

## **Mary, Mother of Mercy**

### **Parish Council Meeting of 4/11/2019**

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

**Excused:** Michelle Humulock and Norm Hummell

**Absent:** Jacqueline Leidenfrost and Gerry Messmer

**Opening Prayer:** Fr. Bernard read today's Gospel with commentary and prayer

**Minutes:** The minutes for the March 14, 2019, meeting were accepted as written.

#### **Committee Reports:**

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

- There are flyers posted and a bulletin announcement was made about a diocesan social ministry conference
- T'burg – we need someone from St. James to stay in communication with the committee as it is too difficult with different counties and different Catholic Charities. Kathleen is on the steering committee for the T'burg food pantry and can be contacted for T'burg information.
- There will be a collection of personal care products in all three churches in May. What is contributed will be shared with our local food pantries.
- The committee received an e-mail from Eileen Heptic, parish business manager, about church collection for "Souper Bowl" of caring at St. Francis. We need to stay in compliance with diocese guidelines about collecting money.
- Jan will take care of any food dropped off at St. F. and will make sure it gets to the food pantry.

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

- Holy Day socials are being taken care of by committee
- Easter Egg hunt at St. J was a success with thanks to Andy
- They are looking for ideas for the parish picnic. Father would prefer it be a celebration of his 50th anniversary (saves \$) but could use some help from parishioners in getting it organized and implemented. Tent & band & dance floor as "celebrations need dancing and music." Expecting about 100+ parishioners, family, friends from former parishes. Discussion about using Americana, T. Farms, Belhurst Castle, or Lucas Winery. The date is September 8 with details to be worked out by FC and Fellowship. Some discussion about making sure parish picnic is not lost in this as the picnic was intended to be a unifying event for the parish.
- Youth Group – Andy says they are trying to get it started but need someone to get it going. Youth group is intended for high school students after confirmation, to keep them engaged. Suggestion made to reach out to parents. Discussion about whether a youth group leader is required to be trained at St. Bernard's (30 hours)? Youth

group has energy and draws people in and is missing in our parish. Possibly include middle school students and friends?

- People in the pews subcommittee has not yet met. Tim will call the committee to meet, but not commit to being chair
- Suzy is getting social media up and running via Instagram and Facebook. Great job!
- Lifetouch wants to do a church directory. Need someone to take it on.

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

- They are reviewing plans for next year, looking at challenges and drawing no conclusions yet other than it should be an online program like this year (modules 2x a month, once a month in person).
- Rich Rasmussen will not be able to continue with our parish next year. We paid him so whoever coordinates it next year should also be paid, as there is a lot to do and a lot of responsibility. Job description is fluid. Need someone to organize it and administer it and to figure out what program to use or what curriculum (grades 1–7, based on USCCB guidelines). May use 3 volunteers, a good core of people, to split duties and to coordinate different parts of program. Will be web-based involving students and parents working together. “Parents, not church, are responsible for educating their children.”
- Helen Arco is one of the rel. ed. teachers and has been helpful.
- Jen who spearheaded the summer program has moved to SC. Not sure if there will be a summer program this year.
- Unclear why Youth Group person would need 30 hour of training if Rel. Ed. Coordinator does not.
- All volunteers in the church need to take SAFE class provided by diocese.
- A parish mission has not been discussed by the committee. It was suggested that it be for just two nights. See recent examples in Dryden/Groton/Lansing with Bishop Emer. Clark.
- Might we have a women’s retreat weekend, with a charge to attend, fundraising, possibly use Canandaigua retreat center or Branches in Lodi? It could be on Friday PM, Saturday, and Sunday with sessions and activities. Jessica would help coordinate if committee agrees and Andy suggested she investigate and get more details.

Worship committee (liturgy) report by Tom Duff:

- Palm Sunday, Holy week, and Easter are all covered, though some ministers are still needed.
- Letter to lectors still in process
- Sanctuary and Pascal candles: can’t find adaptor to get larger candle into stand at St. James. Easter candles have been ordered. A couple of people will keep an eye on the St. F. sanctuary candle to make sure it stays lit. Some discussion about ease of candle vs. oil.

**Finance Council:**

- Father thanked everyone for their comments on the finance letter. He is working on a new version.

- Our ordinary income is not meeting our ordinary expenditures
- CMA: we went over goal, keeps us from the expense of making up the difference, plus we get some back. Some discussion about why our CMA is over and our collections are down.
- Father thinks the lack of collection money is largely due to decrease in attendance. For example, in one church there used to be over a 100 is now down to 80 or 90. Loss of people=loss of income. Need to push online giving more. Father will reach out to people not in attendance but who remain "good" Catholics. People in Pews subcommittee comes under worship or Fellowship? (see Fellowship above)

#### **Building and Grounds:**

- When the parish merged we had \$150k in savings and \$300k in Communis funds. The \$150k was put aside to take care of needed building maintenance. This is now down to \$90k but still more projects to be done:
  - HC - painting \$15k, house-\$5-6k, Garage - ?
  - St.F. – sacristy, \$26k, diocese chipping in about \$14k
  - St.J. – Parking lot and sidewalks, \$46-50k, diocese will help with maybe \$10k
- Anything over \$30k needs diocese approval
- Our expenses are down from last year but also \$11k less income than last year.

#### **New business:**

- PC Membership: Jessica will not stay on PC, 4 others have terms ending. Barbara is only one of them who will continue for a second term. If an alternate stays on (as Nancy has agreed to do) they automatically get a 3 year term. New officers will be elected at our next meeting.
- A suggestion was made that the pastor hold office hours at St. J. and HC. Even if only an hour after the Tuesday and Thursday Masses. Need to make it known so people can stop by. Also need to push that people can call and ask to speak with a priest. This was referred to the fellowship committee as it involves communication.
- Need to come up with a system to clarify mass intentions for live people vs. those who are deceased.
- Parish ministry fair has been done in the past, referred to worship and fellowship committees. Suggestion that it be combined with a social to recognize volunteers.

#### **Reminders:**

Next meeting: June 13 at 7:00 p.m. including both old and new members.  
 Father reminded us to rejoice in the people who are involved in our parish.

**Closing prayer:** Our Father.

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke*