

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. THOMAS MORE**

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINISTRY AND COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

JUNE 27, 2017

OUR PARISH MISSION

We are a large and ever-growing parish,
generously blessed with gifts, talents and diversity,
blending traditions from our original community
with the visions of our newcomers.

We relish the gifts of our ministries and volunteers, welcoming
all.

*We "devote ourselves to the Teaching of the Apostles,
to Community Life, to the Breaking of Bread and the Prayers."*

Acts (2: 42)

Table of Contents

Altar Servers	4
Baptism	5
Card Social	7
Catholic Women's League	7
Children's Liturgy	8
Coffee After Mass	8
Confirmation	9
Conquest / Challenge	9
Contemporary Youth Band	10
Counting Ministry	10
Dominic Savio Senior Youth Group	11
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	11
Eucharistic Study Group	12
Familia	12
Families of Nazareth Movement	13
First Friday Adoration	14
First Holy Communion	14
First Reconciliation	15
Growth in the Spirit Prayer Group (Catholic Renewal Services)	15
K4J (Kids for Jesus)	16
Knights of Columbus Father Bonner Council 7599	18
Ladies Auxiliary	19
Lectors	20
Marriage Preparation	20
St. Thomas More Music Ministry & Sound Ministry	21
Prayer Shawl	22
R.C.I.A. Adapted for Children (Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children)	22
RCIA	23
Rosary Circles	24
Sacristans – Linens Required For Mass	25
School Outreach	26
Scripture Study	26
Social Justice Ministry	27
The Legion of Mary	28
The Lord's Flock	29
Vacation Bible School (VBS)	30
World Youth Day	31
Youth Lectors	31
Youth Ministry Advisory Committee	32
Youth Ushers and Greeters	32

Altar Servers

Under the guidance of Fr. Antony Fernando, the Altar Server ministry continues to successfully serve in the parish with 49 active servers.

Currently, the Altar Servers are male/female children and youth, ages 8 (must have received 1st Reconciliation and 1st Holy Communion) to 17 who are practicing members of the parish assisting the ordained ministers at liturgical celebrations. However, new entrants to the ministry must be ages 10 to 17, the regular requirements notwithstanding. This is an important and special ministry as God calls all Altar Servers to help in the celebrations to promote the spiritual well-being of his people as they come together in prayer.

Altar Server rankings were introduced this year, which divides the children into two groupings: Junior and Senior. All new servers are automatically Junior Rank. The current servers who are under the age of 10 will remain Junior rank until they grow beyond 10 years. The current requirements for Senior rank is to be at least 10 years of age, and to have two years of serving experience at St. Thomas More. The current dual-ranking system, and the requirements for each rank will be under review as successfulness of this system becomes clearer.

Altar Servers are required to arrive 15 minutes before mass to vest and prepare, wearing clean and Sunday best attire, being attentive and respectful during the liturgical celebrations. They must also be able to follow instructions and be quiet during celebrations. The server is a part of the celebration, and is expected to participate by listening and responding in prayer and song – being a leader in prayer. There is to be a Junior rank server and two Senior rank servers at each Mass. Whenever a scheduled server is unable to attend, a replacement must be found, or another server who happens to be attending that same Mass ought to fill in if available.

It has been mandatory, beginning in the fall of 2016, for all Altar Servers to attend training sessions as scheduled as many of them did not attend the training in the previous year. Going forward, each training session will be directed to a specific set of servers (Senior rank, for example), and will only be mandatory for that group of servers.

Completion of a Volunteer Information Form (which includes parent/guardian consent) has been successfully implemented this year. An Altar Server Information Sheet has also been introduced this year, which has been helpful in allocating the servers (by Mass and rank). Bosco Dias and Jonathan Quist have assisted me in training the altar servers throughout the year.

I took over the scheduling of the Altar Servers this year, to support the new server ranks, utilizing an excel spreadsheet containing a list of all active servers, and their available Mass times to complete the scheduling each month. I created a visual calendar for this schedule, and distributed it to the altar server families as early as three weeks in advance of each month.

Some of the Altar Servers attended the Altar Server Workshop at the Basilica, as well as the Social Events – snacks and board games in December; a BBQ, outdoor games, and an award ceremony in the month of June. The June event was very well attended and received, helping to build community among the children/youth and parents. Also in June, a Deputization Ceremony, the first of its kind at St. Thomas More, was held for all current altar servers who wish to oblige themselves to serving in this ministry for one years' time. A second ceremony will be held later in the year for the new servers who signed up at the Stewardship Fair, and any current servers who were unable to attend the June ceremony.

Thank you to Fr. Antony for his support, prayers and presence in this ministry; thank you to Monica Bober for her wealth of knowledge, experience and assistance in some of the more practical aspects of running this ministry; thank you also to Jonathan Quist for his support, especially in helping with the Summer Social Event.

Respectfully submitted by Christopher Snaith, Altar Server Coordinator

Baptism

Highlights of 2016 - 2017

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Baptized children in 2016 | - under 1 year old | 102 |
| | - between 1 and 7 years | 44 |
| | - 7 years and over RCIA adpt. For Children | 10 (added to BM this year) |
| | Total | 156 |

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Baptized children in 2017 | - under 1 year old | 29 |
| (January – June) | - between 1 and 7 years | 32 |
| | Total | 61 |

- Baptisms continue to be celebrated 3 times a month, 10 months a year, Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 12 pm and 2 pm Sunday Liturgy. Liturgy Baptisms are celebrated only on 1st Sunday in Advent (if necessary) and not at all during Lent.
 - We have reinstated Baptisms at the 12pm Mass between Christmas and New Year's when Christmas Day falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Since families are already gathered for the holidays, it is a very desirable time for them to Baptize at this time also. If necessary we will add Baptisms at the Saturday, 5pm Mass and have a 2pm Baptism Liturgy as well. These additional opportunities for Baptisms were approved by Fr. Andrew and the Baptism Ministry Team and are contingent upon demand. Only the noon Mass on this weekend will be advertised in the Baptism Brochure.
 - The baptism preparation procedure includes the following: completion of the Baptism Registration form by parents with supporting documentation attached; an Office Visit which involves a welcoming conversation and an explanation of the materials they receive; and, completion of the Baptism Preparation Sessions held twice a month (two evenings totaling 4 hours) or a 4 hour Saturday session before the child's baptism celebration date. Under special circumstances parents/godparents have been allowed to take the classes post Baptism. There are no sessions in July, August, or December. Participants receive a letter stating they have completed the Baptism Preparation requirements, which is valid for 5 years.
 - Parents are encouraged to attend the classes again for their 2nd and subsequent children if upon gentle inquiry it is discovered that parents are not practicing what they promised they would at the baptism of a previous child. If parents requesting baptism have not attended the Baptism Preparation Sessions within 5 years, it is mandatory to complete the sessions again.
 - The baptism form completed by the parents includes testimony that the godparents are baptized, confirmed Catholics who actively practice their faith including regular Mass attendance, regular reception of the Sacraments and living a Catholic Christian life (married in the church or abstaining from Eucharist if not). Most parents have a lack understanding as to what a practicing Catholic is; consequently, this is explained using a simple, loving, encouraging but direct approach during the Office Visit and the Baptism Preparation Sessions.

- Due to an increase in unmarried parents, parents married by Justice of the Peace or married in a denominational church, parents are asked to book an appointment with Fr. Tony or Father Saga in order that the priests can educate, inform, invite and, at the same time encourage them to rectify their present marital situation (e.g. convalidation, annulment, etc.). Many or most parents do not see the need or importance of following up to do this for reasons usually due to convenience, time, priority and they do not understand the fruit that will result in one's marriage by making it a sacramental one and thereby being able to receive Eucharist we Jesus said we must to have Eternal Life. Additionally, at the Office Visit and during the Baptism Preparation classes parents are gently informed to abstain from receiving the Eucharist until their marital situation is rectified.
- In previous years, there has been an increase in Baptisms of children because parents want their children to attend Catholic school even if the parents are not Catholic themselves. This has not been the case in the first half of 2017. When it does occur though, the parents are always informed that there are two routes for this to be accomplished: 1) parents go through R.C.I.A. and the family becomes Catholic or 2) Parents, who for whatever reason do not wish to become Catholic must be willing to raise their children Catholic by bringing their children to Sunday Mass, catechism classes and ensure they receive the other Sacraments.
- When delivering the Baptism Preparation classes, I am very aware that most participants lack knowledge not only about Baptism but about Christianity in general; and, in particular about the Catholic faith. I find it is necessary to catechize not just on the Sacrament of Baptism, but more wholly on the Catholic faith, (i.e. who is God, how Jesus Himself instituted The Church, the Sacraments etc., how we got The Bible & The Creed, Apostolic Succession). There is a great absence of knowledge in religious education, relationship with Christ and the importance of attending mass, knowing and being a part of the Body of Christ, the Church and Church history, saints, traditions, scripture etc. In reality, I find that I am presenting a much-abbreviated R.C.I.A. class to which most are very receptive and leave feeling good about being Catholic.
- Godparents are also required to attend the classes, ideally at this parish or alternatively their own parish and as a last resort a parish which offers a class more suited to their personal schedule.
- A 'Godparent Information Card' is a gift to the godparent(s) on the day of their godchild's baptism. This was implemented to encourage and help the godparent to become more involved in his or her own faith formation. It is hoped that by this they are more inspired and equipped to assist the parents in passing on the faith to the child in their role and with the responsibility as godparent(s).
- Our Baptism Team consists of nine dedicated volunteers who have helped make this ministry visibly welcoming and spiritually inspiring for the families.
- The baptism ministry is one that is very rewarding. Month by month, family by family I see the spirit growing and people embracing the Catholic Faith. As well, I see God's newly baptized sons and daughters becoming members of the Body of Christ and our faith community here at St. Thomas More Church
- Two years ago the 'remaking' of the 'I am the vine; you are the branches' mural was started. It remains a work in progress due to volunteer availability. The volunteers are art teachers and their students from Louis St. Laurent and Mother Margaret Mary schools and one parishioner. It is my hope that the mural will be finished over the summer of 2017. I have still been collecting photos of the baptized children and once the mural is complete I will be restart the practice of displaying them for the year. A plaque acknowledging the volunteers will be added to the mural wall upon completion.
- The photos from the vine of the baptized children go into albums at the end of each year. The photo albums we have been using to 2014 are no longer available. It took me a long time to look for and decide on a suitable replacement. The new albums will join the albums on the library shelves once our volunteer has time to fill them with the photos from the 2015 and 2016 years.
- Thank you to our priests, baptism team, parishioners, volunteer artists and staff who have made this wonderful ministry very welcoming for our parents and their children.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Diane Middleton, Sacrament Assistant

Card Social

The STM Seniors Contract Bridge Club continues as a friendly seniors club with over 30 registered members. We meet every Wednesday in the beautiful Chapter Room. We do manage to recruit a few new members from the Parish by putting a notice in the weekly bulletin. The age of our group is from 55 years and is open ended.

One of our better bridge players is Berth who in January will be 100 years old

Our Bridge Group is self-sufficient from our weekly funds of \$ 3.00 per week/member. This fund allows us to cover our expenses such as playing cards, coffee, cookies, stationery, etc. Some amount from this fund is also for weekly token cash prizes for winners. Twice a year, in mid-June and before Christmas, we organize a Pizza luncheon for bridge club members. STM staff are invited to attend the luncheons.

We try our utmost to keep the Chapter Room and the kitchen clean and in order.

On behalf of all Bridge Club members, I would like to say thank very much to all STM staff members for their assistance, kindness and most of all for allowing us use the facility.

May God bless you all.

Vit Siuda

Catholic Women's League

Elections held in January 2017 for new executive:

Current Membership: 99 members

President:	Tere Rubio
President-elect:	Pam De Luca
Vice-President	Annette Patterson
Secretary:	Dorothy Johansen
Treasurer:	Yvonne Fummerton
Past President	Dorothy Johansen

Standing Committee Chairs:

Nicole Favis	Alissa Jones	Sharon Wilde
Clover Oryschak	Jean Ashdown	

Currently Jean Ashdown serves on the Diocesan Council.

Two Life Members in our council: Dorothy Johansen and Rose Marie McCarthy received the Elsie Yanick Award this year at the Provincial Convention.

We continue meeting every month with our members, welcoming new members and guests.

In our Advent Pot Luck Alissa Jones and Nicole Favis got their pins as new members and special prayer for their new babies, this day Father Tony received his Prayer Shawl made for our sisters of this ministry. Yvonne Fummerton received Maple Leaf Award at our Potluck in June.

In our meetings, we have had speakers from Back Porch, Elder Abuse, and Welcoming to Father Saga who is the new Associate Pastor in St. Thomas More.

CWL members participated in every ministry in the parish.

Our council contributes with small gifts and cards for recipients of sacraments as well baptismal bibs for new baptized parishioners.

CWL Council continues with fundraisings activities to support donations to different organizations in the city.

Submitted by Tere Rubio
St. Thomas More CWL Council

Children's Liturgy

- This past year, we had 38 volunteers that assisted at different times throughout the year with delivering the Children's Liturgy.
- We delivered the Children's Liturgy for each Saturday 5:00 P.M. Mass and Sunday at 8:30 / 10:00 / 12:00. **We have had a lack of volunteers to lead the Sunday 12:00 p.m.**
- For this program to be successful, it is important for the volunteers to be able to fulfill their scheduled time throughout the year.
- We had many children that participated in the Children's Liturgy, with the Sunday 10:00 mass having over 75 children on most Sundays.
- We plan to begin the Children's Liturgy again the third week on September 2017
- The program provided an opportunity for the children to relate to the message of the mass from a child – friendly context.
- This year, we offered the training for Abuse Prevention awareness to Children's Liturgy volunteers.
- This year, we continued the process of completing Criminal Checks for each of the volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Cheryl Shinkaruk

Coffee After Mass

The purpose of this ministry is one of hospitality and service. The parish provides coffee and cookies after the Saturday 5 p.m. mass and after the regular Sunday masses. This ministry is coordinated by the Parish Office with the assistance of about 18-20 volunteers. The St. Vincent Society volunteers on the third Sunday of the month.

Our parish is very large and continues to grow at a rapid rate. The hospitality of coffee after mass does provide an opportunity for parishioners and those visiting us to interact spiritually and to bond them into our church community.

One of the rewards of this ministry is seeing the eagerness of the children as they enjoy the treats that are provided – cookies, juice. Also provided are tea and coffee for adults.

Special thank you goes to Terry McGhee for coordinating this ministry. We need a number of dedicated volunteers and are always looking for assistance; so please be generous of your time and your efforts. Contact Terry McGhee at 780-434-3678 if you would like to be involved in this wonderful experience.

Respectfully Submitted by
David Matwie – Business Administrator

Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated in our parish on November 13th, 2016 with, his Grace, Archbishop Richard Smith, who confirmed 196 confirmands.

The Confirmation class was lead by the Youth Evangelization Coordinator and Sacrament Assistant Kathleen Eistetter. Fifteen volunteers were recruited to help with the program. The formation program involved eight two-hour lessons on Monday and Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30 PM. For curriculum, we used Dynamic Catholic's "Decision Point" series. The response of the students was almost uniformly positive so we have decided to use it again for the fall of 2017.

For this year we have decided to reduce the number of lessons to six and we are aiming to get twenty volunteers so that each volunteer will only have to manage a group of ten students. His Excellency Bishop Gregory Bittman will celebrate confirmation this year on November 19, 2017.

Respectively submitted by,
Jonathan Quist

Conquest / Challenge

- **Registrations per program**

Conquest	36 students	15 volunteer leaders
Challenge	35 students	12 volunteer leaders

- Evangelization Coordinator to Jonathan Quist/ Youth Evangelization coordinator.
- Both Conquest and Challenge continued their apostolate of forming youth in the Catholic virtues through teen/peer leadership.
- Conquest and Challenge also have been active in various service and apostolic projects throughout the year.
 - This year the Challenge girls were responsible for constructing our Easter tomb which was set up adjacent to the altar for the duration of the Paschal season.
 - The Conquest boys and Challenge Girls went caroling before Christmas to houses in the neighbourhood.
 - The Conquest boys also raised money for the Catholic pregnancy resource center The Back Porch through a parish dance and through the Lumen Film Festival where they raised a total of \$1114.00.
- Both Challenge and Conquest provided opportunities every night for participants to learn more and grow deeper in their faith. This often would involve the use of retreats and guest speakers:
 - In March the Challenge girls had an overnight Lenten retreat for the team leaders where they held a prayer vigil in the Church.

- In April a retreat was held for the Conquest teen leaders the theme was the year of grace and how to practically receive grace through prayer and personal habits.
- This year the Lumen Film Festival had a bigger turnout than ever. It is turning into a mainstay event in the life of the parish. All of the videos can be viewed on the Conquest website www.stmconquest.com. They are worth watching.
- Both clubs also provide opportunities for the youth involved to make new friends, have fun, and form Christian fellowship. The clubs are gender specific and really allow boys to be boys and girls to be girls, but not in a narrow, stereotyped sense. Occasionally the clubs will collaborate with each other and participate in a common activity like Capture the flags.
- Adult volunteers have all being screened, and attended the “Called to Protect seminar”, in line with the regulations of the Archdiocesan standards.
- Both the leaders of Conquest and Challenge have stepped down from their position for next year. Catherine O’Reilly has agreed to become the new Challenge Club leader but we are still in search of a male leader for Conquest.

Respectively submitted by,
Jonathan Quist

Contemporary Youth Band

The STM Contemporary Youth Band was created to lead music at the 10 AM Sunday Youth Masses every second and third Sundays of the month.

The band is comprised of a guitarist-vocalist, pianist-vocalist, guitarist, percussionist, and a bass-saxophone player. The band rehearses weekly.

The Contemporary Youth Band has begun leading music for the youth masses in March 2017 and has a program planned for the 2017-2018 school year.

Respectfully submitted by, Raymond Sosa

Counting Ministry

There are approximately 58 members in this ministry. The Business Administrator of the parish coordinates the counting schedule. Volunteers are scheduled on a team that counts for a period of one month.

Each team has a team captain along with three or four volunteers that assist in the counting of the weekly offerings. This procedure helps to ensure the financial integrity of the parish finances.

This past year we did see a couple of our team members retire. An advertisement was placed into the parish bulletin and we were blessed to have two volunteers step forward to join this ministry. We are still in need of a team to count in the month of December

Thank you to all members, veterans, retirees and newcomers for your dedication and fine work.

Respectfully Submitted by, David Matwie – Business Administrator

Dominic Savio Senior Youth Group

The Dominic Savio Senior Youth Group is a social/faith sharing group that meets every Sunday after the 6:00 PM Mass. In meetings we play games, eat snacks, socialize, and talk about living our faith and Church teachings.

The group has grown significantly since its start and there are now usually more than 10 participants every night. George Haddad is the new leader of the group and he runs it on consistently with myself. He has been screened according to the policies and procedures of the Archdiocese.

Along with our regular meetings, the DSSYG has also gone on two excursions: once for bowling and laser tag at Gateway Lanes and once to Launchpad Trampoline park. The group has really flourished and some very healthy friendships have developed among the participants. One drawback is that the group has ceased to grow significantly of recent times, however members of the group are cognizant that too much growth will change the dynamics of the group and make it less intimate. My suggestion is to start other similar initiatives from small groups of youth that already exist in the parish and give them facilities to hang out in with the supervision of a faith-filled, responsible, engaging adult.

Respectively submitted by,
Jonathan Quist

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Almost 100 members of our parish serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) in our parish. Several new members have joined our ministry over the past year while six long serving members have retired. Generally, we have been able to meet the needs of each mass with the exception of the Sunday 6:00 pm mass. We could use a few more volunteers for the 6:00 pm mass.

The mass schedules are prepared four times each year: Winter up to Easter, Spring-after Easter to the end of June, summer up until Labor Day, and fall up until Christmas.

For the Christmas Season and Holy Week-Easter, members sign up to serve. Most members receive their schedules via email; however, printed schedules are always available for those members who do not have computers.

In the fall of 2016, Fr. Tony presented a seminar to the EMHC and at each of the following Sunday masses; members were asked to come forward to be commissioned to serve in this Ministry. While most members serve at the St. T. More masses, several serve at masses in nursing/retirement homes during the week and distribution of the Eucharist to the sick and home bound.

Suggestions regarding the distribution of the Eucharist would be most welcome.

Sharon Pisesky
Coordinator of EMHC

Eucharistic Study Group

The Eucharistic group met every other Friday (but always on the First Friday of the month) from September until June, at which time we had a mini-retreat on the last meeting of the year.

The retreat this year included a Eucharistic Procession to four stations set up around the perimeter of the Church). The procession began last year and we hope to make it a tradition every year.

The group read and discussed various books with reference to the Scriptures, other noted writers and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. As many of the group as so wished to, came to the Rosary at 7:55 am, the Chaplet at 8:15 and Holy Mass at 8:30. We then proceeded to the Library where we had our coffee-breakfast and our prayer to the Holy Spirit and began our reading and discussion.

On the First Friday of each month, we stopped our reading and discussion at 11:00 am so that those who wished could spend an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, which is exposed every First Friday.

The book we are currently reading is entitled *Give Me Souls and take Away the Rest* by Father Tony. Our main book this year is entitled *The Blessed Eucharist, Our Greatest Treasure* by Michael Mueller cssr.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marcella Cloran

Familia

Familia can help families be the family they aspire to be. Living the Splendor of Love.

Familia is a Catholic apostolate with formational programs that are backed by the Church's teachings to help mothers and fathers discover the depths of joy within their families by supporting every aspect of each one of its members' vocation.

Familia is in existence for the family that they will live their mission through: stronger marriages, effective communication between spouses and children, trust in the dignity of each person, and lifestyles and decisions which bring unity and elevate the family.

Christ is the way, the truth, and the life; he is the only answer.

This year, our parish formed two motherhood teams: Created to be Woman: Called to Authentic Feminism and The Temperament God Gave You. The Created to be Woman: Called to Authentic Feminism team had 9 registrants that met twice a month on Wednesday mornings for an hour and a half and The Temperament God Gave You team had 7 registrants that met once a month on Friday mornings for an hour and a half while. Each of the motherhood team meetings consisted of these components:

1. Opening Prayers
2. Gospel Reflection – The participants read the upcoming Sunday Gospel that allowed them to stop and reflect on how God was speaking to each one of them in their own particular situation at that time.

3. Catechesis – Then the group briefly reviewed a small section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church that provided an introduction to the Catechism for some participants and as a review for the others. This component helped the participants understand what the Church really teaches and many have found it to have been of great help.
4. Document Study – This is part of the meeting where the fruits transpired. It was in these discussions the participants found concrete ways to live a more joyful family life as the concepts moved from the head to the heart, actually becoming practical resolutions.
5. Resolution- Then together as a team, the participants agreed on a new way to live based on what had been discussed and how they would implement it. This was a way for the participants to immediately incorporate their new thoughts and integrate them in responding to the world around them. Since this was agreed up as team, the participants were able to encourage and support one another in integrating these real and lasting changes into their lives.
6. Closing Prayers
7. Socialization

Both motherhood teams had childcare this year. Three wonderful ladies were acquired and superseded the childcare needs of both teams. All three of the childcare providers did receive the Called to Protect Training as required.

A gracious thank you to Fr. Tony, other clergy, staff and the parish for all the continual blessings and support received. It was a wonderful blessing being a part of these beautiful motherhood teams. Thank you again everyone and God bless!

Respectfully Submitted by,
Sherisse Schindel

Families of Nazareth Movement

The Families of Nazareth Movement is a formation program designed to help its members achieve a closer union with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Father Andrew Bogdanowicz is the Moderator for the movement in our Archdiocese.

Members from all over Alberta met monthly for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confession, Mass and a Retreat guided by Father Andrew. Members in individual parishes met weekly to pray and share their experiences as they encountered Our Lord in the spirituality of events.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Tracy Edmonds

First Friday Adoration

First Friday Adoration archives at St. Thomas More parish (in our possession) date back to January of 2006. Since this time a few faithful have gathered on 1st Fridays to pray for the needs of the Parish – for an increase in vocations to the priest hood and religious life- for seminarians and to pray the Divine Chaplet at 3:00 P.M. At present, Adoration begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:00 p.m. after Divine Mercy Chaplet. We continue to have a small core of committed Adorers to fill 1 hour time slots from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Materials are set out for Adorers as well as a sign in/out sheet. An upcoming schedule for the next 1st Friday Adoration is also available. We have attempted to bring an increased awareness of the need for 1st Friday Adorers thorough bulletin announcements, posters, leaflets and ongoing personal prayers for this ministry.

Our current objectives are:

- 1) increase commitment of Adorers for a time specific commitment on a monthly basis;
- 2) an awareness campaign for the need for Adorers
- 3) an aspiration of extending Adoration to evening hours or latter in the afternoon. For those who work during the day time hours.
- 4) Ongoing support of the clergy and the Parish community at large
- 5) Awareness education to the parish on the purpose of 1st Friday Adoration – Sacred Heart of Jesus – Eucharistic Adoration – St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

This is respectfully submitted by Heather I. Reimer and Monica Bober
+ In the Arms of Mary and the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

First Holy Communion

This school year 265 children celebrated their First Holy Communion at STM. In the fall we had a few children celebrate First Holy Communion. The spring session is for the child in grades 2-4. Many of the children who celebrate in the fall are preparing for their Confirmation and are 'catching-up' with the sacraments.

Program - The Holy Communion program begins with a parent drop in registration held on the first Saturday of the month Oct-Feb. The parents attend meetings in Feb. March April and May in prep for the child's First Holy Communion. The meetings are a mixture of catechism, retreats and workshops that are specific to the sacrament.

First Holy Communion Celebrations - We are very happy with the way the celebrations ran this year. This year we chose four weekends and allowed children to celebrate at either the 5pm, 10 am or noon Mass. The priests did homilies that included the children and their families, a perfect opportunity to remind these families of the awesome responsibility they have to raise their children in the faith. We are thankful to the CWL for the gift they give each child on their Holy Communion Sunday.

We will continue to charge \$10.00 for Holy Communion supplies provided.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kathleen Eistetter

First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation is held in conjunction with First Holy Communion. Most children who celebrate their First Reconciliation are also preparing for their First Holy Communion. The majority of children celebrate the two sacraments in the spring however a few usually celebrate prior to Confirmation in the fall. We always offer First Reconciliation and First Holy communion to those who require to 'catch up' on the sacraments prior to Confirmation.

Program: We will continue in the future to schedule our First Reconciliation meetings and celebrations as we have done so this year. Beginning with drop in registration to get the paper work underway before we actually hold meetings Jan through May. We have catechism sessions and a retreat that focus on Reconciliation.

First Reconciliation Celebration: We had one evening set aside in April for all 265 children to celebrate their First Reconciliation. We invited many priests to assist him with this event. It was a very busy night in the parish and all reports from priests, children and parents were good. The children loved their first experience with Reconciliation. We are thankful for the gift that the CWL gives each child on this night.

We will continue to charge \$10.00 for Reconciliation supplies provided.

Respectfully submitted by
Kathleen Eistetter

Growth in the Spirit Prayer Group (Catholic Renewal Services)

The Growth in the Spirit Prayer Group, is a Catholic charismatic prayer ministry established in St. Thomas More Parish in September of 2012. The ministry meets every Tuesday evening from 7:40-9:30 pm, right after the 7 pm mass. The ministry operates under the auspices of the Catholic Renewal Services of the Archdiocese of Edmonton and the support and blessing of St. Thomas More Pastor Fr. Antony Fernando.

Our Ministry's Vision

Our vision is that St. Thomas More Parish is home to a vibrant, Catholic, prayer community where members have a deep personal relationship with Jesus, are open and docile to the Holy Spirit, and have a deep love for our Heavenly Father manifested through an appreciation of the Word and the Sacraments and the willingness to serve God through acts of love and service.

Our Mission & Charisms

Our role and mission in St. Thomas More Parish is to promote prayer growth in the spiritual life of our members and encourage them to use their charisms in various ministries. The prayer group provides an atmosphere in which members can grow in their personal relationship with God through praise and worship, teachings, scripture reflections, communal and one-on-one prayer, and sharing of personal testimonies. Through our prayer meetings and a variety of renewal activities, members are able to identify and foster their charisms and use them for service. The Growth in the Spirit Prayer Group fits into the life and mission of the church by seeking to fulfill the church's mission of evangelization, sanctification and renewal.

2016-2017Activities

The ministry's activities in 2016-2017 included the following:

1. Weekly prayer meetings from September 2016 through June 2017. Each meeting included praise and worship, teachings, scripture reflections, sharing of witness testimonies and intercessory prayers. Integral to each prayer meeting is lifting up of the needs of our pastors, our parish, and the needs of those who have requested for prayers.
2. Ministry members, with pianist Ania Romanowska, led the music at the Tuesday 7 pm masses.
3. Assisted and participated in the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton's Pentecost Event on June 3, 2017, led by Fr. Andrew Bogdanowicz. This is the fourth Archdiocesan Pentecost Vigil and was celebrated by Fr. Penna at Corpus Christi Parish.
4. Supported and organized the conference "Living a Life of Victory" with Dr. Mary Healy, held on February 24-25, 2017 in St. Thomas More Parish.
5. The ministry also actively participated in the events and activities of the Catholic Renewal Services including hosting in the monthly prayer breakfasts, conferences and other events.

Respectfully Submitted by
MaryAnn Sosa

K4J (Kids for Jesus)

K4J Program and K4J Captains Program (Kids for Jesus - 4 years to 9 years) continued for the 7th year.

Classes were held once a month (6:00 pm – 7:30 pm from October 2016 to May 2017. Cost remained at \$50 per child.

K4J Program - motivates children to learn a virtue and love through the Catholic teachings each month by going through an activity station rotation process and then continues to actively live what they've learned through the parish program throughout the month at home working and completing packs they are given at the beginning of each month.

K4J Captain Program

In addition to learning the virtues and teachings of the Catholic faith, the Grade 3 & 4 Captains prepare and lead assemblies every other month for the younger children by presenting and explaining the monthly virtue through songs, skits, explanation of saints, at the same time reinforcing for the Captains to also live the virtue themselves, being a Christian role model to the younger children, their siblings and friends. Captains also carry out and complete an apostolic project every other month.

Apostolic Projects

Along with the support of our parishioners at St. Thomas More parish, K4J families participated for the 3rd year in the **Chocolate Bar/Bookmarker Community Project** for the inmates at Remand Centre donating a total of 3000 plus chocolate bars and approximately 1000 book markers. A different and a more hands on project that the children can participate in will be introduced for the 2017-2018 year. This project will be moved to the Family Ministry beginning in September 2017.

The **Pentecost Carnival** is held every Pentecost with proceeds usually totaling approximately \$1,000.00. This year, we did not hold this event due to lack of time and manpower to organize.

Volunteers

K4J program is totally reliant on our parents and/or parishioners to volunteer and lead each class. Without their dedication and time, K4J would not be able to function.

We had a total of 34 families, 56 participants and 19 volunteers participating in the K4J program.

I am sincerely grateful to Father Antony Fernando, Fr. Sagayaraj Devadoss for supporting this program and Deacon Randy for coming to speak to the K4J children in December and for blessing their items. I am extremely gratefully to Katie Hulme, our K4J Captain leader who continues to do an outstanding job for the 3rd year and all our wonderful Station Leaders, Group Leaders and other volunteers for their gifts, time, support and example. God has so richly blessed us!

