

**Župniski Pastoralni Svet – Brezmadežna Čudodelne Svetinje (Toronto)**  
**Parish Pastoral Council – Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Toronto)**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Meeting #24 – May 28, 2012**

Attendees:

Cvetka Andrejaš  
Father Valentin Batič  
Father Antonio Burja  
Sonya Horvat  
John Jereb  
Rozika Nesich  
Andrej Pahulje  
Paula Petersen  
Milan Vinčec  
Josephine Žilavec  
Gloria Žižek

Representing:

Church Office  
Pastor  
Associate Pastor  
Catechists  
Ushers / Bartenders  
Catholic Women's League  
Church Organist  
Scouts  
Slovenian School  
Nageljčki / Nagelj  
Naša Pesem

Regrets:

Robert Ferkul  
Laurie Ulcar

Planika / Mladi Glas  
Novi Rod

The meeting discussions were as follows:

<u>No.:</u>	<u>Discussion:</u>	<u>Action:</u>
1.0	<u>Opening Prayer</u> Fr. Burja began the meeting with prayers. Our focus was on the Holy Spirit and Mary.	Info.
2.0	<u>Review of Minutes:</u> A brief summary of the minutes of the last meeting was provided. a. Correction – The minutes for the last meeting refers to a Dom Lipa banquet. This is to be corrected to read the Dom Lipa luncheon.	Sonya Horvat
3.0	<u>Parish Council Members</u> a. Milan Vincec will be tentatively taking over Laurie Ulcar's position as head of the Children's Choir Novi Rod. b. We are still looking for someone to represent the youth of the parish (under 25), a position previously held by Cody Petersen. Suggestions were made to inquire at different youth groups (e.g. someone from the dance group (Mladi Glas). c. A notice should be placed in the church bulletin for available positions in the parish council (e.g. new secretary). This notice can also be emailed to all the church groups.	

- 4.0 Youth Revival Info.
- a. The Parish Council is trying to find ways to attract the youth back into the parish by holding various events specifically for their interest. One such event recently held for young ladies aged 13+ was held in May. The turnout was good, despite excellent attempts to attract more people. Other such events are being planned and are encouraged.
  - b. It was discussed that the youth in our parish have various talents that can be used to encourage more participation. It is requested by each of the church youth groups to perhaps request some of the natural leaders in these groups to take a lead in encouraging more participation in these events (e.g. informing them, encouraging them and act as liaison in letting the council know what the youth would like to see from their parish).
  - c. It was also suggested that church events should be emailed to the different church group leaders so that advertising for these events would be better.
- 5.0 Yearbook: Info.
- a. Different reasons had led to the delay in the yearbook's completion. Recently more photos were located that are to be included in the yearbook.
  - b. The new release date is set for October, 2012.
  - c. As per the original notification, only those families / individuals who have submitted photos will be given a free copy of the yearbook. It was discussed that only 25 extra copies will be ordered for those wishing to purchase a copy of the yearbook.
  - d. A concern that more copies may be requested for purchase was raised so it was decided that parish council members can return to their groups and inquire if anyone is interested in purchasing a yearbook. It was then also decided that an order form will be provided in the church bulletin for anyone wishing to purchase a yearbook. Payment will be requested at the time of ordering so that the church will not be out of pocket.
- 6.0 Retreat (2013): Info.
- a. In order to reach more people it was discussed to hold the retreat over three Sundays, instead of over one weekend.
  - b. Suggestions for guest speakers included: Fr. Alan McDonald (who spoke at a CWL meeting and was very good); Sisters of Light; Father Gilles Mongeau; Sr. Mary Babic.
  - c. The plan for the three Sundays: First Sunday will be an introduction, the second Sunday will be the reconciliation service and the final Sunday will be a culminating Sunday. It is hoped that once people see / feel the significance of having these retreats in their lives we can then perhaps change the retreat format again to the whole weekend as was previously done.
  - d. Reconciliation services should be done with the whole community, not individually. It should include singing, participation so that one can allow the Spirit to move them.

- 6.0 (con't) e. It is hoped that once we are able to relay the importance of reconciliation and renewal to adults, especially parents, the message will be also passed onto the youth of the parish.  
 f. The tentative dates for the retreat will be February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, and March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The dates for the retreat will be confirmed once we know when the guest speakers are available.
- 7.0 Survey: Info.  
 a. Prior to conducting the survey, we must first determine what our objectives and target audience of the survey are. Questions such as those already provided by various members (attached) should be reviewed and put in a logical order as per the expectations of the survey. The parish council guide book also provides some direction regarding surveys.  
 b. Putting the survey together should not be difficult given different computer programs available for such purposes.  
 c. A meeting specifically for this purpose will be held at the next parish council meeting.
- 8.0 Church Volunteers: All  
 The diocese has instructed us that all volunteers working in the church and with children must complete and provide a “Vulnerable Sector Screening” (issued by the police). This is to ensure that everyone has been screened for possible criminal records.
- 9.0 Next Meeting: All  
 Our next meeting will be held on Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. The agenda will include:  
 - The survey;  
 - Next year’s agenda (please provide Sonya Horvat with any plans already in the works such as when each group will begin their year in September / October, any events planned – note if dates are tentative, etc.). This information can be included on the Church website so people can plan ahead.

