



St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Catholic Church

views from the pews

How it all began . . .

May 6, 2018

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS EQUAL SUCCESS AND A LOT OF FUN!

In late 1970, St. Stephen’s Parish was going at full swing and it was then decided to build a new church. Plans were started, and preparations were made to start construction in late 1980 for completion in early 1982. This new church was estimated to cost over \$1.5 million. Although we already had some fundraising activities such as casinos and the men’s dinner, it was decided to undertake another major event to raise funds to put towards the new church.

Parish Council put together a committee that comprised Jim Ochitwa as Fundraising Chair, John Sirioshka as Special Projects Manager and Orest Horbachewski as Project Manager and this group undertook the project of a major CAR RAFFLE which we called PROJECT 4000. A license was approved by the Alberta Gaming Commission and the Project was declared a GO!

The plan was to print 100,000 tickets (4,000 books) and these would be sold for \$2.00 per ticket. Prize cars were arranged with parishioner Ted Babie of Marlborough Ford Mercury. The prize cars were:

- 1) 1982 Lincoln Our Cost - \$19,000
- 2) 1982 Mustang Our Cost \$ 9,000
- 3) 1982 Ford Pickup Our Cost \$11,000-

The big kick-off for this event was held on Sunday, March 1, 1981 during the Coffee “Klutch” after Liturgy. During this kick-off celebration the first ticket was sold to Father Andy Muzyka. Plans were to sell tickets for an entire year with the final draw to be made on February 6, 1982. Orest organized 5 groups of Captains with 3 Captains per group. Then the 5 groups of Captains were each given the names of approximately 35 parishioners to draw from to work on their team as ticket sellers. In this way, most of the Parishioners were involved to a one degree or another with this very important fundraiser.

Ticket sales were organized, by these groups, at shopping malls in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton. We usually had tables with a display stand and in many cases were loaned one of the cars to put on display. Tickets were sold for an entire year.

John made arrangements to have the big DRAW on February 6, 1982 in the common area at the Deerfoot Mall. Radio Celebrity Charlie West was brought in to help conduct the draw and to add some spice to the event.

- Winners of the cars were:
- 1982 Lincoln -Miss Donna Dixon
 - 1982 Mustang -Mr. Len Pearson
 - 1982 Ford Pickup -Mr. Duane Dallman

Cont’d...

- ❖ **Save the dates:** June 1 – June 3, 2018 for the 50th Anniversary. Tickets for Champagne Reception now available. Please contact the office.
- ❖ The 3rd session in our speaker series, **Beginning the Grief Journey** is on Friday May 11th from 6:30 – 9:30. Cost is FREE and refreshments will be served. Register with Jean Pashulka: 403-271-6092 or email mykitchen@shaw.ca.

This fundraiser was deemed to be a success with 58,348 tickets sold, raising a total of \$110,696. Expenses, including the purchase of the cars, were \$49,003 giving us a net total of **\$61,692.00** which was put towards paying off a small part of the cost of the new church.



“PROJECT 4000” KICKOFF - Fundraiser Kiosk: L-R: Merle Korchinsku, Orest Horbachewski (fundraising co-chair), Don Bohn, Jim Ochitwa (fundraising co-chair), John Siroishka and Orest Sachkiw.

Thank you Jim Ochitwa for sharing this memory with us! It is truly amazing what was accomplished.

Please continue to share these memories: contact: laurie.kindrachuk@shaw.ca Cell: 403-614-5581