K4J will continue in 2017-2018 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm once a month from October to April.

Respectfully submitted by Monica Bober,
Family Evangelization Coordinator

Knights of Columbus Father Bonner Council 7599



Father Bonner Council 7599
St. Thomas More Parish — Edmonton, Canada



This report is prepared by the Knights of Columbus Father Bonner Council #7599 for Columbian Year 2016-2017:

Church Program

- Knights assist at Mass as adult servers, lectors, EMHCs, ushers, collections, funeral team, including full complement of ministers for monthly K of C Mass
- Hosted Stations of the Cross
- Took an active role in the Veneration of the Cross at Good Friday Services
- Partnered with other Parish Ministries to celebrate Marian Mass
- Formation Program at Council meetings — Principles of the Order
- Donations to support seminarian (RSVP) and Newman Theological College and St. Joseph Seminary
- Conducted “Pennies for Heaven” for seminarian and religious vocations
- Padré Night for priests and religious in the Archdiocese

Family Program

- Conducted the “Consecration to the Holy Family” prayers after Masses
- Family of the Month / Family of the Year awards
- Family Pasta Dinner and Dance

Community Program

- Seniors’ Christmas Dinner and Dance (jointly run with CWL)
- Two Habitat for Humanity “build days”
- Monthly pancake breakfasts
- Christmas hampers deliveries
- Charities Appeal raffle ticket sales
- Members assist at Marian Centre, with Society of St. Vincent de Paul
- Conducted “40 Cans for Lent” project for Marian Centre, St. Vincent de Paul and Food Bank
- Coffee Service After Masses every 2nd Sunday of the month
- Provided scholarship grant to deserving Mary Margaret High School student

Council Program

- Members serve as sales force for the parish’s grocery card sales program
- Submitted to the KofC AB/NWT State Council a Resolution in Support for Catholic Schools
- Knight of the Month / Knight of the Year awards
- Installation of Officers and year-end BBQ
- Fall and spring membership drives
- First-Degree Exemplifications
- Second-Degree Exemplification
- Honour Guards for various events

Youth Program

- Basketball Free Throw Championship
- “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest
- Sponsored Challenge Girls Club “Valentine’s Day Tea Party

Culture of Life Program

- Conducted “Life Chain” activity for the sanctity of all human life
- Conducted “Love Life Ribbons” in support to March for Life
- Participation in 40 Days for Life
- Participation in March for Life rally

Public Relations

- Manage and maintain Council Monthly Newsletter
- Manage and maintain Council Website

Respectfully submitted by Leo Sosa, Grand Knight 2016–2017 / info@kofc7599.org / www.kofc7599.org

Ladies Auxiliary

MAY WE DO WITH LOVING HEARTS WHAT GOD ASKS US TO DO

The LADIES AUXILIARY started their ministry in 1978 and continues to meet Wednesday mornings in the choir room from 9 am to 12 noon. We meet to socialize, to give support to one another and to work on projects that benefit the church and our community.

We prepare baby layettes and tied quilts for Wings and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. Warm knitted items are sent to the Marian Centre for our homeless people.

We have a roster of 12 women with 7-10 meeting on a regular basis, while others do work at home. We thank you for the space provided for us to meet weekly.

Respectfully submitted by,
Elaine Smith

Lectors

Lectors serve the parish by proclaiming the Word of God during the Liturgy of the Word. They proclaim the Word of God, with reverence and clarity, and work to make a connection to Jesus Christ. Those who serve in this Ministry are called to do so, and to share their gift with the parish community.

This past year, I have continued to learn about the lector ministry and remain grateful for the efforts of our volunteers who serve as lectors.

St Thomas More is blessed to have more than 80 lectors who serve at four masses over the weekend and during liturgical celebrations during the year.

In the winter, we held a Lector Connection session and shared our collective wisdom about the role of the Lector and heard from Father about his ideas for the Ministry. My objective remains to continue with an annual workshop and Ministry formation so that we can develop and support those who have been called to proclaim the Word of God at our parish.

Respectfully in Christ,
Marion Haggarty-France

Marriage Preparation

The Marriage Preparation course was March 17, 18 and 19. Twenty-three couples attended and as a whole group, we attended 12:00 mass on Sunday.

We are very pleased to report that the evaluations came back very positive again this year.

We are so blessed to have many volunteers. Our team currently has seven married couples from the parish as volunteers. We were grateful to have Fr. Antony Fernando join us for lunch on Saturday and give a talk to our engaged couples on the Sacrament of Marriage. Johanna Dietrich also joined us Saturday to talk to the couples about selecting music for their ceremony and other details about planning the liturgy. A lawyer came from the Estate House to speak about wills.

Dorothy Johansen and women from the CWL provided a lovely lunch on Saturday, as well as cheese and cracker plates Friday and coffee with muffins on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We do not know what we would do without them!

Thank you to Olivia Diaz for making and printing the certificates for the engaged couples who completed the program with us.

The engaged couples also completed FOCCUS questionnaires on-line and met with a facilitator to discuss and review the results of their questionnaires.

Next year's dates will be March 16, 17 and 18, 2018.

STM Marriage Preparation Team

St. Thomas More Music Ministry & Sound Ministry

Members of the St. Thomas More Music and Sound ministries continue to provide faithful service to our parish.

Membership in the adult choir continued to hover around 70 members who regularly sing at one of following masses: Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 8:30, 10 am or 12 noon. Regular accompanists are: Violeta Borromeo, Cathy Jabusch, David Moret, and Paulette Pelland. Additionally, the choir is occasionally accompanied by parishioners Iggy Tian and Michael Gust (and other visiting instrumentalists) for special occasions. One of 15 dedicated cantors leads the psalm and acclamations at each mass.

A dedicated group of young singers and instrumentalists (piano, bass, guitar, violins, etc.) provided the music at the Sunday 6 pm mass. Regular accompanists for 2016-17 were Marc Daigle and Renny Hendra. Several young people serve as cantors at this mass as well.

In addition to singing at all Sunday Masses, special baptism services, First Communion masses, Confirmation, weddings, funerals, the Marian Mass, mission services, Christmas Masses and all Easter Triduum services, the adult choir sang at the Jubilee Celebration for the Sisters of Providence on June 3, 2017. Special thanks to Tamara Mackenzie for helping out in various capacities throughout the year, including directing the choir on Ash Wednesday and conducting rehearsals as needed.

The Funeral Choir is comprised of approximately 20 members, some of whom sing with the adult choir, as well as a handful of additional singers who are dedicated to this special ministry. Most funerals in 2016 were accompanied by David Moret.

Joe Buijs and Joan Holloway worked with their dedicated group of volunteers to diligently and efficiently organize and maintain the choir's growing library of music. Their assistance is much appreciated.

The Children's Choir continued to sing monthly at the 10 am mass between October and May. Directed by Tamara Mackenzie and accompanied by Renny Hendra, more than 40 children in Grades 3-9 rehearsed on Thursdays and sang regularly at mass. Samantha Strilchuk was the children's choir assistant this year. Several young singers are developing their cantoring skills by proclaiming the psalm when the Children's Choir sings at mass. Tamara Mackenzie has stepped from her role as Children's Choir director effective spring 2017. I would like to thank her for her dedicated leadership with our youngest singers over the past several years.

The Sound Ministry has grown in number to 16 volunteers who diligently operate the sound board at all services throughout the year. Special thanks to Kirby Jabusch and Dale Petryk who have been working behind the scenes to continually improve the system and provide training.

A heartfelt thank you to all members of the music and sound ministries for so selflessly sharing their time and talents.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Johanna Dietrich, Music Ministry Coordinator

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl Ministry group has been meeting on Friday mornings, 9:30-11:30 am for the past 11 years. Approximately 10-14 women gather in the youth room to knit pray and share knitting ideas. A priest comes at about 10:30 and blesses the completed shawls.