These minutes have been prepared by:

Sonya Horvat

## Church Survey Questions

1. How old were you when you first attended mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal?  
0 – 13                      14 – 25                      26 – 50                      50+
2. Is your heritage Slovenian? Y N
3. How often do you attend mass at OLMM?  
Weekly                      Monthly                      Religious Holidays                      Other
4. How often do you attend events held at OLMM?  
Weekly                      Monthly
5. Would you like to receive communications on future events via email from OLMM? Y N
6. Did you participate in the Easter Retreat? Y N
7. Do you donate to the Church?  
Weekly                      Monthly                      One Time                      Other
8. Would you donate to the church if you could pay via credit card? Y N
9. Do you sing with the choir when the words are displayed on the screen? Y N
10. Do you like the mass schedule? Y N
11. What time would be convenient for you to attend?  
8:30                      9:45                      11:15
12. Did you know that the church has a summer mass schedule? Y N
13. If you have young children, would you let them participate in Sunday school during last mass?
14. Do you visit the church hall for coffee after mass on a regular basis? Y N
15. Have you thought about hosting an event in our church hall? Y N
16. Would you like to have a say in the renovations of the church? Y N
17. Are you interested in learning how to arrange flowers for the church? Y N
18. Are you able to get the information you require when you call the church office? Y N
19. Do you have a teenager who is looking to do some volunteer hours for school? Y N
20. What changes would you like to see at OLMM?
21. Would you attend more frequently if you knew there would be visiting priests? Y N
22. Do you know of any priests who might like to say mass at our church?  
Yes                      No                      Name & Parish

23. Would you like to know the theme of the homily prior to mass? Y N
24. Do you attend other parishes? Y N
25. How often do you/family go to church & where & why?
26. Do you/family come to OLMM to remain close to/part of the Slovenian community/activities?  
How often do you/family go to church & where & why?
27. Would you consider yourself as actively practicing your faith? Y N
28. How often do you attend Mass?
- Daily
  - Weekly (i.e. on Sundays)
  - A couple of times a month
  - Less than once a month
  - I am not Catholic
29. I go to confession...
- weekly
  - monthly
  - ever few months
  - once a year
  - less than once a year
30. My spiritual needs are being met Y N Occasionally
31. I am aware of all the activities happening at the church Y N Occasionally
32. What other services would you like to see offered at our parish?
33. Do you use the website for parish information? Y N Occasionally
34. Do you believe that the current weekend and weekday Mass schedule meets the needs of the Parish community? Would you suggest other times for weekend and weekday masses?
35. To what extent do you believe the pastor to be carrying out his responsibilities, including those of teaching (including preaching), administering, and promoting the sanctification of our Parish? Are there areas that you believe to be in special need of improvement?
36. To what extent do the Parish Administrative and religious education staff meet your needs. What suggestions would you make to improve their service?
37. Do you have any suggestions for improving our Religious Education programs for children and teens?
38. Would you participate in adult Religious Education opportunities if they were offered? What kinds of adult opportunities would attract you? What would be the most convenient times?
39. On a scale of 1 – 10 (1 measuring low or little, 10 measuring high or great)
- a. How important is your faith to you at this time in your life?
  - b. Do you consider going to church an important part of your faith?

- c. Do you read the bible?
- d. Do you consider receiving the sacraments important?
- e. Do you receive communion regularly?
- f. Do you observe religious holy days?
- g. Do you go to church when on vacation?
- h. Do you pray?
- i. Do you consider God to be a part of your life?
- j. Do you actively express your faith during elections?
- k. Has the sex scandals in the Church shaken your faith?
- l. Do you have confidence in the Church's magistry?
- m. Do you believe practicing your faith personally (i.e. not going to Church, receiving the sacraments, etc.) and living a "Christian" life the best way for you to be a Catholic?
- n. Would you consider yourself a "cafeteria" Christian (believe only in some things the Catholic Church is teaching but not everything)?
- o. Do you consider the teachings of the Catholic Church to be too strict?
- p. Have you abandoned going to Church because of the feeling of not being able to live up to how the Church teaches you to live your life?
- q. Do you feel judged when going to Church?
- r. Do you feel welcomed when going to Church?
- s. Are you active in your community? (In doing charitable works?)
- t. If yes, is that activity activated / enhanced by your faith?

40. What would you change about the Church today?

41. Do you feel the Church is helping you grow in faith or are you feeling more and more distant from the Church?

42. Do you believe the Catholic Church is an important (in fact vital) part of maintaining / promoting the moral order in the world?