

## Six Month Report on Holy Cross 1

This report is posted to the Holy Cross website and is included in this weekend bulletins; it is informative, containing detailed insight into Parish programs and operations.

The Archdiocese 's impression to the report is very positive, commenting favorably on the Parish's vitality and viability.

**Holy Cross Parish**  
315 Douglas Avenue East  
Regina, SK S4N 1H7



January 19, 2023

Archbishop Donald Bolen  
Archdiocese of Regina  
PO Box 1546 Stn. Main.  
Regina, SK S4P 3C4

Your Grace,

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 2022 inviting an update on activities at Holy Cross. We are currently in the process of preparing a 6-month report to December 2022 for the Archdiocese as requested by the tri-parish consultation review. We hope it will be acceptable to combine the reporting for the 6-month period in this response letter.

I have been the Chair of Pastoral Council for nearly two years and Brigitte Leibel one year. We are happy to have this opportunity to describe all that has been going on at Holy Cross. As you are aware, Holy Cross lost its permanent Priest in August 2022. While I must say that this was a great loss for Holy Cross and a source of sadness and frustration, we can say that our Parish has, with prayer, risen to the occasion and continues to be active in all aspects of our Vision, to *Being Christ on Earth, and Bringing Christ to All*.

The following reporting is grouped under the pillars of Worship and Spiritual Life, Education and Formation, Service and Outreach, Human and Financial Resources, and Diocesan Participation.

### Worship and Spiritual Life

- Holy Cross continues its regular Mass schedule on weekdays and on weekends, with leaders of the Rosary before all Masses, and coffee and fellowship afterwards. Our Christmas Masses were beautiful and with good attendance. We are blessed to have experienced and commissioned Lay Ministers who have stepped up to provide Liturgies when a presiding Priest was not available. The Liturgies are joyous and parishioners are grateful for this alternative.
- The Liturgy Committee continues to meet monthly, and is strong and active with 11 members overseeing Liturgical planning for Mass preparation, church environment and Covid precautions.
- Since August 2022, Holy Cross has received 12 Priests of which several have commented on the work the Liturgy Committee does to assist them, that they feel comfortable and welcomed.
- A strong component of our Liturgical celebrations is our Music Ministry. Holy Cross has been a regular sponsor of *Praise in the Park* of which one of the performers is our own *Vision*. We have

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over 30 parishioners who participate in six choirs and music groups enriching our worship and celebration at Masses and other events. In addition, one of the choirs provides music for funerals if requested by the family. We are also blessed to welcome from time to time St. Mary's Revival Choir, which we enjoy very much.

- Holy Cross was also able to offer the All Soul's Mass – our beautiful tradition where families who have lost loved ones over the year are invited to actively participate in the Mass. This year, 11 families were supported by 45 people in attendance as well as many others who came to mourn and reflect in the Lord's Grace.
- Most of our parishioners are seniors and long-standing members of Holy Cross. We have however noticed some new younger families at Masses, and some families starting to return after Covid.
- We are very pleased to report that we do have youth in our parish! The city-wide Challenge Girls' Club has their new home at Holy Cross and have been meeting on Friday evenings since October for Adoration, and activities of Praise and Worship. The girls have a structured, age-appropriate lesson plan of Catechesis each week. What a joy it is to have them among us and we are planning to promote their activities to our parishioners and to involve them in Liturgical celebrations.

### Education and Formation

- Holy Cross has actively promoted the Archbishop's messaging on Truth and Reconciliation, at Masses, in our bulletin and on our website. In an initiative to respond to the Calls to Action, a group of Holy Cross parishioners travelled to Peepeekisis Cree Nation, in May, to share in a Mass followed by a social and fellowship.
- Our Gerein Centre houses spiritual literature and videos, and our CD collection has recently been updated.
- One of our parishioners is organizing another pilgrimage to Medjugorje where those who go return with strengthened and renewed devotion to our Blessed Mother.
- Over the years, we have had several Bible studies led by the Spiritual Education Committee, the last one *Priest, Prophet and King* finishing up in June. Holy Cross is also privileged to have a Pastoral Assistant who is currently a candidate in the Diaconate Program and we are pleased that he feels supported in his work. Our Parish bulletin is always full of information such as activities in the Archdiocese and news from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Service and Outreach

- Holy Cross has participated in the Archbishop's Appeal and we are awaiting confirmation of the total amount raised through our Parish.
- Our Hospitality Committee organizes food and refreshments for Easter Vigil, Annual General Meeting, the All Soul's Mass and other functions at the church to provide a gathering place for community.
- Membership of Holy Cross' Knights of Columbus Msgr Gerein Council 9859 is at 52, some of which are members of 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly 1064 Fr. Hugonard. Our men are dedicated to service. Their work in raising over \$4,000 through the Charity Appeal, football pool tickets, Coats for Kids, Salvation Army Kettle Drive, buttons for Ukrainian support, and others to the benefit of many organizations such as Camp Monahan, Santa Maria, Special Olympics, Knights of Columbus Indoor Games, Regina Catholic Schools, Keep Christ in Christmas promotion, ALS, Catholic Family Services, Clergy Appreciation, Marian Centre and Visitation House. Our Knights of Columbus have recently held their Christmas social and have resumed their monthly

meetings and as of October 30, have also resumed the pancake breakfasts. Upcoming in the new year is work for the Vocations Endowment program, Poor Man's suppers during Lent, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ministry and continue to contribute to Parish life at Holy Cross.

