

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**November 5th, 2017**

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend we begin our new “Mass Schedule” that will accommodate 3 parishes and served by **ONE** priest. Since the beginning of September, when I was named pastor, I have met many wonderful people and great ideas to enhance our parish. It is my hope that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will be able to bring these ideas and proposals to fruition and make St. Rose an even stronger presence in our community. To ensure that everyone is on the same page, I want to share with you various reflections that I have written over the past two years, statistics, and other practical information to help renew and revitalize not just our parish but the whole diocese as well. Therefore, in the weeks to come, you will see a series of articles written for this purpose! The following is an article that I wrote back in October of 2016. Please read this in a spirit of prayer and enlightenment as it (and following articles) was intended. Together, as Christians, so much potential awaits all of us as we continue this journey of a “renewed” Church. For more up-to-date information, be sure to check our parish website and click on the “Green Icon” REVITALIZING OUR DIOCESE.

Fr. David

**An Update on the Catholic Leadership Institute Survey**

Some of you have been asking for updates on the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI) Survey and its purpose. To date:

- St. Augustine’s, St. Matthew’s and St. Rose survey’s completed Jan-Feb, 2016, either online or paper copy): St. Matthew’s 138 people (45 %) St. Augustine’s 72 out of 87 (83%) and **St. Rose 134 people out of 526 (25%)**).
- Some results and updates have been mentioned in homilies and bulletin announcements in the last few months.
- Each priest in the Diocese also did a survey concerning administration, living situations, and the number of churches/missions served by individual priests.
- CLI also requested from each parish our annual statistics of sacraments (baptisms, weddings, etc.), our financial picture (income/expenses, outstanding debts), church size/capacity, and number of weekend masses.

Each region of the diocese (there are three: Saint John, Fredericton, Miramichi) presently have working groups consisting of nine individuals. They, along with Matthew Manion and Tim Rooney of the CLI, are working through a process looking at all the information from parishes, missions, nursing homes, and Aboriginal and French communities in each region.

These working groups have been meeting since September and are planning their final meeting in November. Their findings and proposals for how to best serve each region and its people will be presented to Bishop Harris in December. The priests of the Diocese will meet to look at these proposals and make their recommendations early in the new year.

In early spring 2017, a series of meetings will be held for the people of each region for their information and input.

Final recommendations will be made to Bishop Harris in June 2017.

**What is the purpose of this survey, parish planning, and realignment?**

1. First and foremost, to move from a ‘**maintenance**’ mentality of looking after buildings, which at the end of the day is using up all available financial resources, and move to a ‘mission and service’ mentality – **this would include programs and education for children, adults, outreach to all, and passing on the invitation to know, love, and serve Jesus in the world.**

**We really need to begin looking past buildings, parish boundaries, structures of what has been, and to look in a realistic way to filling up our churches as vibrant communities with many using their gifts and talents to build community as Pope Francis has reminded us over and over again: “The church is not a museum about how things used to be, but a field hospital, welcoming the wounded, you, me into the saving embrace and love of Jesus.”**

2. As many of you know, the vocations to ministerial priesthood are just not what they once were. The last ordination in the Diocese was June 2014. Presently, there is no one is preparing in the seminary. At present, many of our parishes are staffed by our brother priests from India, Africa, and the Philippines, and they have been a blessing to the people entrusted to their care and to our diocese. **4 Parishes are without a priest: St. Stephen/Andrew’s, Johnville and area, Kingsclear/Nackawic/Harvey area, and Oromocto. These parishes are being ministered to by retired priests. (Two priests from India have arrived and we are awaiting 2 more).**

3. Our demographics have changed drastically in the last number of years. Many people have left the area, and others do not go to the church the way they have in the past. We have witnessed in our Province school districts and regional health authorities realigning hospitals and schools. Our faith communities need to be held accountable to the people through realignment.

4. Our Saint John region (Sussex to St. Stephen to Evandale to Wirral) presently has 31 parishes and missions served by 14 priests (6 under the age of 66). Throughout this year of discernment with the CLI, one of the guiding principles as we plan for now and the future is that it must be done patiently, prudently, and above all else, prayerfully with the widest consultation possible, and Bishop Harris with the aid of CLI has offered all of us that opportunity.

This year, the Diocese of Saint John is celebrating its 175th anniversary. We have a strong foundation of faith and we have a future full of hope.

Everyone has strong feelings about churches, hospitals, and schools—they have always been the centre of the community! In the process now underway, all should have a respectful hearing that includes cooperation among parishes characterized by trust, listening, dialogue, communication, and respect and dignity for all.

Weekly here in our parishes, there has been an intention in our Prayer of the Faithful for the CLI working this year in our diocese—“For our parishes, diocese and the Catholic Leadership Institute... that we will be open to the Spirit leading us in this year of discernment, re-alignment and change”—may that prayer continue to be in our hearts as we reach the halfway point of this vital yet hope-filled discernment process.

#### **Remembering Our Dead**

In the charity of your prayers, please remember: Joe Farren, Robert (Bob) Williams, Bobby Kaine, Theresa Pitts, James Noah, Hector LeBlanc

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord.

#### *Sanctuary Lamp in Memory of Eileen Hargreaves*

**If you wish to place a sanctuary lamp in memory of a loved one, please call the Office at 653-6850.**

### Mass Intentions

Thursday, November 9	<b>7:00 PM</b>	Joseph Hooley
Saturday, November 11	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Gertrude and Demps Phinney
Sunday, November 11	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Joseph John (Joey) Murphy

**Clocks fall back November 4<sup>th</sup> at Midnight! Change the batteries in your smoke detector!**

### Stewardship for the week ending October 29th, 2017

<b>Envelopes</b>	<b>2660.00</b>
<b>Loose</b>	<b>412.50</b>
<b>Pre-Authorized Debit</b>	<b>448.65</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3121.15</b>

### Announcements

The next **K of C breakfast at Assumption Centre** will be on **November 12<sup>th</sup>**. Proceeds will support the Alzheimer's Café and a patient with MS who needs an electric wheelchair. Hours: 9 am – 1 pm. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

**Meeting for Students and Parents of the 2018 Confirmation Class** on Thursday **November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM** in the Church. If you have questions, please call Marijke at 672-0294.

**St. Rose of Lima CWL Meeting** will be held on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM, at the Denis Morris Community Centre, 330 Greenhead Rd. West.

**REVISED Counters' Schedules** are at the back for the **next month only**, because we were not certain when the 11:00 AM readers/counters would choose to go. If you have a preference, please call the Office so we can work around your schedule. **Hope to get it right for December!**

**Mass of Remembrance - Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** All are welcome! Please note: this will replace the 12:10 Mass, this week **only**.

**Catechism classes** for St. Rose will be collecting items to pack into **Christmas Shoeboxes** in order to help the less fortunate. Any items to be donated can be placed into the box in the foyer of the church labeled Christmas Shoeboxes. Items needed are small toys, hygiene items and school supplies and they can be for a girl or boy ages 2-14. The children will collect the items, pack them and send them off to be delivered for Christmas. Boxes will be packed on November 13. If you have any questions send them to [stroselima.religioused@gmail.com](mailto:stroselima.religioused@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

**Seniors' Blessing and Luncheon - November 25<sup>th</sup> after the 4:00 PM Mass.**