is delightful to have the girls doing their thing around this building. I add my thanks to our Pastoral Council and Finance Committee, and to you, our parishioners, for allowing this to happen. This year's report has a separate section of introduction from the Club itself.

**The Bulletin:** When COVID shut us down, this became the focus of my job – the on-line sharing of information important to our parishioners. In the last two years and now well into 2023, there are several changes:

- 1) I had asked Joyce Murphy to be my editor, to do the final check on each bulletin. As of today, I now check her work. As a fun thing to do, Joyce has learned how to compose the bulletin and now does so weekly. This saves me 3-4 hours a week, minimum. With her creative eye, she has also introduced elements that I had not the time to research and include – quotes from the saints and Church Fathers, more clips from the Catechesis, etc. She has also rearranged the information packages, breaking up our Holy Cross material with material from the Archdiocese. We average between 44-48 publications during the calendar year.

Continued...



## *Office Assistant's Report (continued)*

- 2) The number of printed bulletins has leveled out to match the attendees of our Masses, but the average size of the bulletin has grown. Our bulletins have grown from a 1-page average (11 x 17 = 4 pages) to 2 pages (= 8 pages). To compare, pre-COVID we printed 165 bulletins each week; now we print 90 for the church and 20 every 2 weeks for the two senior's homes. With the increase of numbers to Mass attendance, I am down to six mail out copies from a high of 32 in 2021. We have still to match the amount of paper and ink we had been ordering pre-2020.

**Technology in the Office and Church:** My ongoing thanks to Chuck Sylvester, the Finance Committee and Pastoral Council for the technological additions and upgrades we have had in the office in 2022 and 2023. Last year the backup file storage and battery backup have been well used and saved me time and pulling of my own hair. The Wi-Fi speed increase with the intention of livestreaming in 2021 makes our work much smoother and has benefited others ( as an example, the Knights of Columbus training workshop in the Gerein Centre early this year that allowed multiple laptops smooth access to our guest Wi-Fi). The personal printers for Rita's desk and my station this year have been very helpful in doing our jobs. Within the church, the replacement of the microphone system has removed a string of failures, allowed a sense of comfort with a full-time spare microphone that can be used to easily increase capabilities within the church and the Gerein Centre. With an exception to date of one weekend, the new system has worked well.

**Other Activities: a few examples:** Miller High School volunteer Emma Metz spent a dozen hours assisting me with filing and resorting the pastoral office materials in June 2022.

Office Storage and Filing –I have looked in spaces untouched since Sr. Cora left. Materials long unused have been removed and more shelf space was created. I also continue to combine, sort and file materials into one cabinet from various former places.

Sacramental Record Keeping – Fr. Richard spent many hours before he left checking all our books, making corrections to records, some of them decades old. I have been able to catch up this year with recording confirmations and marriages of former parishioners that occasionally come in .

Protocol Office Review of Holy Cross Files – In September 2022, the Archdiocese reviewed our records. They were happy; there were a few suggestions passed on but no concerns.

Gerein Centre Rentals – We have had 4 rentals during the past year. All were anniversaries or birthdays, all rentals to parishioners.

Submitted respectfully,

Martin Kondzielewski  
Office Assistant



**Below are the answers to questions submitted to the leaders of Challenge:**

**What is Challenge about?**

Challenge is a Catholic girls club for girls from kindergarten to grade 12. It's a truly unique program, rooted in learning more about and how to love God. We have a virtue-based curriculum that is teen-lead (parent-mentored), team-based and service driven, and is gender specific (the boys have a separate group called "Conquest"). All these aspects of the program really help to respond to the specific needs of the girls, both little and adolescent girls. We teach the girls how to follow Christ's example and live authentic Christian virtues such as friendship, obedience, sincerity, generosity, charity, purity, hope, joy, perseverance and faith. All of this responds to the needs of the child and adolescent.

First and foremost, Challenge Girls' Club creates the environment for the girls to encounter Jesus. You need to know God to love Him, so we teach catechesis and virtues, we learn about the saints and how they lived out the virtues and can be role models for us. And most importantly, we pray. We have adoration and our prayer time in front of the Tabernacle, which is why it is so important for us to meet in a church. Through praying in front of the Tabernacle and having holy, quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the girls learn to quiet their hearts to hear Jesus speak to them and love them. We want to be where Jesus is! We also pray the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and other special prayers. The girls do crafts and activities that solidify what they are learning.

Challenge gives the girls, both little and big, the time to explore and learn about their faith and they get to meet new Catholic friends. Having faithful friends, especially friends outside of school is so important. It allows the girls to see that there are other children like them, other families who practice their faith and who place an importance on cultivating it and living it every single day. It normalizes going to church, praying, and loving Jesus!

As I mentioned before, Challenge is a service-driven group. We want to do things for our greater community. Doing service projects allows the girls to think about the needs beyond themselves, it helps them plan, organize and execute a project and it gives them a sense of accomplishment as well as knowing that they are performing works of mercy. In the past, some of our projects have included hosting an All-Saints Day party for the Parish, a St. Nicholas Day Party, leading Stations of the Cross, and preparing materials for the visit from Our Lady of the Cape, which was hosted by the Archdiocese last April. This year, we have hosted a St. Nicholas Day party which had well over 100 children. We lead Stations of the Cross on March 17, 2023 followed by a get-together to celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick. In the springtime, we plan on helping plant the flower beds around the church.

Continued...

## *Challenge Girls' Club (continued)*

### **Purpose or goals of this organization?**

The goal of Challenge is to form Christian leaders who will transform the culture. We strive to aid families, parishes and schools in the evangelization and Christian formation of adolescents.

Challenge & Conquest (boys club) are proven to be a successful youth ministry option for the past 18 years in the US and Canada. They are currently present in over 250 parishes & schools with over 6,500 youth every week, led by 300 adult leaders and 700 teen leaders. They also offer over 45 summer camps with 2,000 campers every year.

### **How long has it been going on in Regina?**

Challenge has been running in Regina for the past 17 years. In the past, it has run out of school gyms, Holy Rosary Cathedral, online, and most recently at Resurrection.

### **A Summary – define the age groups, what activities and teaching you do, structure of the everything, use of teenage leaders, etc.**

One of the most important and unique aspects of Challenge is that it gives the girls good role models. The larger Challenge group is divided into 3 smaller groups:

Junior Challenge (kindergarten through grade 4)  
Middle School Challenge Girls (grades 5-8)  
High School Challenge (grades 9-12)

The high-school girls lead (plan and execute) the meetings for middle school girls in grades 5-8. For those girls, who are navigating many changes in their lives, including graduating from elementary to high school, the high schoolers give them the inspiration to stay active in their faith lives. Additionally, the middle school girls lead the Junior Challenge girls.... So it's a beautiful continuum of girls leading girls!

Giving back is essential for us. These opportunities provided the girls the chance to come out of themselves, out of their comfort zones, and do something for others. For the older girls, it gives them project management skills and lets them create a vision for the event, plan it out and follow it through to completion. Not many high-school girls are doing that!

Currently, we have about 35 girls in Challenge. And we continue to grow as the girls invite their friends.

Continued...

## *Challenge Girls' Club (continued)*

### **Invitation to join and what is all involved**

Challenge is for all girls ages 5-18 from the Regina area (yes, we have families driving in from out of town to attend Challenge). If you have daughters, granddaughters, nieces, friends, bring them to Challenge. You can join at any point in the year! For more information, please contact Kirsten Joubert at 306-527-1069. Or you can email to [kirsten.joubert@sasktel.net](mailto:kirsten.joubert@sasktel.net).

Thank you so much to Holy Cross for providing a home for Challenge Girls to meet. Everyone has been so welcoming to us, helping us set-up and get going and making sure we have what we need. We feel so comfortable here at Holy Cross.

Kirsten Joubert







## *Acknowledgements*

### **THANK YOU TO:**

The Pastoral and Financial Chairs, Committee Chairs, Organizational Leaders and Staff for writing and submitting these reports.

Brigitte Leibel for doing the first layout of this report. You have my warmest thanks.

Joyce Murphy for the second proofreading. Thank you for your time and patience.

Connie Todd and Darcy Butchko for supplementing our pictures.

Fr. Richard (up to his leaving August 1st) for his spiritual, emotional and brotherly support.

A special thanks to Pam Richaud, Rita Gareau, Mike Morris, Marie Lebersback, John Lebersback, Brigitte Leibel, Pat McGinn, Wayne Rutten for providing key information at key times

Our parishioners, visitors and all who in one way or another have been a part of/or have supported the Holy Cross Faith Community.

Finally, a big thanks to my wife Marie, who has allowed me extra time to stay and play.

(Any typos, grammar or organizational mistakes in this document or neglecting to include anyone who should have been thanked here, these are my mistakes alone).

Martin Kondzielewski Friday March 31, 2023