- Along side the Knights of Columbus is the work of Holy Cross' Catholic Women's League. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of ladies numbering 51 who participate in the Music Ministry and every component of the Liturgy. They visit and bring Communion to those who cannot attend Mass, provide refreshments for funerals and after-Mass fellowship, and volunteer in all aspects of Parish life. Their knitting work, collection of personal items, baking and cabbage roll sales and other fundraising activities have benefitted the Marian Centre, Sask Pro-Life, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Visitation House, Peru Missions, Campion College, Fr. John Weckend's marathon, and students of Regina Catholic Schools. They sponsor a child through the Chalice program and also offer a scholarship annually to a graduating Grade 12 student of Holy Cross. The Catholic Women's League has also recently held their Christmas social, are resuming monthly meetings, and continuing participation in 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ministries as well as the collection of muffins for Sacred Heart School.
- One of our visiting Priests, Fr. Augustine Ebido, during his short stay with us, reached out to Holy Cross for the Dominican mission to support post-secondary education in Nigeria. His message touched parishioners of Holy Cross who donated generously. Fr. Augustine expressed his 'deep appreciation for the generosity and hospitality we have shown him, and his deepest gratitude for the support to the Mission', and promises to keep Holy Cross updated. We look forward to hearing from Fr. Augustine.
- The Holy Cross office mails out approximately 95 Parish bulletins weekly to parishioners who are unable to attend Mass in person, to keep them informed and provide a sense of connection. Holy Cross has volunteer parishioners who visit and bring Communion to shut-ins on First Fridays, and currently two parishioners provide Lay Liturgy and Communion to Queen Victoria Estates and Victoria Park seniors' homes twice monthly. There is a collaboration between Holy Cross and the seniors' homes to support these services which are extremely valuable to the seniors who are longing for the Eucharist and the Word of Christ. Approximately 20 seniors attend the services at each residence.

### Human and Financial Resources

- Holy Cross' office staff comprises of our Pastoral Assistant who is also Office Administrator, one bookkeeper and one caretaker. Our Pastoral Assistant is also, as mentioned previously, a candidate in the Diaconate Program. We have two parishioners who volunteer to fill in for office duties when required. Our information technology support is provided by a parishioner who is experienced in technology and our grounds maintenance (snow removal and lawn cutting) is provided by a parishioner through his personal business. We have four active committees : Pastoral Council (12 members), Finance Council (10 members), Personnel Committee (4 members), and Liturgy Committee (11 members – two of which are new and young and involved!). Parish committees will be working to prepare for the Annual General Meeting in March 2023 and rewrite the Parish Constitution in accordance with the *Archdiocese Guidelines for Parish Pastoral and Parish Finance Councils*.
- Holy Cross' financial resources and buildings and grounds are carefully managed by a dedicated group of parishioners on the Finance and Building and Grounds committees. They also manage and maintain the Priest's residence (condo) which has recently been refreshed and is vacant and ready for a Priest. Over the past 3 years, Holy Cross Parish finances have been profitable as a result of efficient operations and the excellent generosity of our parishioners. Hard working

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organizers and volunteers have run successful fundraising events to support the operations of Holy Cross, events such as a harvest supper, cabbage roll sales, bake sales, calendar sales, drive-thru meals, and a golf tournament. The Fundraising Committee has already reserved June 11 for Holy Cross' annual golf tournament, and is planning a Parish supper social. Although collecting funds for Holy Cross is the objective, the focus of the events is kept on developing and nourishing Parish Pastoral life and community.

### Diocesan Participation

- Holy Cross does not have a formal collaboration with a Catholic separate school, although Fr. Richard had pressed for and had some success providing services to St. Dominic. In the interest of outreach and fostering more families and children to Holy Cross, to increase the size of the congregation and administer sacraments, Holy Cross requires Archdiocese support in fostering a rapport with and obtaining commitment from the Separate School Board to develop a relationship between Holy Cross and St. Dominic School.
- Holy Cross participated in the Synodal process and invited parishioners to participate in discussions, Liturgies and meetings, and invitations were also distributed to the surrounding neighborhood. The Synodal leader met with each Parish committee seeking their comment and involvement. Even though the attendance numbers were low, the dialogue was rich in discussion and ideas. Holy Cross' final report was submitted to the Archdiocese at the end of the process.
- Holy Cross promotes weekly the activities of the Archdiocese and its parishes in the bulletin, at Masses and on the website. Holy Cross had attendance at the Archdiocese Congress 2022 and recently, collaborated with Resurrection Parish and Miller High School to organize the fall harvest supper. This collaboration resulted in a very successful harvest supper and Holy Cross is looking at other ways in which we can collaborate and work together towards supporting active parishes within our Archdiocese. During the Advent season, Holy Cross was unable to obtain the services of Priests to offer Advent Reconciliation, however we did promote the Advent Reconciliation services of other parishes and offered transportation to those who might have needed it. Holy Cross is also planning to engage the *Parish Pastoral Support Services* to assist in growing our parish and engaging our parishioners.

Despite the absence of a Priest, Holy Cross has managed to deliver pastoral services, albeit limited at times. Hopefully this shortcoming is soon addressed with a permanent Priest. We continue to dialogue with Fr. Amédée on Priest scheduling.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to report on Holy Cross' activities over the past 6 months. As we look towards a future of sustained viability, and address the challenges ahead, we remain rooted in serving our community through the Love and Mercy of our Lord. Our parishioners and volunteers are devoted to service and prayer, to meeting the needs of our Christian community and celebrating our Catholic Faith, promoting all vocations and remaining honest and open to all.

Yours in Christ,



Patrick McGinn  
Chair, Pastoral Council  
Holy Cross Parish



Brigitte Leibel  
Vice-Chair, Pastoral Council  
Holy Cross Parish