

The Journey – First Report October 2014

Bishop Plouffe asked Father Hamish Currie, as Pastor of Precious Blood Cathedral, the mother church in Sault Ste. Marie, to be a welcoming presence for all Catholics and take a leadership role in the preservation of our past and the revitalization of our present. He asked that the excellent work being done in the Parishes be enhanced to create a plan for inclusiveness for all Catholics. Father Hamish asked a number Cathedral Parishioners with varied backgrounds to form a Strategic Planning and Implementation Committee to examine the Bishop's request and recommend a process, which would include all Catholics and enrich our Faith. The goal is to create a multi-use gathering place at the Cathedral, which will provide indoor and outdoor space for celebration, education and outreach. It will offer to all Catholics the gift to remember and celebrate the past, which will inspire and enliven our present and future.



As a Catholic people, we need a 'Gathering Place' that is seen as an inviting, restorative, healing place. As a Catholic people, encouraged by the words of Pope Francis, we need a place not only to share good works, but also be a Center for Social Justice and Good Works. Pope Francis has taught us the importance of inspiring all of us, young and old; to remember and continue our lives the way Christ has taught us. He asks us to focus on encouraging people to become re-engaged with their faith, particularly the youth, and inviting Catholics to come home. It should be

made clear that the 'Gathering Place' will greatly benefit all Parishes and their Parishioners as well as others in the community. It will be of assistance to all Catholics in enhancing their faith and performing good works throughout all of the Parishes in our area. As a Catholic people, it is time to claim our history and the blessing of our faith. It is time to renew and be renewed and to speak proudly of our heritage.

IF NOT US, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

A Committee of professional and business Catholics with representation from all of the Parishes in the City was formed to advise. Based on their advice, the Architecture firm of Colizza, Bruni was retained to complete preliminary renderings for the creation of the 'Gathering Place' and to work with a Design Committee of architects, artists and city officials to assist in formulating a final working plan. In addition, the Committee advised that Sacred Heart Convent be purchased to ensure sufficient property to construct the 'Gathering Place'. A Plan of Action was prepared and implemented. Many of the Committees have been working diligently and performing admirably under, sometimes, difficult circumstances. Others will perform their work once the Design Committee provides more detailed renderings of 'The Gathering Place'.



Father Hamish is our leader and has final decision-making with the Bishop in all matters. He is doing his best to promote the success of the Journey within his time constraints as Vicar and Pastor. As all of us, he has definite opinions and biases. His comfort zone is subject to sensitivities occasioned by his responsibilities to Parishioners, the Bishop and other Pastors. With the pressures inherent in his position, he requires time away for duties, personal interests and down time. In spite of

this, he makes himself available to us as required, encourages Committee members, hears out arguments before making final decisions, meets with individuals and groups, when he can, to solicit donations and answer queries, and, subject to budgets, provides the funds and arranges the guarantees necessary for Committees to proceed efficiently. He is in the process of encouraging Parishioners and others to arrange group events to explain the Journey and solicit donations.

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The following is a summary of the work of some of the Committees to date and what will be expected as we proceed:

1. Strategic Planning and Implementation Committee:

Chair: Father Hamish Currie – Committee Members: Sam Biasucci, Bob Barbeau, Gerry McGuire, Jerry Dolcetti, Marie Bruno, Gary Dumanski, Joanne Dumanski and Frank Sarlo.

This Committee put forward a document setting out its Mission Statement and Vision for the future and outlining the goals, which resulted in the 'Journey'.

2. Communications and Marketing:

Chair: Cathy Shunock - Vice Chair: Gary Dumanski - Committee Members: Michelle Inch, Nancy Komsa, Tammy McFadden and Jim Fitzpatrick.

It was this Committee that examined our need to bring our message to the Catholic public. The first step was to choose a name that would demonstrate our long road to success. The unanimous choice was the 'Journey'. After numerous discussions surrounding the indoor and outdoor structures, the name 'The Gathering Place' was agreed to as it provides the greatest significance in our area. The colors maroon and gold were chosen to distinguish our material from others. Two pamphlets and a detailed booklet were created and distributed. A song was commissioned which contains an excellent summary of the Journey's intentions. A video was recorded for use in the Parish and ran for one week on Shaw's local channel. The Sault Star and other local media provided excellent coverage for our kick-off in October of 2013 and again in late November when the sale of our Lottery tickets was in full swing. Roll-ups and posters promoting the Journey and its events were distributed to all Parishes and at Lottery sites. Father Hamish on numerous occasions explained, from the pulpit, the purpose of the Journey and promoted its events. A new website was placed on line through a Catholic organization known as 'E-Catholic', which specializes in Catholic Websites throughout North America.