The shawls are numbered and recorded in the Prayer Shawl Book. The name of the person receiving a shawl is recorded in the Prayer Shawl book and they are continually prayed for. Over the past 11 years over 1275 shawls have been made and blessed.

Anyone can request a shawl. The shawls are a way of sharing God's Love with friends and family. They can be given for special celebrations - Baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, a loss of a dear one, a new home, or just because you want to share God's Love with someone. Shawls cannot be bought or sold, but a donation can be made, which is used to purchase more yarn. This year there has been many wonderful donations of yarn.

Some women are unable to come on Friday mornings but they knit from home and bring the shawls in to be blessed and recorded. Anyone can join the group during the year. There is always someone present to help anyone get started and there is a good supply of yarn, needles and pattern.

Respectfully submitted by,
Linda Sorenson

R.C.I.A. Adapted for Children (Rite of Christian Initiation Adapted for Children)

Under the supervision of Father Antony Fernando, the RCIA- adapted for Children was based on the Journey of Faith program by Francis N. O'Connor and the Catechism of the Catholic Faith.

Sessions were held on the first Thursday from October 2016 to May 2017 with 6 inquirers (3 females & 3 males) aged 8 to 13 yrs. Inquirers and one parent attended each session.

Children were also registered with K4J, Challenge or Conquest to receive additional formation and to build relationships with the parish community. RCIA Pot Luck Suppers also provided catechesis and rehearsal time for the Rites, in addition united the enquirers to form relationships while growing in the faith together.

Attending weekly mass, participation in the 4 Rites along with the Scrutinies and Breaking Open the Word was required as part of RCIA commitments.

5 children received the Sacraments of Initiation and the 6th the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation.

The Journey of Faith Program works well for the formation of children in the RCIA. Usually this program is intense, requiring the inquirer to attend the sessions weekly, but due to other circumstances with the Catechist, the sessions were held once a month which did not provide enough catechesis. Therefore, the program will increase to twice a month and continuation of the Catechism programs.

Parent and family involvement is key to the success of the child's formation and ongoing (weekly) spiritual support.

Classes will be 1 ½ hours to accommodate more curriculum content and completion of the Journey of Faith handouts will continue to be handed out to the children for additional catechesis.

It is impossible to learn the entire teachings of the Catholic faith, but even one year of formation and the family's ongoing commitment to attend mass, receive the sacraments and live the teachings will greatly increase the child's chance to continue practicing the Catholic faith.

Respectfully submitted by Monica Bober, Family Evangelization Coordinator

RCIA

RCIA Process & Team:

The 'tested & true' Journey of Faith curriculum by Liguori Publications has been revised. In assessing the revisions for use in 2017-18, we determined that we have already incorporated into our current curriculum most of the changes that Liguori Publications instituted. Only one additional session is required to be fully in line with the new curriculum.

Our Catechetical team included myself (Darlene Smigelski) & Marcella Cloran both of whom have been with this ministry since 1999. Kathy Gust served as Assistant Coordinator and Catechist along with Catechists Tom Gust, Louise England, Cheryl Fisher, Tracy Edmonds and MaryAnne McGill & Seminarians Barry Tkachuk and Mark Drapal.

For the second year in a row, we had faithful volunteers, Roseanna Ross, Arlene Rampersaud & her young daughter, Erika Baby-sitting the young children of several of our Inquirers & Sponsors. As well, Mildred Njiki who became a Catholic through RCIA last year assisted with thanksgiving for the support she enjoyed during her RCIA journey.

The Inquirers:

Of the 50 enquiries we had by phone, email or in person, ultimately 21 were enrolled in the program and ended with **17 Adults & 5 of their children** being received & celebrating the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Of the **17 RCIA adults, 8 were Baptized, 4 made a Profession of Faith & 5 Catholics celebrated Confirmation & the Eucharist.** We also had a regular showing of **4-5 'Companions on the Journey'** – those who wished to learn more about the Catholic faith – several of whom are Catholic.

In total, there were 6 "CIC" children (*RCIA Adapted for children*) at the Easter Vigil prepared by our Priests and Monica Bober, Family Evangelization Coordinator.

Lesson Learned:

- Ephphatha House is a good place for Retreat. As of the end of May 2017, **Ephphatha House has come under the management of the Carmelites.** We will investigate to determine if this location remains an option.
- The Vigil Reception that was hosted for a decade by Pat Choma & friends, this year was hosted by the RCIA Catechists with help from some of the Sponsors. While the food was catered, the RCIA crew set up, served

and cleaned up afterward. This was a huge undertaking for the Catechists in addition to their responsibilities pertaining to the Easter Vigil.

- **We seek help in the form of another Parish Group to take on the Vigil Reception next year** as it is an important & refreshing highlight after our **highest Mass of the Liturgical Year**;
- A **Parish Babysitting Ministry** with **numerous** Volunteer Management approved adults would be helpful.

Highlights:

- Our dedicated **Catechist Marcella Cloran who shared her Faith in the RCIA for 18 years has chosen to retire**. Those who have come into the Church throughout those years have been the beneficiaries of her great love for the Church as well as her prayer, care and support on their faith journeys. May God abundantly bless Marcella, as she has been a blessing for others!
- Our annual **RCIA Edition of Martha's Kitchen** netted **93 meals** for those in need in our midst. This year the meals went to the *WINGS (Women In Need Growing in Strength)*.
- Once again, we had Paul & Carol Quist speak on the Sacrament of Marriage. Their continued education on the beauty of the sacrament is producing good fruit in couples.
- The on-line **RCIA Presentation Series** of audio & slides of all our teaching sessions continues to grow. (<http://www.stmparish.com/rcia2011-12presentation.html>) & will be available in a cleaner format with the launch of the new Parish web site.
- Our RCIA album depicting this wonderful journey in pictures & the Vigil Video prepared by Paul & Greg Sorenson was provided on DVD to the RCIA.

Support Ministries:

We thank God for our Custodian, Arthur Connick & BAdm David Matwie for their continued support.

D. T. Smigelski, RCIA Coordinator

stm.rcia.coord@stmparish.com, 780-434-6313 (ext. 226)

Rosary Circles

The STM Rosary Circles began in the fall of 2013 as prayer support for the New Evangelization Team (NET) that worked in the Parish that year, as well as for the youth of the Parish and youth ministry in general. Currently there are 125 individuals, couples and families praying in 7 Rosary Circles. (Since a complete Rosary has 20 decades, each Rosary Circle has 20 participants each praying one decade.) New circles are added as people continue to join. Each Circle has a Patron Saint.

Each Rosary Circle member prays one assigned decade of the Rosary each day for the following intentions:

- the youth of the Parish; the families of the Parish
- vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our Parish
- all of the petitions in the Prayer Petition Box (located by the Statue of Our Blessed Mother, just outside of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel).

Each member prays on his/her own, whenever and wherever it is most suitable. The decade that each member prays changes each month.

Twice a year there is an opportunity for members to meet in person and pray the Rosary as a group (in October for the month of the Rosary and in May for Mary's month). These gatherings are optional. Those who attend have found it nice to pray with others in person and to have an opportunity for fellowship.

New members are always welcome; they simply submit their names and email addresses (or phone numbers if they have no email). Pray-ers can leave the Circles at any time by requesting to have their names removed from the list.

As noted, one of the prayer intentions for the Rosary Circles is for all of the petitions in the Petition Box. In September of 2016, under Fr. Tony's direction we began the practice of burning those petitions on a monthly basis. At the Mass on the first Saturday morning of each month, the petitions are taken from the Petition Box and placed in a blue velvet bag. The bag of petitions is placed on the altar by the Celebrant for the duration of the Mass. At the end of the Mass, the Celebrant leads the procession out into the Mary Garden (even in the snow!) where the petitions are lit on fire. The smoke rises up to Heaven as we continue to implore the Lord through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, to hear and answer our petitions. Finally, the Celebrant gives all in attendance a blessing. This monthly act has been a powerful and beautiful addition to the prayers of the Rosary Circles.

To join the Rosary Circles, contact: Kathy Gust gust1@telusplanet.net (780-436-2455) or June Iwanicka iwanicka@telus.net (780-633-0123).

With Our Blessed Mother,
Kathy Gust and June Iwanicka

Sacristans – Linens Required For Mass

Sometime early in 2016, a Ministry Position Description of the Sacristans was requested by David Matwie, Business Administrator, STM. Kathy Gust, RCIA Assistant, interviewing Pat Choma and myself, wrote the "position description" of our objectives and responsibilities. Following several discussions and editing of the written component, it was decided that Pat Choma would act as the overall Sacristan Coordinator since she assumes many additional responsibilities whereas my primary objectives and responsibilities are limited to ensuring that there is a ready supply of clean linens for use during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. My role as Sacristan Coordinator – Linens Required for Mass, would include training, supervision and scheduling of volunteers.

We currently have eight long-standing, reliable volunteers. At the beginning of the week, each volunteer assumes the responsibility of laundering and ironing purificators, corporals, towels of different sizes, etc. and returning the linens to the appropriate places in the Sacristy by Wednesday to Friday, always ensuring that there are adequate linens for weekday and weekend Masses. Each volunteer assumes this responsibility for a period of one month (4 weeks) and the schedule is based on the volunteer's availability and convenience during the year. The volunteer coordinator covers during the months when there are no volunteers (approximately 4 months) or assists the volunteer when the washing or ironing load is too heavy (such as, during the Triduum). We are always in need of reliable, faith-filled volunteer willing to serve the parish community.

For information, please contact Talya Shen at 780-434-4715

School Outreach

At a staff meeting in February, 2017 it was decided that the Youth Evangelization Coordinator would take on the task of corresponding with the staff of the Catholic Schools in our Parish boundary in regards to liturgies held at the parish. This addition was added to the role because through my visitations to the schools I am already frequently in contact with them.

School Outreach has been my favourite aspect of the position and has presented many opportunities to spread the word of God and invite children to receive the grace of the Sacraments.

I have been in frequent contact with every school and have visited each school at least 4 times over the course of the year. I have created a solid communication network with the school chaplains and have been directly involved in the faith and cultural lives of each of the schools. I've also helped with coordinating liturgies at the School with the our priests.

I am including this aspect of my position in the report because I believe that we need to create a ministry in order to minister effectively to the amount of schools that we have (13 in September 2017). This would be a difficult task to find volunteers for since they would have to be available during office hours, but I still think this is something that should be looked into.

Respectively submitted by,
Jonathan Quist

Scripture Study

We, a group of parishioners interested in studying the bible meet every Wednesday after the 8:30 am mass in the Chapter Room until 11:30 AM.

In the fall of 2016, we studied an Ascension Press DVD series "A Biblical Walk With Mary". We had 26 participants for this series.

January 2017, through to the end of April, we studied the Gospel of John, also by Ascension Press, with 24 people registered.

Starting September 2017, we will begin studying "Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom". To date, we have 18 interested in registering.

All of these studies include DVD presentations, with each participant purchasing a study guide, which provides overviews of each session and questions to review. The sessions provide for group discussion and fellowship.

This group always welcomes new participants.

For more information, please contact:

- ❖ Jan Dunnigan 780 434-1576 or
- ❖ Nancy Yatscoff 780 430-0459 or
- ❖ Annette Patterson 780 437-4044

Social Justice Ministry

Our Ministry believes that our world is our responsibility. Working through action, education and advocacy both locally and globally we can begin spreading the seeds of peace and justice.

This year we tried to achieve some of our goals in works as follows:

Local Action:

Inner City Pastoral Ministry – In December our Ministry along with Mother Margaret Mary, St. Stanislaus, and Msgr William Irwin schools prepared and served lunch to several hundred inner city homeless and underemployed. The church service and fellowship that go along with serving this lunch make it a wonderful experience for the volunteers.

Habitat for Humanity – Members of our Ministry will be helped to provide a meal for volunteers at build this past May.

Syrian Prayer Vigil - Members of our ministry attended this evening in order to provide support to the new refugee families.

Global Action:

Sierra Leone Women's Group – Our ministry has maintained contact with this group through one of our former sponsored refugees, Rachel Fallal.

Development and Peace –
Fall Action Campaign – we offered information and education to parishioners on the D&P campaign
Share Lent – we ran the share lent campaign offering educational materials, presentations at all masses and information on this year's campaign
Seminars and Workshops – Members of our committee attended workshops, annual meets and seminars sponsored by Development and Peace.
The Social Justice Ministry sponsored participants to attend the Annual Regional Conference.

Advocacy

Over the last year members of our group met our new MP Matt Generoux and started the process of meeting with him at his office to discuss a variety of issues. These include the current situation with regards to a mining ombudsman to be put in place by the Federal government in order to deal with issues that arise in the Global South and involve Canadian mining companies. Cuts to humanitarian aid were also discussed. Lastly, the issue of Right to Die legislation which is currently in discussion in Ottawa.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the above information further.
Thank you.

Erin Gaudet
Chairperson - STM Social Justice Ministry
(780) 235-1992

The Legion of Mary

(Our Lady of Good Counsel Praesidium and Morning Star Junior Praesidium)

The Senior Praesidium, Our Lady of Good Counsel meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas More library. The Junior praesidium, Morning Star meets every Saturday at 3:30 pm at the Small meeting room.

Membership: Spiritual Director - Fr. Antony Fernando

Active Members:

Senior Praesidium:	8
Junior Praesidium:	8
Auxiliary Members:	75

Mandate: The Legion of Mary intends to render its service, with the spirit and solicitude of Mary, to every person who is the image of Christ.

Activities:

Senior Praesidium - Pastoral Care consisting of visits to sick and shut-ins at home or at Extended Care facilities. Each week we visit approximately 190 Catholic residents offering lay-led liturgy and Holy Communion at the following centres: Good Samaritan Society – Wedman House, Good Samaritan Southgate Care Centre, Shepherd's Care Foundation, Devonshire Care Centre, Lifestyle Options and Riverbend Retirement Residence. Weekly Home visits are made on Sundays and Tuesdays to bring Holy Communion to elderly Catholic residents who are unable to attend mass on Sundays. Mass is also celebrated once a month at Good Samaritan Southgate Centre, Devonshire Care Centre Lifestyle Options Building and Riverbend Retirement Residence.

Junior Praesidium – Members, except for the two officers coming from the Senior Praesidium, are aged 10-14. Members are being taught to be more prayerful. They are assigned to help at home in the Spirit of the Family of Nazareth, extend help in school in every way they can, and try to influence friends and peers about the Catholic faith. They are also assigned to practice a particular virtue each week.

Other Activities:

- We inform the Priest of those residents in extended care facilities who require anointing or Sacrament of Reconciliation especially at Christmas and Easter.
- Masses are offered for all deceased members of the Legion.
- Once per year, we attend volunteer appreciation functions at three of the care facilities.

Weekly

- Senior Praesidium members meet every Thursday in the library, St. Thomas More Church at 7:30 p.m. We hold 52 meetings a year. During the summer months (July and August) our meetings are held at Providence Centre as the Church is closed for evening meetings.
- Junior Praesidium members meet every Saturday at the Small Meeting Room at 3:30 pm for the prescribed 52 meetings a year. During the summer months and whenever the Church is closed, members meet at the houses of two of the members.

Monthly

- Legion of Mary Curia meeting.

Annually

- Marian Mass in May – attending the meetings, contacting the schools, leading the Rosary and participating in the Mass.
- Legion Functions: Acies Function, Praesidium Function, General Reunion, Outdoor Function and Annual Retreat

We thank God and our Blessed Mother Mary, for their guidance and protection; our spiritual director, Fr. Tony, Fr. Saga, Deacon Randy, the office staff and all others for their help and assistance throughout the year. A special thanks to our active members who faithfully perform their pastoral works each week and to our auxiliary members, for their continuous support through their daily prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice M. Estacio – President – Our Lady of Good Counsel Praesidium

The Lord's Flock

The Lord's Flock Catholic charismatic community's mission is to help people encounter Jesus through the Holy Spirit – using scripture, praise and worship, and fellowship.

