

Mary, Mother of Mercy
Parish Council Meeting of 1/10/2019

Present: Fr. Bernard, Barbara Willers, Gerry Frank, Richard Pell, Kathleen E. Rourke, Scott Hamula, Janice McLaughlin, Andrew Morpurgo, Leo Kawczynski, Laurenda Denmark, Norm Hummel, Tom Duff, Tim Davis, Nancy McGourty, Susan Guydosh,

Excused: Michelle Humulock and Jacqueline Leidenfrost

Absent: Jessica Portillo and Gerard Messmer

Opening Prayer: led by Fr. Bernard

Minutes: The minutes for the September 13, 2018, meeting were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

Witness Committee (outreach, social action) report by Gerry Frank:

Their next meeting is May 14 but people are presently working in between meetings on the following activities:

- Souper Bowl event in all 3 churches
- Backpack program for school systems (Romulus, South Seneca, Trumansburg)

Reminder that anytime there is a collection of money, needs to be processed as we do regular collections. All checks should be made out to the parish, with the purpose of check written in memo line.

Fellowship committee (social activity and communication) report by Jan McLaughlin:

- The pulled pork on All Saints Day was well received.
- Nothing else is presently being planned but Father suggested a spring/fall event should be considered

Word committee (education and evangelization) report by Andy Morpurgo:

- In October Rich Rasmussen, pastoral/catechetical leader at Immaculate in Ithaca, was invited to do a presentation re: web based religious education program via an interactive web program. Committee asked him to do this program in our parish. The program began here in Nov. 2018 with monthly social events that include parents and students. There are 25 students involved and it seems to work well with our parish community. The committee may consider other, similar, options next year. Rich is our temporary DRE but is not committed to next year. The Word committee will continue to evaluate how it is going. Andy met with the students while preparing for Christmas. Many seem to like the new program.
- We need to do more to thank teachers from previous years.
- First communion is a two-year program with only one student.

- There are eight confirmation students from two grades but only one session, combining the grades into one group. The ceremony will be on May 16 at Immaculate Conception.
- RCIA has six people, three are confirmed Catholics who are attending for the education. They meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at St. James.

Worship committee (liturgy) report by Tom Duff:

- They are working on the language for a privacy note for the prayer request books (ex: no last names).
- Geii.org provided us with prayer cards in each of the churches
- Still need to work on cantors, liturgy committee, and music director.

Christmas Mass schedule:

- St. James had over 250 people; the 8:00 p.m. Vigil Mass at Holy Cross was well-attended and had exceptional music
- Suggestion that we have 3 vigil Masses, one at each church, next year. Committee was asked to consider this and report back to PC.

Jan. 1 Holy Day:

- People are complaining about all the Masses at one church. Committee will review their comments and make recommendation.
- Generally we do have one Holy day Mass at each church, exception this year for New Year's holiday. Explanation needs to be provided to congregation via bulletin and priest announcement.

Finance Council:

The Finance council will be meeting later this month. No report at this time.

Other Business:

Construction progressing on St. F. sacristy, the handyman the parish hired on a 30 hrs. a month basis for regular jobs is doing the reconstruction as a separate job. Father is pleased with his work and efforts to save the parish money, "very good person, conscientious." He did contact the asbestos people and will cover involved sections in wall and floor so asbestos is totally contained.

A woman was hired to do cleaning at St. Fr. at \$18 per hour. She may possibly also do St. James. Right now St. J. has hired a cleaning company for all buildings on campus at \$50 per hour.

Collections: "Serious problem" as the amount is decreasing each year. The last FC meeting showed the collections down over \$11,000 from previous year. Fewer people coming to church part of problem, other may be recent scandals in world church. Ithaca churches are also seeing drop in their collections. FC will look at the parish collections

tally and consider options. One question will be what we are receiving in meeting our ordinary expenses? As per the CMA, last year we went above our goal, so far we have reached 80% of this year's goal (which is lower than last year's). Fewer people are giving more to CMA.

New business:

- Lent and Ash Wednesday are coming up. Father asked the worship committee to meet this month to discuss Lenten items.
- The chair of the liturgy committee has resigned. Previously he coordinated music selections from each church so that all three churches were doing the same music. Presently not happening so will need to rethink process and committee members involved.
- It was suggested that we get the *Word Among Us*, a full size booklet for .20¢ more than what we had at Advent. We could put out basket next to book asking for contributions, \$1 suggested. Another suggestion was that we have a discussion of the Holy Week book written by Pope Benedict. Word committee will consider both of these suggestions.
- It was requested that we have a mission over Lent but Father said we are not ready for one.
- Father's vacation is from the end of January to the beginning of March (he will be back just in time for Ash Wednesday). Fr. John Mellitt, OFM Cap., will be in to cover for him and work with Fr. Richard (as much as he is available) to meet needs of parishioners.
- Any one who is homebound just needs to ask Father for a visit with the Eucharist. He tries to visit each person once a month.

"What will bring people back to the pews?" Need to bring structured suggestions back to next PC meeting, consider forming a separate subcommittee?

Closing prayer: Glory Be

Next meeting dates: Mar. 14, April 11, and June 13

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke