

THE PARISH OF MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY
Minutes for Parish Council Meeting
September 13, 2018

Attending: T. Davis, L. Denmark, T. Duff, G. Frank, S. Guydosh, S. Hamula N. Hummel, Fr. B. Maloney, J. McLaughlin, G. Messmer, A. Morpurgo, R. Pell, K. Rourke, and B. Willers

Excused: M. Humulock, L. Kawczenski, Jackie Leidenfrost, N. McGourty, and J. Portillo

Guest: Lee Anne Fox

Opening Prayer: Father talked about St. John of Chrysostom, whose feast day was today, before leading the council in prayer.

Minutes from June 21, 2018:

Correction: Sean, not Shaun, Moran
Minutes were accepted with change mentioned.

Witness Committee (see e-mailed report):

- The personal care items that are being left at the bank in Interlaken is being picked up by someone in the parish and given to the local food bank.
- Kathleen has agreed to be the St. James representative for the T'burg food bank.

Fellowship Committee (see e-mailed report):

- People had a good time at the picnic and the pulled pork was a big success. Leftovers were saved for future parish events. There were about 45 people there, even though it was very cold weather.
- Father suggested we consider having an Oktoberfest next year with a German band and German food. We should do it at the end of November to avoid conflict with parish picnic in September.
- Is 2020 the 145th anniversary of St. Francis Solanus church? It says 1875 on the building's cornerstone. Needs to be confirmed. Right now it looks like Holy Cross was founded in 1849, St. James in 1859, and St. Francis in 1875.
- The web page is being maintained by Kathleen
- Committee is considering some way to honor Charlotte for her many years of service to the church. Maybe plaque in St. Francis's new sanctuary?

Word Committee (see e-mailed report):

- Not sure who is running the youth group. There is a Fellowship as well as Word component. Does need to be service orientated.
- Mission – no one is presently working on it.
- Religious Education director – Fr. Richard has opted not to fill this position. Person needs to make sure records are accurate and diocesan requirements are being met. Need someone with vision and organizational skills.

- Andy checked with other parishes who have paid DRE people, generally they also cover other duties. Ex: All Saints parish, DRE put in 10-15 hours at \$12-\$15 per hour, includes youth group.
- Possibly Rich Rasmussin, presently in that position (along with other duties) at Immaculate, could help our parish part time? Fr. has been in conversation with Rich, he runs a family-orientated online program. Word committee will work on this ASAP
- The summer program had 20 kids participating. Did it meet requisite 30 hours as per national directives?
- One person has expressed an interest in RCIA and will meet with Father. Father has invited 9 others, people married to Catholics.

Worship Committee (see e-mailed report):

- Discussion about prayer requests books. Are there guidelines from diocese?
- At the time of this meeting, the Worship committee had not yet met but the liturgy committee has been meeting regularly.
- There will be EM meeting to update ministers and review procedures to make sure all three churches are in synch. There will also be similar meetings for lectors.
- Father has asked that the group look into getting a company to clean St. F. and St. J. HC has a team in place to take care of their buildings.

Finance Council (see e-mailed report):

- Collections are down.
- Assets and net revenue are in good shape
- Expenses are down, in part to not having to pay for Fr. Brendan and a reduction for David Z. due to other churches in area now part of his responsibilities and picking up part of the cost of his salary.
- Budget for coming fiscal year is pretty much in place.

Buildings and Grounds:

- The sacristy redo at St. Francis has an architect in place but there is no time frame on when work will be done. The asbestos discovered in the sacristy walls are peeling but should not be an immediate danger if not touched. The floor tiles are broken and should be covered. Father will talk with Sean Moran about people's concerns about entering the room.
 - It was suggested that, with an over abundance of caution, the sacristy materials be taken out of sacristy and placed in a cupboard in annex to avoid people's exposure.
- Father has suggested that air-conditioning to St. Francis church be added on to the sacristy project, partly due to moisture problems in basement.
 - It was pointed out that a dehumidifier, not AC, would best solve moisture problem.
 - A question was raised about whether it was fair to do St. F. and not other 2 churches. "Yes. If it works we will consider other 2."
- New church signs will show all Mass times. These are on order and will be installed soon.

- A contract was signed for painting trim on HC and for resealing blacktop at HC and St. F. St. J. is considering replacing their parking lot.
- St. James had a leak in their rectory roof where it meets Pine Room roof. Rectory roof may need to be replaced. Rectory porch is being replaced.

Father's Report:

- Three years ago St. J. collections were down \$6K. This year all three churches are down \$7k.
- Expenses have been maintained or reduced.
- Operational income comes from other things, not just collections, and that is up 5%. David Z. is working on a report of all this for parishioners.
- How to ask for money? Pastor at St. Catherine's was blunt about what was needed.
- Decrease in attendance is possibly blowback from universal Church problems leading to a "difficult funding environment" for coming year or two.
- A suggestion was made that there be an event fund drive and a need to plan ahead with fund drives for major capital improvement projects. Finance council will look into this suggestion.

New Business:

- Evangelization is needed. The church exists for the purpose of inviting people to make Jesus known so people will enter into a relationship with Him. How best to let people know that they are welcomed into the Kingdom of God? Starting out with how to get Catholics back into church? And how to keep more people from leaving our church?
- Outreach is tough. Culture/society of today does not encourage attendance in church, "we don't belong," people don't want to make a commitment. We have a mission to make people aware of Jesus.
- Problems of Church in Pennsylvania will soon be in NYS. Should the Church be held to a higher standard than other organizations?
- We need to concentrate on the importance of the People of God, with a focus on the young people. Reaching out to them is crucial, we need to get them "excited and interested."
- Can we ask young people to be lectors once they are confirmed as a way to get young people involved? Worship committee will look into this.
- Evangelization comes under Word committee.

Next meeting: We will skip October and our next meeting will be Nov. 8 [later changed to Nov. 15], at 7:00 pm in the St. Francis Solanus annex. Meetings are generally the second Thursday of a month.

Closing Prayer: "Our Father" led by Fr. Bernard.

Respectfully submitted by K. Rourke