Report on electronic candle systems for use in the Chapel of the Hospital.

Electronic candle systems have become a common and acknowledged substitute for wax votive candles traditionally used in Parishes, Hospitals and Shrines, eliminating the costs of labour, the threat of fire and smoke hazards culminating in an overall improved environment while still permitting individuals to show their intentions by lighting a candle. It is also a revenue profit centre.

In an environment such as a hospital, this is an important expression of an individuals belief in time of stress and the unknown while visiting loved ones in a hospital.

In anticipation of the increased demand for such a spiritual need, a request has been made to further analyze the feasibility of introducing such a product to Hospital Chapels.



Vendalite:

Vendalite, a manufacturer and distributor of electronic candles for 40 years entered into an agreement with a College to re-design and develop a new greener electronic candle system utilizing LED's. This technology replaces a 25 year old design that used less efficient incandescent bulbs. This is a more efficient and cost effective way to continue to provide this service. Administrators, the Fire Marshall and Insurance agents sleep easier with this product in, as compared to wax candles.

The LED lights reduce energy consumption by 82% providing a one year return on investment. LEDs use less than 20% of the energy required by comparable incandescent lights and only a little more than half the energy required by compact fluorescents. Since the LED's last for 15 years, maintenance fees and replacement costs have been eliminated. To further their green strategy, Vendalite has initiated a program to update outdated electronic candle systems through their conversion program of using old chassis and replacing the old technology with the new LED program, at over 60 Shrines, Churches and Mausoleums to date, with more than 600 to go. Such programs are in essence self financed through Vendalite's assistance using their revenue share program to pay for the project through revenues generated by the use of the upgraded system is owned by the facility. A standard system has up to 70 candles, with some models having a mix of large 5 day and 6 hour candles. It can be said that the use of 50 large votive per week produces carbon emissions equivalent to driving from Boston to Seattle.

The large 5 day glass globes (in colours of red and blue) on the systems are recycled wax glass globes The small candles are white glass globes. The candle holders are either a traditional or oak leaf in design. A cash deposit must be made to activate the system. Credit card facilitator is also available as an option.

A new and innovative service is the introduction of Gabriel, an APP to light a 5 day votive candle at a location that has a Vendalite system, from anywhere in the world. This means that a well wisher can light a candle for someone in a Hospital as an intention to wish the person good health.

Such institutions as Pembroke General Hospital, St. Joseph's Oratory and Notre Dame de Montreal among many others use this system in the historically sensitive areas of the Shrine.