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## **A Snapshot of our Parish and Health Check**

**St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish  
December 2022**

**Archdiocesan Pastoral Visit  
2022-2023**



ARCHIDIOCÈSE DE  
**Gatineau**

## ***Introduction***

### Archdiocesan pastoral visit 2022-2023

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief overview of the status of the St. Aloysius Gonzaga parish to the bishop in advance of his pastoral visit in early 2023. The report is based on the questionnaire and health check list provided by the diocese and is provided within the context of the priorities established from the recent diocesan synodal process. It will serve as reference material for discussions with the bishop during his visit.

### St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish

In 1959, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church (commonly referred to as St. Al's) came into being thanks to the dedication of the English-speaking faithful community of Gatineau who desired to come together in their own church.

Before St. Al's was built and during its construction, Sunday masses were held in the basement of Saint-Jean-Marie-Vianney Church and later in Saint Pius X School gymnasium as this was the school assigned to the English-speaking community.

On December 20th, 1955, a list of 220 English-speaking families was submitted to His Excellency, Marie Joseph Lemieux, Archbishop of the Diocese of Ottawa (under whose guidance Gatineau belonged in those days) for his approval to form the parish.

In June 1957, Father J.R. Murray was appointed parish priest, and other groups were formed such as the Holy Name Society, Altar Boys Society, Sodalities, and a teen club. The Catholic Women's League had been in place since 1954.

The ground for the new church was blessed on June 15, 1958. The actual building of the church began shortly thereafter.

Sadly, Father Murray's term as parish priest was short lived. On April 10th, 1959, he died of a heart attack while on a much-deserved holiday. A new parish priest was appointed on April 26th, Father Maurice Egan, and continued the task of overseeing the final construction phase. The building cornerstone was blessed on the 29th of November 1959. The first mass was celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve 1959.

In the years that followed, Father Egan worked tirelessly for the good of the parish. His greatest wish was to see the mortgage paid off. In 1975, with interest free loans to the church from the parishioners, it was accomplished.

Since Father Egan's time at St. Al's, ten additional priests have graciously served the parish over the subsequent years and have continued building the loving community of St. Aloysius Gonzaga parish. The past few years have been exceptional given the global pandemic and the resulting restrictions imposed upon places of worship. These challenges were met with dedicated members of the community ensuring safeguards and alternative means of communication to assure continued parish life and administrative support during this time. Currently, St. Al's is comprised of 145 registered parishioners within the boundaries of the parish.

## Current parish leadership

Administrator: Fr. Greg Murray, SCJ

Pastoral Council: Louise MacMillan, Gord Macmillan, Sandra Gendron, Claire Cossette

Fabrique Council: Fr. Greg Murray, Interim Chairperson

Ann Marie Plante, Social Warden

Brian Peters, Hall Warden

Michael McCann, Maintenance Warden

Diane Joannis, Secretary Warden

Jim Brownrigg, Finance Warden

Vacant, Public Relations Warden

## ***A Snapshot of our parish***

### **1. Parishioners' involvement**

Over the years, the number of parishioners involved in parish life has decreased, although a small influx of new parishioners, some immigrant families, has been observed recently as the pandemic has waned. Some of these new parishioners have taken on pastoral duties in support of the liturgy and music.

Currently there are sufficient parishioners to provide basic services. However, the pool of active parishioners in support of these services is small, and generally the same individuals take on multiple responsibilities, or return to assume the same responsibilities after brief periods of absence.

Breakdown of current responsibilities and parishioners involved:

Lectors: 5 readers

Sacristans: 2 (same person organizing the sacristans and lectors as well as any organizational needs for the liturgies)

Ushers: 2 (the number of ushers and their duties were reduced during the pandemic and have remained as such without noticeable impact)

Maintenance: 1 lead (currently our Caretaker contract is unfilled and has put pressure on the parish to seek volunteer support to ensure janitorial tasks are completed on a regular basis)

Music: 2 musicians

Choir: 5 singers

Eucharistic Ministers: 0 (Pastor provides the eucharist which is sufficient given current mass attendance)

Church wardens: One current vacancy (warden positions are challenging to fill but have consistently been addressed over the years with short gaps from time to time)

Although no formal succession planning is done for much of the volunteer positions within the parish, tactical planning does occur as volunteers step away or warden terms end. As stated above, there is a small pool of parishioners involved in most tasks. A

recent appeal for new volunteers has provided some relief but is insufficient to ensure long-term support over time. Passive approaches to seek new volunteers, such as announcements or bulletin messages provide few results. A more personal and direct approach is required to seek out new volunteers within the parish.

## **2. Pastoral life**

Several activities within the parish add to the overall value of pastoral life. Ushers greet families at the entrance of church. Although there is no formal group responsible for welcoming or integrating new families, individual parishioners reach out to new arrivals within the parish. Our pastor reaches out to parish shut-ins to provide communion and fellowship. A seniors club provides weekly activities to foster the interaction of seniors and elderly people within the parish. Parish dinners and activities organized by the Social Warden and supported by the Pastoral Council are held regularly during the year to bring the congregation together outside of mass.

No catechesis activities outside of mass are provided within the parish. “Liturgy of the Word with Children” services during mass have been provided in the past but are not currently due to a lack of sufficient children at Sunday mass.

Sacramental preparation is provided on an as requested basis. Two volunteers are engaged in support of these requirements. Sacramental preparation for children has been ongoing for many years. Last year, 6 candidates were prepared for first communion.

There are currently no formal accompaniment teams for funerals. The parish secretary and pastor address the funeral requirements from the family and there are parish volunteers to ensure basic logistics are in place on the day of the funeral.

There are currently no evangelization teams or youth ministries in the parish.

The parish provides weekly virtual scriptural readings and has, recently, provided indigenous awareness and dialogue workshops on Zoom.

As stated above, the parish organizes regular meals for special events, such as Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Advent spaghetti supper, After Mass Meet and Greet. The Friendship Club has weekly activities for seniors, and a sewing group meets weekly through the auspices of Victoria Quilts. During the pandemic, a number of on-line social activities were organized by various parishioners.

In support of the needy and poor within the parish, there is a team that manages these requirements. One volunteer with a helper, has been in charge for some time now. A Poor Box at the entrance of the church collects funds and a Food Pantry is maintained within the rectory. An angel tree (gifts for needy children) and Christmas Food Baskets are prepared and distributed to needy families in December. The Food Pantry is available throughout the year for families and individuals in need.

The pandemic was an “opportunity” for the parish to embrace new forms of communication to ensure pastoral services were maintained during the various lockdowns. Sunday masses were streamed via Facebook Live or on Zoom. Weekly scripture reflections were done virtually and continue to be done so. Facebook is now also used more often to communicate with parishioners. Online social activities were provided such as paint nights and trivia games. The list of parishioners was updated, and email addresses were obtained which permitted the parish bulletin to be sent via email rather than in hardcopy and published on the website where all previous bulletins are available. The parish website was overhauled, and much communication was and continues to be disseminated via the website in a timelier manner.

### **3. The parish’s impact on its social environment**

The parish is active in several ways that has an impact on its social environment. The church hall is used on a regular basis by various groups such as the Friendship Club that provides weekly activities for seniors within the parish and other seniors within the city of Gatineau. Numerous social activities are organized to bring the congregation together but also to reach out to others within the community. The local scouting troop uses our church hall during the year and has done so for many years.

The parish has a formal agreement with the Greater Gatineau School adjacent to the church to provide an emergency evacuation site (our hall) should the need arise. This has allowed us to foster a neighborly relationship with the school and has facilitated other positive interactions between the parish and the school.

The parish sewing group provides quilts to cancer patients in need within the community through the auspices of Victoria Quilts.

### **4. Collaboration with neighboring parishes**

Given the responsibilities of our pastor with the other 3 English parishes under his purview (St. Columban, St. Malachy, and Our Lady of Victory), we do collaborate with

these parishes to varying degrees. This collaboration is built upon a positive, sharing, and harmonious relationship of mutual challenges and needs.

The Pastoral Council of St Aloysius meets with the St Columban representative regularly, and as needed with the OLV and St. Malachy representatives, particularly for common activities such as fundraising, social activities, and Easter preparations.

The four churches hold liturgical activities together for Easter Triduum, and retreats – this year a retreat during lent will be held with OLV.

We participate in each other's parish activities and provide bulletin space for announcing each parish's respective events.

St. Aloysius has a formal administrative agreement with St. Columban to provide secretarial and clerical support functions in a cost recovery mode. We also provide English language resource material on occasion to the French parishes in support of pastoral (e.g. English readings for funerals) and administrative (e.g. accounting best practices) requirements.

Future collaboration could require sharing of human resources instead of each parish having their own teams/volunteers. This approach could address some of the outreach shortcomings within our collective parishes for such things as new potential parishioners. Consolidation of certain services (e.g. maintenance contracts, procurement needs, etc.) could be cost effective.

## **5. The economic reality of the parish**

Over the past 20 years, the parish's finances have demonstrated stability and resilience. The overall budgets of the parish have been stable, averaging between \$85K to \$95K annually with small amounts of additional revenue ("profit") over expenses realized in most years. Rarely, if ever, has the parish finished a fiscal year in a deficit situation.

Although the parish does not do tithing, as is the case in French language parishes, St. Aloysius has used its end-of-year "profits" to build up its short-term investments as an emergency fund for any unexpected expenses. Our current short-term investments total \$22K. Whenever significant expenses are identified that have not been budgeted for, the congregation has, without-fail, provided the necessary funding to address these items. This speaks to the resiliency of the parish when it comes to financial support. We have struck a balance between fiscal responsibility for on-going in-year operating expenses and discretionary fundraising without over-burdening parishioners on an on-going basis.

Regular collections and ad-hoc donations have consistently amounted for upwards of 60% of the parish's total annual revenue. The demographics of the parish are such that older parishioners with little to no debt provide most of the collection revenue compared to younger parishioners. This is normal and speaks to the importance of ensuring a robust and diverse congregation of parishioners to ensure the sustainability of the economic future of the parish.

## **6. The condition of the buildings**

The current facilities (church, hall, and rectory) meet the needs of the parish. The condition of the individual components of the facilities are adequate and in fair to good condition overall. Specific details are provided in the Health Check responses in the appendices below.

Given the age of the facilities (built in 1959), on-going maintenance and repairs are critical and performed on a regular basis. Normal general maintenance tends to be tactical in nature while strategic maintenance planning for significant components of the facilities is often overlooked. We are currently building a medium and long-term facilities requirements list of priorities to formalize what is generally known and discussed in a more informal fashion. Short term priorities are built into the parishes annual budget. Medium and Long term (3 to 10 year) priorities will require additional detailed estimates of effort, costing, funding, and timelines in the coming year (2023). Items of priority include the furnaces (4), the hall floor, windows in the rectory basement, and the roof shingles. Given the parish facilities are not considered of heritage value (buildings, land, or other assets), it is not eligible for government grants under those programs.

From a resourcing perspective, the parish has been challenged in finding an affordable contractor-based resource for the position of caretaker responsible for weekly janitorial duties. The work is being done by volunteers in the interim but will not be sustainable in the long run.

## ***Appendices***

- a. Health check of the parish properties
- b. Average maintenance costs table
- c. 2018 Parish Life Report

## a. Health check of the parish properties

Archdiocese of Gatineau

2022

Health check of the parish properties

Fabrique or place of worship: St. Aloysius Parish

City : Gatineau

Report prepared by : Mike McCann, Maintenance Warden  
Jim Brownrigg, Finance Warden

Date of report : November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*Given the St. Aloysius church, rectory and hall are all part of one physical building, this health check will provide information in support of the single facility overall but will specify any issues with the individual areas of the facility.*

### **1. History: Date of construction and of major renovations or improvements.**

Construction of St. Aloysius church, hall and rectory were completed in November 1959. The original oil furnaces used to heat the facility were replaced with natural gas furnaces in 1993. No other significant renovations, other than the maintenance items listed in subsequent questions below, have been completed since then.

### **2. Capacity: What is the normal capacity of the place of worship? What is the maximum capacity of the church hall?**

Place of worship: Approximately 300      Church hall: 272 (as per Gatineau Fire Marshall)

### **3. Roof: How old is the roof? When was it last replaced? When would it normally need to be replaced?**

The roof structure is from the original construction (1959). Shingles and the steeple have been replaced on numerous occasions over the years. The roof shingles and steeple were last replaced in 2008. Given 25-year shingles were installed, the next replacement of shingles would be required in early 2030.

### **4. Heating: How well does it work? When was it last replaced or reconditioned? When should it normally be replaced?**

The current forced-air system is adequate for the church/hall/rectory. The 4 furnaces currently in use were installed in 1993 as part of the oil to gas conversion. The furnaces are nearing end-of-life and replacement parts are becoming more difficult to acquire. The furnaces will need to be replaced over the next 5-year timeframe to ensure proper operation and heating.

### **5. Electricity: Is the system working properly? Does it meet current code? Is there any major work to be done?**

The electrical infrastructure installed throughout the facility works as intended and was based on electrical codes in place when the wiring was installed during the original construction. All subsequent electrical work completed since then has been done by certified electricians and done to meet electrical codes at the time of the work. There are currently no issues or concerns with the electrical infrastructure within the facility.

### **6. Finishing: What is the condition of the floor, carpets or other surfaces? What is the condition of the walls (paint, waterproofing)? Is there a need to consider refurbishing in the next few years?**

The main church floor tiles were replaced in 2006. Carpeting (altar and surrounding areas) has been replaced on numerous occasions most recently in February of this year (2022). Most walls (rectory and hall) have been patched and painted on numerous occasions over the years. Water proofing (caulking) has been done as required from year to year. The tile flooring in the hall is showing its age and will need to be replaced in the next 5-year timeframe.

### **7. Toilets : Are they adequate? Accessible? Clean?**

All toilets are currently adequate and clean. Accessibility for the public toilets in the hall is not facilitated for wheelchairs due to the stairs down into the hall from the church. Of note, the hall toilets were converted to gender-neutral access in November of this year to facilitate access once in the hall.

**8. Doors and windows: Are they in good condition? Well insulated? Are there any changes to be made?**

All doors are in fair condition. Windows, although dated (some of original construction), are in good condition. Caulking around rectory windows has been replaced over the years, as required. Some of the rectory basement windows will need to be replaced over the next 5 years.

**9. Sound system: Is it adequate? Do people hear well? Are there any improvements needed?**

The sound systems in the church (wireless) and hall are adequate. Upgrades to microphones and transmitters were completed in 2021. No improvements are required.

**10. Basement: Is it finished? Is it in good condition? Is there any mould? Is there recurrent water infiltration? Does it include an adequate kitchen? Are there any improvements to be made?**

The basement of the rectory is finished. Various rooms are used for storage, maintenance, laundry, record-keeping, and other pastoral purposes. The basement of the church is the hall which is finished and contains washrooms and a full kitchen. The hall is in good condition. The rectory basement is in fair condition. There is no visible evidence of mould. There are no recurrent water infiltration issues although there have been isolated incidents of leakage over the years that have been repaired.

**11. Safety: Are there fire or smoke detectors, fire extinguishers or other safety equipment in the church and basement? Have they been tested by qualified inspectors?**

Fire and smoke detectors are installed throughout the facility. Emergency lighting is installed at exit points in the church and hall. Fire extinguishers are located in strategic areas and are maintained/inspected annually by certified inspectors.

**12. Structure: Are there any structural problems with your building? What are they? Are there any plans to remedy them?**

There are currently no known structural issues with the building.

**13. Site: Is there adequate parking on the church grounds? What is the condition of the parking lot: asphalt, entrance/exit, lighting, landscaping?**

The parking lot is adequate for the needs of the parish. It is a paved lot that is shared with the Greater Gatineau School located next to the church. The asphalt, lighting, entry/exit points, and landscaping are in good condition.

**14. Signs: Is there an exterior sign identifying your parish church? What is its quality?**

There is an exterior painted wooden sign attached to the front of the church façade identifying the parish and the Sunday mass schedule. The sign is from the original construction and has been refreshed over the years.

**15. Religious heritage building: is your church eligible for grants from the « Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec »? If so, have you already received a grant? For what amount?**

Based on the criteria for grants from the Conseil, St. Aloysius parish does not meet the eligibility of being deemed of an indispensable (A) heritage value by virtue of the Quebec Inventory of places of worship, given its construction between 1945 and 1975. As well, St. Aloysius church is not listed as a heritage building, nor does it reside on a heritage site. Finally, St. Aloysius parish does not possess any furnishings, works of art, or an organ deemed of heritage value.

**16. A few years ago, an analysis of the presence of asbestos in your building was carried out. Please attach a copy of this analysis to your report.**

There are no known reports of asbestos within the facilities of the parish. An assessment for asbestos was done on the church floor tiles that were replaced in 2006. The assessment determined that the tiles did not contain asbestos.

**17. Costs associated with the building:**

**How much do the following cost annually (average over five years) :**

**Heating: \$6,834**

**Lighting and other electrical systems: \$3,262**

**Snow clearing, land mowing and regular maintenance (including salaries of maintenance workers): \$14,993**

**Insurance: \$3,777**

**Total: \$28,866**

**See detailed cost breakdown in appendix b. table below**

## b. Average maintenance costs table

Maintenance costs are based on the total asset value of St. Aloysius parish facilities of \$ 822,000 (as per the 2021 Financial Statements). The annual budget allocation for maintenance is set using the “1.5% Rule” of the total asset value of the facilities.

<b>St. Aloysius Parish - Average Maintenance Costs (2018-2022)</b>								
		<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5-Year Average</b>
Heating		\$ 6,982.26	\$ 9,140.14	\$ 5,734.37	\$ 4,779.06	\$ 7,536.39	\$ 34,172.22	\$ <b>6,834.44</b>
Lighting		\$ 3,335.67	\$ 3,127.45	\$ 3,151.64	\$ 3,251.16	\$ 3,442.25	\$ 16,308.17	\$ <b>3,261.63</b>
Insurance		\$ 3,259.60	\$ 3,475.53	\$ 3,874.21	\$ 3,845.08	\$ 4,432.66	\$ 18,887.08	\$ <b>3,777.42</b>
Other maintenance		\$ 15,355.66	\$ 12,669.59	\$ 15,096.00	\$ 18,718.84	\$ 13,125.91	\$ 74,966.00	\$ <b>14,993.20</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 28,933.19</b>	<b>\$ 28,412.71</b>	<b>\$ 27,856.22</b>	<b>\$ 30,594.14</b>	<b>\$ 28,537.21</b>	<b>\$ 144,333.47</b>	<b>\$ 28,866.69</b>

(\*) Other maintenance - includes snow removal, lawn care, caretaker, alarm and garbage bin contracts, minor repairs

## c. 2018 Parish Report

### I Parish life

#### Faith formation :

##### **Sacramental preparation:**

The parish priest receives requests for Baptisms and prepares candidates or parents. The number of requests has gone down from 24 in 1998 to 5 in 2017. One adult has followed an adapted version of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults with a volunteer from the parish and was baptised in 2016 and one adult joined us in full communion in 2017 . For six to ten Sunday afternoon two hour meetings in early spring, three volunteers prepare children for first reconciliation and first communion which is celebrated in a common ceremony during the Easter season. Here also the requests have gone down from 42 in 1998 to 8 in 2017. During early spring also, for about 6 weeks, three volunteers prepare Confirmation candidates; sometimes these join other candidates in our sister parishes. There were 5 Confirmations in 2017. There rarely are marriages in our parish; when there are candidates, they are prepared at the diocesan level or in Ottawa.

**Other catechetical activities:** none

**Other faith formation activities:** none

#### Liturgy:

##### **Characteristics of liturgical celebrations**

We have weekly Sunday Mass with priest, readers, Eucharistic ministers, music ministers, ushers; average attendance is 70. Volunteers are ready to offer liturgy of the Word for children but there are rarely any children in attendance or so few that they choose to stay with their parents. We have two weekday masses attended by an average of 12 people. Baptism liturgies are scheduled to accommodate the parents. Music ministers are available if requested for funeral Masses. During Advent and Lent we have a Reconciliation celebration. Individual Confession, Communion to the sick and Anointing of the sick are available on request. We collaborate with our sister parishes, St-Columban and Our Lady of Victory, for Holy Week celebrations.

##### **Non-sacramental liturgical celebrations**

During Lent we have a weekly Way of the Cross. One morning every week there is an hour of silent adoration and the morning prayer of the liturgy of the hours. One morning every week we have recitation of the rosary . **Fellowship** Our parish is described as very friendly; most people are known by name. Before and after Masses there are lively friendly discussions and welcoming hugs in the church. Newcomers are immediately recognized and welcomed warmly. Almost everyone has served as volunteer in one or other capacity . Most are now beyond the age of volunteering . There is a person responsible for each of the various ministries and new volunteers learn how things are done from that person. There is no Parish Council. The elected Fabrique members with the parish priest make administrative decisions and those responsible for ministries and the parish priest make the necessary pastoral decisions. Each Fabrique member volunteers for a specific area of responsibility which includes social activities, public relations as well as the usual finance, maintenance, hall rentals, Fabrique secretary. We have 5 or 6 social activities during the year which foster a nice sense of community.

### II The mission of the parish

#### **Evangelization**

There are presently no activities in place to form missionary disciples or to reach out to non-believers. Indirectly, parish activities, the Poor Fund and other programs are avenues for evangelization.

#### **Solidarity with the poor**

We have a Poor Box at the back of the church and a pantry in the rectory, provided for by parishioner donations from which the parish secretary provides for people who come at the rectory door or from which a volunteer delivers food to people who request it by phone. At Christmas, parishioners buy gifts (the Angel Tree) and prepare food baskets for families in need, names provided by the neighboring school having obtained permission to do so by the people concerned. During Lent we always have the collection for Development and Peace to support projects in developing countries.

## **The parish in the larger community**

The Friendship Club of Gatineau is a very active ecumenical English seniors' club which meets weekly in our parish hall and has an annual ecumenical prayer service in our church. Our hall is also used by the Cubs and Beavers, for a children's summer camp, for various organizations and for private parties who are not necessarily members of our parish. It is also used for receptions after funerals and sacrament celebrations which involve many people of the larger community. We make donations to local charities such as St. Vincent-de-Paul and to the Legion. We fundraise for special needs as during the flooding of May 2017. There is also a Sewing group that meets weekly comprised of both parishioners and non-parishioners, whose creations raise funds for the parish.

## **III Parish resources**

### **Demographics**

Average attendance is 70, at least half of which are over 60 years of age and many of which are widows or widowers. The youth is notably absent; no participation at masses nor social events. There are sometimes a few (less than 5) couples or single parents with children. We have little ethnic diversity in our congregation.

### **Pastoral organization**

There is neither a Pastoral Team nor a Parish Council but all ministries have a person responsible to ensure proper scheduling and execution of roles. There are no active Catholic organizations in the parish; one person transmits to the parish the Development and Peace Fall and Lenten campaigns .

### **Administrative staff**

We have a parish secretary for 6 hours a day Monday to Thursday who channels all telephone and e-mail requests. This person also does the book-keeping, archives, administers the website and the link to Facebook under the responsibility of the designated warden and the Pastor.

### **Material resources:**

Our church building which will soon be 60 years old has been well maintained thanks to very devoted wardens and parishioners who take care of it like their own home. There are always people willing to donate for necessary maintenance projects. The 5 or 6 social activities during the year are also fundraising activities . The rental of the church hall also helps maintain the building. The dwindling attendance however necessarily affects the collection revenues and causes pressures on our financial situation in spite of our small investment certificates.

### **PARISH'S STRENGTHS:**

Fellowship, family atmosphere, friendly people, welcoming, close knit, kind, loving social events  
Parishioners demonstrate a strong faith and the Spirit of God  
Beautiful building, well maintained  
Devoted volunteers, wardens  
Good sermons and our own caring, accessible, wonderful, spiritual parish priest  
Financial support available when needed  
Charitable disposition  
kind and efficient secretary great,  
active seniors  
great repertoire of liturgical music active  
in the community

**PARISH'S WEAKNESSES OR CHALLENGES:**

Volunteers are ill equipped to prepare families for initiation to the sacraments. The majority of parents do not prepare their children for the sacraments at home.

We have neither a structured process nor a platform to communicate with the baptized outside of the church bulletin.

There are no catechetical, faith formation or spiritual development activities, no teaching on how to have a prayerful relationship with Jesus

No outreach activities

low attendance both at mass and for activities aging

congregation, no youth

Our liturgy is "correct" but drained of life Shortage

of new volunteers

Weak leadership: many willing to help but few willing to lead Age

of our building

Not enough ways to get more funds for operating costs; unable to do a "dime drive" because parishioners are spread out over the city

Priests assigned to our parish in recent years have no attachment to our region and culture

**QUESTIONS/CONCERNS IMPORTANT TO US:**

Keep building open as a gathering place

We don't know what is expected of us as our "mission" or what "evangelization" means. (What, when, how, where?) Is it not sufficient that our actions speak of our knowledge of Christ?

There is no access to students in the school and people complain that sacramental preparation at church is too long and yet they know nothing about their faith

Lack of belief, in the general population, in a God who intervenes in human affairs. Sexual abuse problems in the clergy

Church hierarchy too controlling, for example, abolition of general absolution Complexity of Church language

Accents of foreign priests make them very difficult to understand . Why could we not allow Canadian married men or women to become priests?

Moral teachings of the Church, especially regarding marriage and sexual matters, need to be updated. The liturgy is stagnant, routine, not uplifting.

It is important that we be able to worship in the language of our choice which is English

Growth of the parish

What will be the result of these meetings