

Mary, Mother of Mercy

Parish Council Meeting of 3/14/2019

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

Guest: Le Anne Fox

Excused: Scott Hamula, Michelle Humulock, Gerard Messmer

Absent: Jessica Portillo, Nancy McGourty, Jacqueline Leidenfrost

Opening Prayer: Fr. Bernard gave us a commentary on today's reading

Minutes: The minutes for the January 10, 2019, meeting were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

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

- Food donated in the annex at St. Francis is to be moved to the Interlaken food bank.
- T'Burg's backpack program – there is no information available to the committee on what was collected.
- Money collected for any reason has specific diocesan procedures that must be followed.
- No extra collections may be taken up without prior permission from the bishop

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

- Jan is doing well with her recovery and thanks everyone for their prayers.
- There will be a dinner on Saturday, 3/16, in honor of St. Patrick. It will be free but open to gift offerings. Money so collected will follow procedures for safeguarding and recording of donations. There will also be a social after Mass at St. James.
- Feast days after Easter include: Ascension Thursday on May 30, St. Francis feast day on July 14, St. James feast day on July 25, Assumption on August 15, Holy Cross feast day on Sept. 14
- Parish picnic at Friary will be on Sunday, 9/8. Conversation about including a celebration to honor Fr. Bernard's fiftieth anniversary of being a priest (actual anniversary date is Nov. 8)
- Committee will be meeting to discuss all feast days and picnic. They are open to suggestions and remind us there is still some pulled pork available.
- Father suggested parish have an Oktoberfest event. Discussion regarding that or supporting the German Fest at Lucas Winery by inviting parishioners to attend. It is always held on the third Sunday of September.
- Last year Andy provided an Easter egg hunt at St. James. People thought this was a good idea and an item announcing it will be put in bulletin before Easter weekend.

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

- Pentecost is June 9 and there is one person who will be confirmed that day.
- First penance will be sometime during Lent, there is one child participating
- Confirmation will be at Immaculate Conception in Ithaca on May 16 with six kids from our parish
- Committee will be meeting in April to discuss how religious education program went this year. Rich said he can't be our director next year.
- Father says we need a new education director and will meet with word committee to help create a proposal for PC to discuss

Worship committee (liturgy) report by Tom Duff:

- Update on liturgy planning committee: basically their purpose is the music used in the liturgies, which is a specialized skill. Mark Sinkowitz has pulled back from the committee and Joan Gelatt has taken on task of chair with a "very directive approach." She has also taken on a leadership role, gratis, at St. James and has been accepted by the group there.
- Ash Wednesday services were 9 a.m. at St. James, and ecumenical service at HC in evening. Both were well attended.
- Prayer request books: discussion about pros and cons of people using last names. Final suggestion was to add language: "if use last name, please get permission first." Committee will discuss further.
- Father working on sending out a listing of procedures for lectors. Committee will review at their next meeting.
- Holy days through May do not have any special liturgical requirements.
- Pascal candles: Father will be checking on status at each church. Suggestion was made to have all three church candles in procession at Vigil. This will be discussed by committee.

Finance Council (report by LeAnne Fox):

- Spending is down as are collections and attendance. We are not meeting our ordinary expenses. This will be summed up in Feb. bulletin.
- Parish is no longer supporting cemeteries.
- We need to encourage people to give more.
- CMA has reached over 80% of our parish goal, with 105 out of 386 households contributing.
- It is not unique to our parish that there is a downturn in collections and attendance. There is a general lack of trust in society for churches, especially Catholic Church, these days.
- We have to reset our priorities.
- As regards Building and Grounds:
 - There will be no air conditioning for St. Francis or St. James
 - Sacristy rebuild at St. Francis is ongoing; grant from diocese will pay half
 - Painting at Holy Cross, about \$10k, also help from Diocese
 - Garage at Holy Cross – still uncertain what needs to be done
 - Rectory roof at St. James may need to be redone, one leak so far
 - St. James parking lot needs to be repaved, diocese will contribute \$10k, getting new bids for work to be done this summer

- Of the surplus of funds we had set aside for building projects when we merged, just what was in savings (not principle investments), more than half has been used or appropriated for general maintenance and the projects listed above.

New business:

- People in the Pews discussion:
 - "How to get people in pews is beyond purview of this council."
 - "We have a responsibility to try and make Mass as vibrant as possible," get youth involved in special Masses
 - "Our job is to work on our environment to create a vibrant experience."
 - Suggestion that the Fellowship and Worship committees work to create a liturgy just for young people, as a small step forward. Would be good if there was a way to get youth group restarted.
 - Church Facebook page is fairly new, needs to be promoted among congregation. Susan willing to work on that and Instagram page for parish.
 - "People in the Pews" Subcommittee to be formed to discuss how best to get people back into church: Members who volunteered include Tim, Norm, Scott, Kathleen, Barbara, and Andy.
- Mission discussion:
 - Preference mentioned for a 2 night mission for Advent or Lent
 - We haven't had a mission for over 2 years.
 - Suggestion that we make it ecumenical, open to whole community, not just our parishioners. Pope JP II talked about a new evangelization, thinking of work of apostles, making people aware of Jesus and his good news, not about church buildings
 - Society needs this
 - We as parish need to take this on, to make people aware of Jesus Christ
 - Focus on whole community, not just parish

Reminders:

We need to start thinking about who will be on next PC.

Next meeting dates: April 11, and June 13

Closing prayer: Glory Be

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke