

## Meet Your New Parish Council Members!

The Parish Council required three new members this year. Because we had three candidates allow their names to stand for election—they are voted in by acclamation and we will not be holding an election. We asked our nominees the following questions so we could get to know them better. Here are some short biographies on your new council members:

- Why do you want to be part of the Parish Pastoral Council at the Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption?
- What professional and/or life experiences would you bring to the Parish Pastoral Council?
- What gifts, visions, talents would you bring that would contribute to the work of the parish?
- Which activities or parish ministries that you have been a part of at the Pro-Cathedral have been the most rewarding to you? Why?

### **MR. KELLY BOUDREAU**

It is simply time to get involved. When asked if I would let my name stand I quickly said yes! I suspect the Holy Spirit was at work because when asked in previous years the answer was always a quick... no. I believe that our Parish Council works well, but there is always room for different opinions and directions.

My background is infrastructure real estate. I have spent the better part of 30 years working within a multidisciplinary team that includes lawyers, engineers, surveyors, architects, appraisers and landowners. This all requires collaboration and consensus building to get projects completed. It also requires listening skills. Collaborating and listening are key to the success of any organization or project and these skills / life experiences I would bring to Parish Council. Of course, I also like to share my opinion when everyone else is practicing listening.

[Regarding gifts, talents, etc.] This is a tough question because it requires some self-patting on the back. I would say my Microsoft excel and word skills are somewhat of a talent... although, apparently, I can carry a tune. While it may not seem so at first glance, I am a people person. I like to share laughter in all that I do. Being open and sharing laughter makes people comfortable. I guess that would tell you I have a vision of inclusion that would allow all parishioners to feel free to reach out to me and share opinions and thoughts.

I have been an usher for the past couple of years. Greeting people as they enter the church is an important role in my mind. Parishioners and visitors alike should always feel warmly welcomed when they arrive for mass. It sets the tone for sharing some precious time with God.

### **MS. MELANIE DUCHARME**

When Msgr. Dave mentioned it a couple of weeks ago, something “tweaked” inside of me that said “you are being called” After some reflection, I decided to let my name stand for Parish Council because I enjoy being part of the faith community in more than just a passive way. I have always been involved in the parish community, as a lector, cantor and an usher. I served as the Lector Coordinator for many years and enjoyed being part of the Liturgy Committee. I believe that we are all called to serve and my service to my faith community has always been part of the fabric of my life.

I am currently employed as the Municipal Clerk and Planner for the Municipality of West Nipissing. My day to day life revolves around democratic decision making. Strategic planning, budgeting and coordination of capital projects is part of my job and I feel that my experience in these areas can benefit the committee and the community as a whole.

I possess excellent written and oral communication skills.

I have a wealth of experience in chairing meetings and being part of the democratic planning and decision making processes. I believe that a parish is only as strong as the sum of its’ parts which consist of clergy, employees and hundreds of volunteers. I believe that the community needs to continue to attract new members, particularly young families and young people. The population of the country and our faith community is aging rapidly and we need to continue to provide an atmosphere which is progressive and provides innovative ways for persons of all ages people to become engaged and involved. While I am no longer a young person myself, I believe that my long service to the community in a variety of different ministries and roles, provides an example that there is a place for everyone, at every stage of their life, to be part of the Pro-Cathedral parish community.

Being a Lector and being actively involved in the ministry as coordinator, has been my most rewarding and enduring ministry. I was given the talent of being able to speak publicly and being able to use that talent to deliver God’s word on a regular basis, has been very gratifying.

### **DR. DAVID SLATTERY**

I would like to be part of the Parish Council in order to begin to play a greater role in our faith community. Both my education and career have taken me out of the City and often the country over the past decades, and it is only now, being semi-retired, that I can dedicate the time and effort needed to support the important work of the Pro-Cathedral.

As a life-time member of the Pro-Cathedral, I and my family have attended Mass faithfully for over 60 years. We have a strong understanding of our history and the changes which have occurred over that period. Personally, I have spent close to 40 years as a designer, builder and tuner of pipe organs, such as the Cassavant we have, and as such, have a deep understanding of and love for our music program. Much of my career has been spent as a University lecturer and then owner of a consulting firm specializing in the archaeology of the Biblical lands. From this work I have developed a keen appreciation for the roots of our faith.

Somewhat of a traditionalist, I am also considered a consensus builder and team player. I would like to bring these talents to our Council. I strongly believe in the Pope’s vision for our faith while still maintaining the “culture” of the Pro-Cathedral which has served our faith community, the Diocese and the City well for well over a century.

Aside from being a faithful parishioner, this is the first time I have felt the ability to commit to serving the Pro-Cathedral. My strong faith and background in our Church allows me to think that serving on Council is one way to share my talents and experiences with our congregation.

*Continued above in next column*