

The Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy
Pastoral Council Meeting
June 21, 2018 ~ Final

Attending: D. Brandow, T. Davis, L. Denmark, T. Duff, G. Frank, S. Guydosh, S. Hamula N. Hummel, P. Jasikoff, L. Kawczenski, L. Kurkchi, B. Maloney, J. McLaughlin, N. McGourty, G. Messmer, C. Millspaugh, R. Pell, J. Portillo, K. Rourke, J. Wiggins, B. Willers

Excused: A. Morpurgo, M. Humulock, J. Wiggins

Opening Prayer – The Our Father

Minutes from April 12, 2018

Corrections: Gerry will make changes, see e-mail from Jan re: Fellowship report.
K. Carney spoke on 4/21 & 22.
Minutes were accepted with changes mentioned.

Witness Committee (see e-mailed report):

- In sending out the report it was noted that two were returned as incorrect.
- Fill the Bus – Gerry has posters and flyers and 230 bulletin inserts. He will post it at the three churches.
- Tompkins County has an equivalent Day of Caring later in year.
- Tony Magliano guest speaker – no one on PC attended his talk.

Fellowship Committee (see e-mailed report):

- Summer planning meeting scheduled for June 27, Wed., at 6 p.m. at St. Francis. They will be looking at the many feast days coming up and the September parish picnic. “Always fun!”
- Spring Fling report: Approximately it cost \$1600 and the income was \$1900. “Nice affair and good tribute to four women,” said Father.

Word Committee:

- The committee will work on a parish mission; there is no specific time frame yet.
- There was a 6 week retreat offered by Branches, associated with Holy Cross, in the Spring. It had a Marian theme. “Good program.”
- No more information on the summer program other than it runs from Aug. 13–17 at the Friary. Signup needs to be in by June 29.
- No information on a religious education director
- 9 seniors who parishioners are graduating from T^hburg. Should we provide Bibles (done in the past by Women’s Group), or a dinner (also done in the past)? Maybe a letter from Father, through Fellowship committee? TAC was going to have a baccalaureate service but it was discontinued as there was no interest from parents and students. Father suggested that the Worship committee take this up as a project for next year.

Worship Committee:

- EM, sacristan, and lector issues are all under discussion
- Liturgy planning committee plans liturgies and anyone can attend
- Date for parish feast day is Sept. 9. Who takes ownership of the parish plans? In theory the Executive Committee should take on oversight and assign duties to relevant committees. “Sounds good,” said Father.
- Feast days are an example of liturgy planning at work.
- Music ministers have come together and music is now planned out in advance and each church group have selections from which to choose. The selections offered are liturgically correct and consistent across the parish, providing a similar Mass at each church, adding to cohesiveness among the parish.
- Sr. Francis is restarting a prayer chain. Details will be announced in bulletin and Cathy M. will take the lead on it. She would like to add people from all three churches. This chain does not replace the prayer list at St. James or the prayer book at HC. In fact, it was suggested that all three churches should have a prayer intention book like HC. Worship committee will work on how to get prayers from books to web page.

Finance Council:

- David Z., finance manager, does not have a monthly report
- Several projects are in the works including resurfacing the parking lot at St. James, resealing parking lots at HC & St. Francis. HC trim on the house and church needs painting.
- New signs for the three churches, and maybe the cemeteries, will include the parish logo, name, and listing of all Mass times.
- Plans to redo the sacristy at St. Francis are moving forward. Sean Moran, an architect from the diocese, is working on the project. The diocese has agreed to pay half. Asbestos was found in the walls (not the floor), but there is no need for immediate remediation.

Other:

- We need to have an evacuation plan in place and Norm is working on the details. He and Father attended an active shooter presentation by the Seneca County Sheriff Dept. “Run • Hide • Fight” is what they recommended. Someone added “Pray.” There will be a poster in each church.
- The Diocese requires there be an evacuation plan in place for each church. Norm is looking into this and working on a plan on how to get out and defend. He may also work with schools, possibly offering churches as meeting spots or evacuation places. HC already has such a plan in place with South Seneca High School.

Election of New Officers:

Outgoing president, Cathy, thanked everyone for their service to the parish and said it was a good learning experience for her. All three churches have pulled together which was “good to see.” Both she and Father thanked outgoing members: Cathy, Donna, Lydia, and Pam.

Father asked new members to review the packets he had prepared. They are to let the office know of any changes or corrections in their individual contact information.

He reminded everyone that the PC is not a board so votes are never taken. Everyone should feel free to share insights and no one is prohibited from expressing their thoughts. In the end, the pastor has the sole responsibility to make decisions regarding the parish. The parish council is “of counsel,” not a ruling body. Members and alternates should be “visionaries” about what can help the parish.

There are 5 committees directly related to the PC and represent everything about which a parish council should be concerned. It is in everyone’s best interests to make sure that each committee is working well and effectively as they show the parish’s vitality. Visionaries on the 5 main committees are not workers, they need to reach out to the community to pull people in to help on projects, to get involved with projects. Jan and the Fellowship committee are good examples on how this works effectively. Committees are charged with areas of involvement and bring proposals to the PC.

Some things may come up at a PC meeting and then get sent to appropriate committee to work out details and return to PC with a suggested proposal/plan. It is important that the PC members are aware of what is going on in the parish. Are their problems? Concerns?

The goal of a PC meeting is to last no more than 45 minutes. Full members participate in election of officers but alternative members do not, though the latter can participate in nominations. All are allowed 3 unexcused absences before they are asked to step down to be replaced by an alternate. See this spelled out in the PC Guidelines available on the web site and in your packets.

Father and Cathy consulted over nominations made by all and voting on officers proceeded. B. Willers was named chair and G. Frank will be vice chair. K. Rourke volunteered to be secretary and her offer was accepted.

All members were then asked to rank their committee preferences. The new executive group met with Father to discuss everyone’s preferences and came up with the committee assignments, which most if not all getting their first preferences. Committees then met and elected a chair. The results are as follows:

Word Committee: Tim, Laurenda, Andy (chair)
Worship Committee: Jessica, Tom (chair), and Jacqueline
Witness Committee: Leo, Dick, Michelle (chair)
Fellowship Committee: Jan (chair), Scott, Nancy, Susan, Norm

Next meeting: September 13, 2018, at 7:00 pm in the St. Francis Solanus Annex. Meetings are generally the second Thursday of a month.

Closing Prayer: led by Father

Respectfully submitted by K. Rourke