

## **2011 Parish Council Report Back**

**Chairperson: Annabel Horn**

### **Youth Portfolio report**

As we look back on the past year we can see that we as a parish have been very blessed with the growth that we have been able to achieve in the area of youth activity. While maintaining our previous Sandwich making outreach, Sunday night youth discussions and the two weekly Junior youth evenings we have added hikes, a Classic Movie evening, Youth Ecclesia, and outreach activities with Lawrence House to our range of activities available to our parish youth. We also managed to send two of our young ladies to join the Holy Father at the WYD celebrations in Spain and are looking forward to bearing the fruits of this investment over the years to come.

We have furthermore seen a growth in the number of youth who have committed themselves to an on-going service of their community in the various activities offered to the parish youth. It has truly been wonderful to see the growing spirit of commitment and support for each other among these young people and their passion and collective wisdom demonstrated in the Youth Ecclesia sessions gives one great hope for the future of our Constantia parish.

While we have much to celebrate in what we have achieved we also need to be very aware that the youth asset we are building is a very fragile one and very much needs the support of our entire parish community. We need to be very aware in our busy lives that the only recognition that these young people need for the fantastic efforts that they are making is the chance to serve. Unfortunately this ability to serve is very much dependent on the parents of the parish encouraging their children to join in the activities and bringing their children to the various events so when you are tempted to say we will come next time, please know that without your support this time, there may indeed not be a next time.

In closing we would like to thank Nikki and Aly Pearson, Acacia Hasler, Maura Robinson, Aidan Horn, Justin Groenewald, Eric and Yourinde Bauer, Camilla Turnbull and all their able assistants for running the various youth portfolio's; the Moms and Dads (the kitchen slaves) who have assisted at the Junior Youth evenings; Kate and her catechism team for their support in publicising all our events; Nicola Cox for her on-going support in the distribution of the sandwiches made as part of our outreach efforts; Karen Parkin for her fantastic work on the Youth Web pages and Ning site; Father Andrew for his constant guidance and support; Pam for her support in the office; the parents who have lifted the children to the various events; and lastly all the youth and

the rest of the parishioners who have most generously supported our various activities over the past year.

### **Ladies Group:-**

This group is open to all the Ladies in the Parish, a monthly meeting is held on the 1st Wednesday after the 9.0am Mass in the Parish Centre, at present there are approximately 20 Ladies.

The Meetings open and close with a Prayer. The objective of the Group is to unite the Ladies in the Parish and work under the guidance of the Parish Priest.

Funds are raised for Flowers for the Altar and various Charities and to assist at Funerals and other Functions.

Funds are raised at Cake Sales, donations at Funerals, and the re-conditioning of Christmas Cards and voluntary donations at the monthly meetings by the individual Ladies.

Charities: Regular donations to St, Vincent de Paul, NOAH, CWD. making and supplying Muffins for the Children at the Jump Math Classes, and other requests.

### **Estate Maintenance, James Wagner**

Repository cabinets

Quote obtained from Andy McDonald for R42 600. Andre Fourie has already quoted R 31 000.00.

Project to proceed once funds obtained through fundraising.

Ventilation

The louvre windows in the arches have all been replaced with casement type natural anodised aluminium windows. The old louvre window frames are to be re-installed into the main skylight above the altar, providing much needed ventilation via through flow via the new casement windows. We are currently experiencing some reluctance by Econo Window to complete the skylight phase and the locks to the glass doors of the project. They have not yet indicated whether they are still committing themselves to the work they quoted for. We are currently in the process of speaking to Glassmen to see whether they are in a position to complete the work.

PA System upgrade

The main PA speakers were replaced with a pair of full-range Wharfedales to accommodate the music required from the CD player. The microphone and

lead to the stand mic were both replaced as they were found to be faulty. We are looking at replacing the CD player with a more basic unit which is easier to operate and can also be done so with a remote control. We may also possibly install a second smaller pair of the Wharfedales to cover the rear of the church, as complaints are often received that this area is not properly covered by the PA system.

#### Burglar Bars

Burglar bars were fitted to all the windows of the offices, Sacristy, kitchen, store rooms, classrooms & bathrooms. Work was undertaken by Burglar Bar Studio for R 18 490.00.

#### Paving slabs

Prices and samples being obtained for concrete paving slabs to be laid ( by our own labour) to the garden area behind the hall.

#### Irrigation system

The irrigation system has been installed to the area around the planters and the gardens surrounding the front parking area.

#### Paving to Parking area

The area between the main parking area and the steps to the church is being paved with a concrete type smooth cobblestone. Work is due to commence in mid November. Work to be undertaken by Parkland paving for R 99 800.00.

#### Lighting inside the church

We are currently obtaining quotes for LED light fittings to replace the track mounted "R80" lamps inside the church, as the lamps have a very limited life and are extremely inefficient in terms of their power consumption. Quote recently obtained from LED Lighting SA for a track mounted lamp with the equivalent lumens output, was at just over R2 000.00 each.

## **Catechism Report**

We are at the end of a very busy and very fruitful year. We have been very fortunate to have a full complement of 17 catechists, who are each very dedicated to our catechism programme. We have in total 99 families which make up our catechism group of 162 children in Grade 1 to Grade 11. We expect a very high level of knowledge and attendance from the children. Reports are sent out twice a year to each child's parents and the children are expected to have at least passed the year with above 50% knowledge of their year's work and have attended more than 75% of their classes for the year. This is in order for them to progress to their next grade of catechism.

Our children in Grade 3 and 4 will celebrate their first confession and their first Holy Communion on Sunday 6th November and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Next week we will begin our annual registration for 2012.

Our Nativity pageant will take place during the carol concert on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Small Group Portfolio**

Ecclesia Sign-Up Sunday for Season One was held on 11 September and Parishioners were given until 25 September to sign up for an Ecclesia Group. 110 Parishioners signed up. This represents about 25% of Sunday mass attendance. Fr Andrew was extremely happy with this level of Interest.

Season One commenced on 8/9 October where Fr. Andrew Blessed the Facilitators and presented them each with an Ecclesia Candle to be used at their Group Sessions.

Two weeks into Season One , a Youth Ecclesia Group was formed. They began Season One on 24 October and will finish two weeks after the rest of the Parish finishes Season One.

As I write this, Week Three has just finished and the Feedback from the Groups is good and encouraging. Participants are enjoying the Programme and enjoying meeting other members of the Parish other than at Church. We are all finding out interesting things about each other and being challenged at each weeks session to an Action based on each weeks theme. It is also exciting to be learning from each other and sharing with each other.

We are extremely grateful to our Facilitators who dedicate time each week to prepare and open up their homes for the Groups to meet. Without them, there would be no Ecclesia. So Thank You to all the Facilitators for your Dedication to and Support of the Programme.

Once Season One has ended, I have no doubt that Parishioners will look forward to Season Two and Three next year.

**Report back for Mother's group:**

We have not met much this year, as Anne-Marie has had her hands full. As of last month, the group has started meeting again at Schoenstatt on every second Saturday afternoon each month. Alison Killick will do the organising of this.

**Father's group:**

The Father's group continues to meet bimonthly on Thursday evenings. There are 6 members in the group.

Brian and Anne-Marie are available to teach or assist parishioners with Natural Family Planning and fertility issues. We are also running the Engage programme - 5 couples have completed the course this year.