

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016 REPORT

Masithuthukisane/St. Joseph the Worker Parish Steering Committee

“Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.” - Pope Francis

Chair, Moira King, Fr. Alfredo Monacelli, Lorraine Calderwood-Parsons, Mark Cammiade, Barbara Strong, Mickey Sanders, Brian Douglas, Cherie Caillet, Paula Henchion, Shannon Hryhoryshen, Peter Daniels, (now from afar - Mainland), Jamie Zwicker, and Bheki Jama (the Masithuthukisane project manager) in South Africa. Mickey Sanders stepped down following two years of being the inaugural chair. His efforts, and those of all members., are greatly appreciated. The committee meets an average of 3-4 times per year.

ABOUT THE MASITHUTHUKISANE/ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PROJECT

It's an organic farming project run by the Diocese of Mariannhill, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. The major goal of the project is to train and hire local unemployed women and men to work in the cooperative, to feed a population of 3,500 people, many of whom are undernourished - our brothers and sisters in the poorest areas of South Africa. The good news is that eventually, with training and knowledge, Diocesan land will be offered to local villagers.

VISION

Sowing seeds... connecting people

MISSION

Our mission, together with the people involved in the Mariannhill Masithuthukisane Project, is to assist their goal of self-sustaining organic farming through personal connections, educational, spiritual, and financial support.

PROJECT AGREEMENT

Agreement between the Dioceses of Victoria and Mariannhill. \$10,000 (2 X \$5,000 tranches) per year –up to and including 2020.

FINANCIAL SPLIT DECISION

Past Approach:

- Two events split with SJS and Masithuthukisane
- Two events with funds going 100% to the Masithuthukisane initiative.

New Approach

- Two events split with SJS and Masithuthukisane
- **Two events split with Masithuthukisane/St. Joseph the Worker Parish**

2015/2016 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

2015 funds were successfully raised and two X \$5,000 tranches were submitted by the Diocese of Victoria, on our parish's behalf, to the Diocese of Mariannhill.

Following major consultations and recommendations, a decision was made to defer the Spring Fling for at least a year.

2015/2016 Events/Funds raised (Breakdown)

1. **Carry over from December 1, 2015 – parish and St. Joseph School direct Masithuthukisane funds = \$791.93**

2. **April 1 Dinner/Dance** - Dinner was prepared by our very own pastor 'Chef Alfredo' who also wore a kilt. Great planning team support and music from the 60's/70's. **Gross: \$3, 770.25. Net raised: \$2946.60 of which half (\$1,473.30) goes to the Masithuthukisane Project and \$1,473.30 to SJTW parish.**
3. **April 8: Canada Is For Kids Concert** - Victoria-based singer-songwriter, Michael Mitchell offered to perform a concert at Oak Bay High School Dave Dunnett Theatre. Songs and stories of Canada's heritage to benefit the Masithuthukisane organic farming project as well as St. Joseph School's PAG with direct support to students (library books, athletic equipment, recreation programs, field trips, etc.) MC – Jo-Ann Roberts and guest appearance by St. Joseph School Grade 3 singers. Great joint school/parish planning team. **Gross: \$4,220.00. Net raised: \$3768.75 of which half (\$1,884.37) goes to both Masithuthukisane and St. Joseph School.**
4. **May 14 Golf Tournament:** Glen Meadows Golf Course - Game/Dinner Buffet/Prizes. In support of St. Joseph School (PAG), which directly supports students and the Masithuthukisane Project. Funds raised: **TBC. Net funds raised will be split 50/50 with the Masithuthukisane Project and St. Joseph's School (PAG)**
5. **Church Envelopes:** A donation envelope for the Masithuthukisane project 2 X per year. Dates for 2016: February 14 (**\$837.00**) – **considered a successful amount raised**, and June 19 (**TBC**).
6. Additional St Joseph School Events – with funds going directly to the Masithuthukisane projects.
 - \$279.30 – Gr.5 Christmas Shop (Dec. 12, 2016)
 - \$569.00 – St. Joseph School Civvies Day (Jan.20)
 - \$25.00– Donation loose cash (Feb. 14)
 - \$230.00 – Krispy Squares. Sale (Mar. 9)
 - \$20.00 – Donation loose cash (Mar.27)
 - \$510.00 – St. Joseph School Civvies Day (April 5)

Subtotal: \$1,633.30

To date (excluding the May 14 Golf Tourney, the June 13 Masithuthukisane envelope totals), and any SJS additional funds before the end of June, the present balances in our Masithuthukisane accounts total:

\$6, 619.91

This means the first required 2016 tranche of \$5,000 has been raised and will be sent to the Diocese of Mariannahill once their second 2015 tranche report is received.

PROMOTION, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Status of Masithuthukisane/ St. Joseph the Worker Parish Steering Committee briefing to Pastoral Parish Council (PPC). Because of the changes of PPC members over the last two years, and a new pastor, it was important to inform the PPC of the background of this initiative and the latest status.

Banners: Two quality parish retractable (telescopic) banners with artwork: Were purchased in 2014. One is placed in the church foyer; one has been lent to St. Joseph School.

SJTW Ministry Fair: Feb. 6 & 7, 2016 – Masithuthukisane Project Table was staffed to provide information following all three liturgies.

Parish/School Garden: The growing is a learning experience. Planting photos are exchanged with Mariannahill kids. A Power Point presentation of the garden has been developed – with both local Victoria students and Mariannahill villagers being showcased.

Peter Daniels' trip to South Africa: His visit was to provide cultural links and a better understanding of the issues facing the poorest of the poor in our world between our St. Joseph The Worker community including school children and staff at St Joseph School, and the people of Mariannhill to help grow food for themselves there. A recap of his visit:

- Celebration send-off Mass times on Saturday & Sunday, September 19th & 20th.
- Peter arrived in the Diocese of Mariannhill and delivered 25 pen pals and letters from Mrs. Christine James' Grade 5 students including rosaries donated by parishioner Gerri Erickson. Peter also developed a blog, the link to which was published in the church bulletin and on the website.
- Peter spent 6 weeks in Mariannhill with Masithuthukisane project manager Bheki Jama. Peter also presented Bishop Mlungisi (Diocese of Mariannhill) with an Aboriginal framed picture gift plus a Tee Shirt – both from Bishop Gary
- He also established a more professional accounting program with the local Mariannhill team to avoid the confusion around allocation of funds that occurred last year, between Thembaletu and Masithuthukisane – two different funding initiatives by St Joseph the Worker Parish. He has no concerns that any money was inappropriately spent.
- 15-20 Masithuthukisane children continue to be involved with the the Organic Farming course.
- Feb 22nd, 2016: Back in Canada, Peter presented pen pal letters from Mariannhill students to the Grade 5 students of Mrs. Christine James' class. Masithuthukisane Chair, Moira King, also attended as well as member and SJS teacher, Jamie Zwicker.
- Sunday March 13, 2016: Peter gave a presentation of his trip following the 10:00 Mass at SJTW in the Community Room. He was applauded for his generous time, talent and treasure during his trip.

Respectfully submitted,
Moira King, Chair
May 9, 2016