In the past year, The Lord's Flock chapter at St. Thomas More reached out to parishioners, family, and friends through many spiritual events, as well as social activities. Highlights include:

- Weekly prayer meeting:
 - Met **every** Sunday for two hours, including long weekends, Easter, and Christmastime.
 - Increased attendees' knowledge of Catholic teaching and sacred scripture through catechism talks and Bible study
 - Promoted rich spiritual life of attendees through intercessory prayer and praying Rosary
 - Averaged 12 attendees
- Conducted a seminar in May 2017 and invited all parishioners to attend, for free
 - led by The Lord's Flock founder and renowned international speaker Techie Rodriguez
 - 40 attendees
- The Lord's Flock members regularly volunteered in other ministries at St. Thomas More, serving as lecturers, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, collectors, and coffee servers after morning mass
- Held social events for community bonding: picnic in the park, and Christmas party at St. Thomas More parish hall
- The Lord's Flock members met regularly outside the parish as well, assisting in and attending events of Catholic Renewal Services such as:
 - monthly prayer breakfasts
 - Dr. Mary Healy conference & healing service held at St. Thomas More

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS was held July 11 – 15, 2016 in the mornings for children ages 4 to 10 and the Captain Program for youth ages 11 – 14.

The *Win the World for Jesus* VBS is one of four K4J Vacation Bible School programs currently produced. The children explored the virtue of zeal for souls and how to bring Jesus' love to the world!

Each day, a different missionary saint is presented. Songs, games, crafts, lessons, and snacks reinforce different aspects of how we can live the virtue of ZEAL. All seven K4J Sacrament Characters including symbols of the Holy Spirit help teach kids the beauty and fullness we receive personally when we experience and grow in our faith. Every family received a CD of the week's song for the children to become familiar with the words and increase their desire to enjoy, love and respond to their Catholic faith.

On the last day, K4J kids hold their own special party to celebrate the theme of the week beginning with Mass, a wrap-up show performed by the Captains and ending with fun-filled activities including the clowns, Bouncy Castle, food, a craft, and game.

In addition, each child was encouraged to participate in the Mission Project, Development and Peace by listening to a presentation given by a representative and donating money supporting third world issues at large throughout the world, particularly in South America.

Following the party, each child received a gift to take home and continue living the virtue of ZEAL at home.

We had a total **of 37 participants (ages 4 – 10), 13 Captains (ages 11 – 14) 22 adult volunteers and 1 student volunteer.**

I am sincerely grateful to Father Andrew Bogdanowicz for his support and presence at VBS, to our wonderful Captain leaders and our parents and parishioners for their gifts, time, support and example. God has so richly blessed us!

Respectfully submitted by Monica Bober,
Family Evangelization Coordinator

World Youth Day

Highlights of 2016 – 2017

- **Participants**

St. Thomas More	11
Diocese of Mackenzie – Fort Smith	6

- On July 17th the St. Thomas More pilgrims departed for their journey to Poland. It was a life changing experience for everyone. We spent two nights in London and then flew to Wroclaw for “Days in the Diocese”. We spent a week there where a parish hosted all of the pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Edmonton. We had faith formations sessions led by Bishop Gregory Bittman. On July 23rd we departed for Krakow by train. It was an incredible week with liturgies lead by Pope Francis. We hiked to the final celebrations in a large field called Campus Misericordia slept overnight there in Vigil and then had Mass with the Pope. For our extended pilgrimage we rented a van and drove to some of the Major Cathedrals in Europe. We spent a night in Budapest, Vienna, Padua, and three nights in Rome. Then we flew to Paris where we ended our pilgrimage.
- Through the generous help of the parish we were able to offset the cost of the all of the pilgrims significantly so that it was affordable for everyone.
- Everyone was deeply appreciative and it was the trip of a lifetime.
- On August 28th, we showed the parish some of the pictures of our journey at the Knight’s of Columbus Pancake Breakfast.
- Preparations are beginning for World Youth Day in Panama in January 2019. The first meeting for groups within the Archdiocese will take place on Wednesday, June 28 at Newman Theological College.

Respectively submitted by,
Jonathan Quist

Youth Lectors

The youth lector ministry serves at the 6 pm mass by proclaiming the Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy of Word and may also lead the Prayers of the Faithful.

Scheduling for youth lectors is accomplished by signing up for dates (1st, 2nd readings or Prayers of the Faithful) that fit with the schedule of the families of the lectors.

Training is required before they sign up before they begin serving and prayerfully rehearse on their own (depending on their age, assisted by parents) before the reading at Mass.

There is no minimum age as if a youth lector has the desire to proclaim the Word, and whose parents are in agreement that the youth has the ability to read competently is invited to sign up.

For the 2016-2017 year, we have 27 lectors averaging between 9 and 25 years of age. The schedule is sent out every 4 months with recruitment being done as needs and during the Stewardship Fair. The response has been quite good with more recruitment and advertising still needed.

Respectfully submitted by Monica Bober, Family Evangelization Coordinator

Youth Ministry Advisory Committee

The Youth Ministry Advisory Committee has met four times over the past year. The Committee ideally should meet on a bi-monthly basis and provide direction, accountability, and creative input for existing ministries that include youth and for the direction of youth ministry in the parish of St. Thomas More in general.

The committee consists of a cross section of the parish including youth, members of the previous committee established for the NET encounter team, young adults, and other interested persons.

In the last meeting we reviewed the Position Description of the Youth Evangelization Coordinator and the procedures to advertise for the position vacancy and steps to find a replacement for me since I will be leaving for Seminary in the fall.

Respectively submitted by,
Jonathan Quist

Youth Ushers and Greeters

YOUTH USHERS and GREETERS

Youth greeters and ushers (youth and adult Head Ushers) serve by helping to establish a climate of welcome, helpfulness and order among those gathered for the Mass. Greeters and ushers, assist with the collection and usher for the faithful during Holy Communion.

Youth greeters/ushers and Head ushers are trained by the Usher Coordinator and Head Ushers. There is no scheduling for the youth ushers. Upon arrival, at the Youth-led Mass at 6 pm, the youth ushers are asked to sign in with the Head Ushers (2) and follow directions of the Head Ushers for serving in the Mass.

All Head and youth ushers should be prepared to arrive 15 minutes before the start of the Mass.

For the 2016-2107 year, we had an average of 6-10 ushers/greeters serve each Sunday at the 6 pm Youth Mass. We are planning to train the Youth ushers and their families to be part of the Greeting Ministry. The response has been good, but we still need more youth to serve in the Youth Usher ministry.

HEAD USHERS

A Head Usher for the Youth led Sunday Mass at 6 pm, must be an adult 18 years of age or older.

Head Usher arrive one half hour before the Mass preparing the collection baskets, organizing the ushers and finding a family to bring up the gifts. During Mass, head ushers are required to seat parishioners, oversee collection and the taking up of the gifts, bring the collection and placing it inside the church safe, usher for Holy Communion and ensure that those who are disabled have the Eucharist brought to them. At the end of the Mass, the Head Ushers put out the bulletins and when Mass is over, everything is put away.

For most of 2016-2017 year, we had 8 Head Ushers scheduled on different Sundays. Guita Kodersha, our head usher has recently stepped down due to work commitments while 2 other adult ushers have also.

I sincerely appreciate the support and prayers received from our priests, Fr. Antony, Fr. Sagayaraj and Jonathan for opening and locking the church on Sunday evenings. I am also very grateful for all our Youth Lectors who so beautifully proclaim God's love for us; our Youth Ushers who give of their time to serve our parish community and the Lord; the Head Ushers who also give of their time and Christian witness to support our youth serving at these masses, guiding them in their journey with God.

Respectfully submitted by Monica Bober,
Family Evangelization Coordinator