



PASTORAL UNIT ORIENTATION COUNCIL

The Pastoral Unit Orientation Council (PUOC) was established following the recommendations of the Future of the Parishes Report in 2021, replacing the parishes' Orientation Teams. Each parish was asked to nominate a representative to this council which also includes Fr Manus Bradley, Fr John Torrance, and Christine Gage. One of the primary tasks facing the PUOC was in finding a common project in which each of the parishes could participate. This project would, of course, be in line with the orientation of the Diocese of St-Jean-Longueuil.

The PUOC had its first meeting in March 2022, and has met several times over the past year. We explored various options for the common project and agreed upon the topic of Truth and Reconciliation as something that is current and will continue to be the lived experience of our Church into the future. During the visit to Canada by Pope Francis in Summer 2022, he gave us all the reminder that his visit should not be seen as an end point but that it was rather only the beginning of a process of reconciliation involving all of us.

To be able to present something to the parishes we have been working towards discovering ways of making Truth and Reconciliation tangible and meaningful. We have been looking at resources that might form part of our project and help to engage parishioners in furthering their understanding and appreciation of the need for Truth and Reconciliation in our society. We envision a multi-year project with educational, experiential, and interactive components that will invite the participation of all age groups.

In synodality, may we unite in working and walking together into the future, not just for the sake of this project, but in general. We will of course appreciate your input. We invite you to share with us what you may have already experienced with regards to Truth and Reconciliation with the indigenous people. If you are interested in volunteering to animate an activity, we would welcome your involvement. We hope that through our project we will grow in both understanding and in the lived reality of reconciliation.

Tom Deerhouse of Kahnawake Nation, in a recent visit to Saint Mary's Parish, stated that "every act of reconciliation is complete in itself and is reconciliation". It is with that same hope that the PUOC continue to move forward in preparation of our common project.

So, when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.
(Matthew 5: 23-24)

Fr. Manus Bradley, Pastor
Anne-Marie Armeni, Saint Francis Parish
David Botero, Good Shepherd Parish
Paola Bresba, Saint Gabriel's Parish
Michael Casey, Holy Cross Parish

Fr. John Torrance, Priest Collaborator
Heidi Glaser-Hille, Saint Augustine's Parish
Gina Paulini, Saint Clare's Parish
Don Wright, Saint Mary's Parish
Christine Gage, Administrative Coordinator