



Photo by: Rick Tracey

## **Donation.**

On December 14, 2019 Saturday at the 5pm mass, the St. Patrick's Shamrock Club donated \$9,125.96 to Star of the Sea church, in the presence of the club members and more than 200 parishioners. The club's two longest standing members, Bud Sinnett and Louie Bonomi, respectively 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, front row from the left made the presentation to the church's pastor, Fr. Richard Kowalchuk.

During the presentation, Louie gave a brief background of the charity's work which is summarized below:

He told us that 29 years ago a committee was struck by Fr. Peter Rowe with a few committed church's parishioners to study the feasibility of a church building expansion programme and the means to pay for a building project. The estimated cost of the expansion project was \$1.1 million. A mortgage was signed with the Diocese of St. Catharines. Meanwhile, Denis Morris High School's bingo committee was dissolving the St. Patrick's Shamrock Club. When the club came up for grabs, Star of the Sea took it over. The first objective of the club was to raise funds to supplement the parish payment of the expansion mortgage. Once the mortgage was paid, the funds subsequently raised by the club were to be used strictly for the structural maintenance of the church and the rectory. Since the club's existence in the parish, it has raised in excess of a half million dollars. Some of the funded projects included the stain glass restoration, masonry pointing of the outer wall mortar, church roofing, metal capping of the spire roof, painting, asphaltting of the front parking lot, flexi-glass enclosure of the choir loft, concrete stairs to the church basement and its metal fence, tabernacle, etc.

Today's cheque is for two projects at the rectory - the repair of the rectory's roof damaged by the recent high winds and the installation of a backflow valve and sump system to guard against flooding from the city sewer/storm drains.

Louie then thanked all the St. Patrick's Shamrock Club members for their many, many years of service to the church and sent out a call to parishioners interested in working with us. Please consider becoming a volunteer and give 2.5 hours of your time four or five times a year. The club president is Andy Reyes (1<sup>st</sup> from the left, front row, above). He can be reached at 905-937-2982. Published in the Church's Bulletin. December 22, 2019 Issue.