Although much has been accomplished to date, there are some disappointments, which require addressing over the next year. We were unable to get our message out as well as we would like. We are



starting to rectify the situation by arranging to explain the Journey at all Masses for one weekend in each of the different Parishes. Regular newsletters will be distributed in the bulletins for each Parish updating for the Journey and its upcoming events. The website will be updated to more effectively and use social media to explain the Journey, promote its events and encourage donations. We have not utilized our song effectively. We have not gained approval for digital signage at the front of the Cathedral to promote

Cathedral events.

3. Special Events and Parish Fundraising:

Chair: Bob Barbeau - Committee Members: Linda Simonini, Vince Sguigna, Dawn Malone, Ed Corelli, Myrtle Correlli, Ray Sweeney, Vince Vernelli, Louise Bichler, Linda Simonini and Carol D'Agostini.

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Garage Sale Subcommittee:

Jean Paul Hebert, Diane Hebert, Vince Sguigna, Louise Bichler, Myrtle Corelli, Ed Corelli, Linda Simonini, Bev Dunne and Laura Sarlo.

Lottery Subcommittee:

Chair: Peter Vaudry - Committee Members: Bob Barbeau, Vince Sguigna, Terry Bos, Adriano DiCerbo, Norm Dugas, Dan Bertoncello, JP Dubreuil and Shawn Dagenais.

Gala Subcommittee: Chair: Cathy Shunock - Committee Members: Linda Simonini, Vince Sguigna, Ben Brescacin, George Shunock, Laura Sarlo and Sheila Beishlag.

The Special Events Committee has been a workhorse. The number of events held and the processes organized has been amazing. The kick-off event of the Journey was last October's BBQ and followed by this spring's Garage Sale and BBQ. Both included a CWL Bake Sale. In December, a Gala Dinner and Auction and including a Major Donor Reception were held. The Gala Dinner was sold out. In January, a Volunteer Appreciation Reception was held at the Marconi Hall, as was a Ravioli Dinner in March. Both were very well attended. Although we had no experience in organizing a lottery, with the assistance of many hardworking volunteers, the 'Journey' Lottery was a success. It also provided an important learning experience so that we can better organize in the future. That is happening. With the assistance of volunteers with years of experience in community organizations and the participation of the existing volunteer base and the addition of many more, this year's lottery should be even more successful. Based on our goal for 'Inclusiveness', all the Parishes in the area are being asked to become involved. The 'Journey' Garage Sale and Fall Harvest was held at St. Jerome's on Saturday, September 20th and Sunday, September 21st. All Pastors asked their Parishioners to donate items for the Garage Sale and harvest items for the Fall Harvest. The event was a huge success. St. Jerome's portion of the proceeds was donated back to the 'Journey'. The second annual 'Journey' Gala Dinner will be held on December 4th. The Knights of Columbus are holding monthly dinners for the Journey at the Grand Gardens and the Marconi Club is holding bi-weekly porketta nights for the 'Journey'. The Catholic Women's League has been raising money for the "Journey" through bake sales and craft sales.

4. Design Committee:

Chair: Adriano DiCerbo - Committee Members: Father Hamish Currie, Franco Pastore, Ken McDougall, Don McConnell, Sister Pat Carter, John Onofrio and Gary Dumanski



Adriano DiCerbo, Chair of this Committee reports as follows:

"Over the past year, the design committee has worked closely with the architect, Jim Colizza, in advancing the design of the Gathering Place. By its very nature, this stage of the design process work is largely completed behind the scenes. In an effort to gather the best practices and to incorporate relevant design, the design committee sought the advice of individuals and other

organizations. Some of the members travelled to similar established venues such as the Solanus Casey Centre in Detroit and dialogued with administration members of the internationally renowned Mark Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas. The design committee and the architect sought the input of various individuals and bodies both locally and internationally to glean best practices with respect to the programming of the center, donor recognition, and overall design aesthetics.

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In the past several months, the design committee reviewed and advised Precious Blood parish through two major design updates and numerous smaller revisions, and participated in hands-on design workshops with the architect. In addition, the design committee lent its expertise when matters pertaining to city planning and bylaws and contractual agreements with architect, and when preparing requests for artist's proposals, arose. During all of these stages, our overarching goal has been to tell our story in the most meaningful way.

The next phase will prove to be rather exciting as we welcome our greater Catholic community's involvement as part of the creative process. Public meetings will be held in mid October. All committee members and the greater Catholic community are encouraged to attend these public meetings to view the updated design and to provide valuable input. We invite you to be part of the Journey."

The public meeting to review the updated design will be held on October 16th @7pm in the amphitheater at St. Basil Secondary School on St. Georges Ave. There will be an opportunity for Catholics to provide their input for the final design.

5. Large Donors Committee:

Chair: Mark Barsanti - Committee Members: John Martella, Dr. Michael Nanne, Frank Shunock, Dr. Lou Lukenda, Joe Ruscio, Dr. George Shunock and Mark LaJambe.

This Committee has been charged with the responsibility of raising the sum of \$2 million toward the total cost of \$4 million from Catholic professionals and businesspersons who have been successful in their pursuits. Despite the reluctance of Committee members to ask for funds, their goal has reached beyond the half way mark through donations and pledges over five years. In order to best reach the potential contributors, there will be more of an emphasis on meeting with groups of professionals and businesspersons in order to more effectively tell our story and solicit contributions. We are learning every day to, more effectively, tell this story and will continue to do so. We will be required to re-establish our momentum. The updated design and our new focus will assist to propel our hard working volunteers to reach our goal.

6. History:

Chair: Joanne Dumanski - Committee Members: Dorothy Bonnell Brenda Clarke, Veronica Bornji, Elizabeth Iles and, Jean Paul Dubreuil.

This Committee has accomplished an amazing feat to date (**anyone who has not read this interesting work on our website, should do so as soon as possible**) and will provide the background necessary to effectively understand our history. There is much more work to do. Once completed, it will contain the history of all our Parishes, present and past. The Committee requires volunteers from all Parishes to provide their significant stories. It is our past, which will inspire us at present and in the future.

7. Centre for Social Justice and Good Works:

Chair: Mary Anne Amadio - Committee Members: Rose Burton Sophn, Marlene Sartor, Chris Czop, Joe Ruscio, Mayor Debbie Amaroso, Peter Vaudry, Gayle Broad (Katie Elliott), Angelique Lemay, Andrew Kenopic and Matt Sparling.

This Committee has been working diligently, in an organized manner, to attract the right mix of members, learn about the need for social justice and good works in our community, learn about the efforts that are presently made, the leadership programs available to community members, especially our youth, and design our program to enhance the work already being done by others. The Center for Social Justice and Good Works is a significant part of the 'Journey'. The 'Journey' is a challenge to create a 'Gathering Place' for all Catholics and the community, which will remember the good works of the past to inspire the present and future

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generations to continue good works and strive for social justice. We should be proud of the good works performed by Catholics and Catholic organizations over the centuries in our community. We should remember the churches that were the centers of community life for most of the nationalities that make up our community, many of which have closed. These churches spawned the success of so many of our people. It is important that we convey these important achievements to our young people and encourage them to answer the challenge and become more active in the Catholic community.

The ‘Journey’ is a vision for the future of the Catholic Faith in our community. It is our response to the changes we have faced and the call to action made by our Bishop and Pope Francis. We are challenged by the Church to bring new life to the Catholic Community in Sault Ste. Marie. It is a process by which all of us are coming together, joining forces and sharing our talents and strengths to create ‘The Gathering Place’. Many of us have given our time, talents and strengths to assist in the many events that have been held to date and we continue to do so.

Establishing a Center for Social Justice and Good Works at ‘The Gathering Place’ at Precious Blood Cathedral will provide information for good works, support good works and provide skills training, for both young and old, in mobilizing the community for social justice and good works. By partnering with educational institutions, it is our intention to create a leadership program for youth, which will prepare them to take leadership positions that will advance social justice and good works. Some of our goals are as follows:

- Engage adults as effective role models for youth; demonstrate an understanding of social responsibility; encourage youth to develop a greater understanding of self and empathy for others;
- Develop opportunities for youth to dialogue and connect with adults in a problem-solving manner;
- Give youth credit for civic action that benefits the community; and
- Propel youth into leadership roles in the community.

Catholics have a rich history in Sault Ste. Marie of faith-filled people and organizations who have devoted their time to providing health care, supporting the hungry and marginalized and educating young people in a faith-filled environment. It is hoped that their legacy of responding to the needs in our community will encourage and inspire our young people and others to actively continue this work. For years, students in Catholic schools have been actively involved in actions of Christian Service. The Ministry of Education has recognized the value of this community outreach and now requires all Ontario students to complete 40 hours of community involvement prior to secondary graduation. We want our students to be involved in meaningful experiences and invite and challenge them to go deeper, to genuinely learn about the needs of others and how we can best respond to address them. It is our hope that the Center will strengthen the partnership between church, home, school and community and facilitate opportunities for involvement and leadership roles of our young people in actions and projects that create positive change in our local and global communities.

Our Mission

We invite people of all ages, young and old, to participate together in partnership with the community in social action projects that improve the lives of people and the planet both now and in the future. We draw upon Catholic Social Teaching to educate and ignite a passion to take action to work for the common good. We aim to increase understanding and awareness of injustices, uphold the dignity of all people, help the poor and vulnerable, and facilitate and coordinate leadership opportunities that will help build a just society.

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Our Vision

We envision an inclusive, welcoming community in which people work together to transform society for the greater good through works of charity and social justice.

8. Other Committees:

Although these Committees have been preparing to participate more fully, their major work will take place over the next year. The Design material will be necessary for them to proceed effectively.

Administrative Committee:

This committee will be responsible to organize and see to the operation of the office, organize staff, keep information flowing, provide notice of meetings and events, take minutes and assist with committee needs. Pertinent information on all committee members will be kept. Resources for normal office organization are required.

Chair: Jerry Dolcetti - Committee Members: Terry Bos, Carol D'Agostini, Suzanne Farrell, Carol Naphan, Lynda Bertoncello and Carey Suave.

Bookkeeping and Accounting Committee:

This committee will set up separate bookkeeping and accounting for funds raised and expenses paid. This should include all funds raised and expenses paid to date with respect to meetings, purchase of convent property, survey and concept plans. They should also arrange for accounts at bank(s) and credit union for collection of donations if considered an asset.

Chair: - Committee Members:

Loans and Banking Committee:

This committee will review the availability of a loan from the Diocese and the terms of such loan (amounts, interest rate, payment schedule etc.). There is the possibility of working with banks and credit unions for many purposes including donations.

Chair: - Committee Members:

Youth Liaison Committee:

This committee will work to attract youth for their opinions and to participate in the different committees. It may be a goal to stimulate interest in our youth being present at next year's youth conference.

Chair: Maria Esposito - Committee Members: Bob Barbeau.

Parish Membership Committee:

This committee will be responsible to create a contact list of present and past members of the parish including those that have left the city. The contact list should provide information with respect to employment and those involved in the professions, business, industry and institutions. Without actively pursuing active members of other parishes, non-active members should be looked to for assistance. This committee will require creative methods to maximize the number of contacts. This committee will be responsible to create a movement of all Catholics from all parishes to join the Journey.

Chair: Vin Greco - Committee Members: Gerry McGuire

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Grants and Endowments Committee:

This committee is to complete a thorough investigation for grants and endowments, which may be available for staff, historic sites, religious orders, faith renewal etc. The offices of Brian Hayes and David Oraziotti may assist in locating government grants.

Chair: Cecilia Bruno - Committee Members: Ada Della Penta

Columbarium Committee:

This committee will prepare a cost-revenue report and investigate the potential for sales and recommend price point considering the beauty of the surroundings. It will outline the rules and regulations with respect to a columbarium, such as the trust funds, which are required to be held back from sales amounts. Chris Tossell is the architect that was involved with the columbarium constructed at St. Luke's Cathedral.

Chair: John Martella - Committee Members: John Onofrio, Jack Moore

Construction Committee:

This committee requires members that have expertise and are experienced as developers and contractors. The committee will examine the construction plans to ensure best pricing, suggest alternatives in materials, equipment and furnishings. Examine the potential for donations of labor and materials. The committee will work with the Architect and Landscape Designer.

Chair: Fausto DiTommaso - Committee Members: Sam Biasucci, Dave Ruscio

Ongoing Operations Committee:

This committee should establish and test innovative ideas to raise sufficient funds for ongoing operations once the construction is completed. There will be a need for permanent staff and volunteers for office, property management, programming and indoor and outdoor maintenance for the total Cathedral buildings and property. Along with the traditional methods of fundraising through donations, candles, bulletin advertising and special events, there must be investigated and tested such innovative methods such as online sales of religious articles. There will be an exclusive range of products originating with the uniqueness of the Cathedral and property itself. There will be the opportunity for advertising sales with the website and video experiences. Creativity will again be necessary.

Chair: - Committee Member

Business Plan Committee:

This committee will prepare a business plan to outline costs and ongoing costs of maintenance and operations. Chair: Joe Ruscio

Committee Members: Suzanne Farrell

The Coming Year:

In order to be successful we have to bring our effort to a new level. Some of the areas in which we will continue to improve are as follows:

- Get our message out in more effective ways (e.g. simplify our message);
- Add the new design materials to our message;
- Interact with the Pastors and Parishes on a regular basis;
- Improve Website and add Social Media;
- Improve Lottery Sales;
- Continue the BBQ, Garage Sale and Bake Sale;
- Continue the Gala and Auction;
- Have a strong campaign for donations;
- Apply for Grants and endowments.

Thank You for the Journey, and may God Bless

