

Mary, Mother of Mercy
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of 6/13/2019

Present: Tim Davis, Laurenda Denmark, Tom Duff, Gerry Frank, Susan Guydosh, Scott Hamula, Leo Kawczynski, Fr. Bernard Maloney, Nancy McGourty, Gerry Messmer, Andrew Morpurgo, Charles Mullins, Richard Pell, Tommy Perry, Kathleen Rourke, Lynne Stager, and Barbara Willers

Excused: Janice McLaughlin, Michelle Humulock, and Norm Hummell

Absent: Mark Albanese, Jacqueline Leidenfrost, and Jessica Portillo

Opening Prayer: Fr. Bernard provided us with commentary on today's saint, St. Anthony of Padua, and led us in prayer of thanksgiving for the saint's inspiration.

Minutes: The minutes for the April 11, 2019, meeting were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

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

- The committee is working on getting more involved with Tompkins County and Trumansburg community. It would help if St. James had someone able to attend the committee or let them know what is going on.
- K. Rourke said she could be available if the committee had any questions about Trumansburg. Meanwhile they will try and recruit someone from St. James to be on their committee.

Fellowship committee (social activity and communication):

- Janice has socials planned for summer holy days, including feast days for St. James and St. Francis
- A subcommittee has been formed to work on the celebration of Father's fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. Phyllis Motill and Kathy Sinkiewicz are co-chairs.
- Subcommittee will be working on costs, etc. and there will be future opportunities for more people to help out.

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

- Three people applied for the religious education coordinator and Susan Guydosh has been hired to work with the word committee in this capacity.
- Aiden Grove made his First Communion on the first Sunday in June
- Confirmation was on May 16 at Immaculate Conception in Ithaca. All passed and there was a beautiful ceremony with the bishop and a full altar. "Wonderful to see."
- Tim has reviewed various catechism programs. CatechismClass.com seems the most workable and meet USCCB requirements.
- Some questions: Is Rich's content proprietary? Is the content for K-7 or 1-8?
- It may be preferable to use a topic approach, not grade specific or a mix of both. Tim will continue looking at options with new coordinator.

- Are we charging for religious education? Yes, mainly for cost of materials. No one will be denied due to lack of funds. Consider a “scholarship fund”?
- Will there be something for kids just confirmed? Possibly a youth group for high school students but need someone to lead it. Right now there isn’t anyone.
- Presently 20 students are in our religious education program.

Worship committee (liturgy) report by Tom Duff:

- A document was sent out as a refresher on procedures for lectors.
- Working on getting EMs to be more on time and report to sacristan
- Easter and Holy week were fine
- People in Pews committee still needs to meet. Will involve all PC committee.

Finance Council:

- Contributions are generally down, mainly due to lack of attendance. People who come are giving, but need to get people who are Catholics to come/return to church.
- Diocese will probably declare bankruptcy as statute of limitations is lifted for abuse cases. A certain amount will be put aside to settle abuse claims
- It should be noted that donation to parish stay in parish. Savings in the Communis fund is ours, not diocese, so can’t be touched by lawsuits against the diocese.
- All of this will result in more bad PR which will make it more difficult to get people into church. Makes People in the Pews committee is all that more important and crucial.

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 \$80k but still more projects to be done:
 - HC - painting \$15k, house-\$5-6k, Garage - ?
 - St.F. – sacristy, over \$26k, diocese may chip in about \$14k
 - St.J. – Parking lot and sidewalks, \$46-50k, village refused to help with sidewalk expense
 - The \$150 is now down to \$80K.
- Expenses overall have dropped, due in part to merge. Income is not meeting these expenses and so the building fund mentioned above is now being tapped to meet ordinary expenses.

New business:

- Prolife Center in Geneva is interested in using the Holy Cross rectory 2 x a week as a place for providing education for people, particularly young women, in need of assistance. See letter in packet you were provided at start of the meeting.
- Father and diocese thinks this is a “great program.” There is a 60% poverty rate in Ovid, which is part of their reason for needing an office in town. Having high school next door is also crucial.
- They will bring their own insurance and will follow diocese guidelines.
- The minimal rent is \$75 a month
- Council expressed a widespread approval for this use of the rectory in Ovid.

- Suggestion about alternative Mass times was referred to Worship committee

New Council:

- Norm, Jessica, and Michelle were all thanked for their service in the previous year on the Council.
- Father reminded new council that the parish council is not a voting body. “You are ‘of counsel’ to pastor.” All decision making rests with the pastor. Members are asked to be visionary and bring ideas and concepts to the parish council meeting.
- PC members are not the workers. The ideal is to reach out to pull in others to work together on committee teams. Constantly reaching out will get more parishioners involved. A good example is the worship committee reading out to involve musicians, lectors, EMs, etc. Committees can have members who are not on PC.
- Each member has a three-year term with a 1-year term for alternates. Alternates are important participants in the council’s deliberations.
- Council committees are involved in every parish and should involve every parishioner. Word provides evangelization, bringing people in; Worship works on the liturgy for once they are here; Outreach takes our work out into the greater community; Fellowship pulls together all community members.
- By church law, each parish must have a finance council. Our bishop also requires a parish council.
- How to tell if a parish is vibrant? Look to the work of the 5 committees.
- See handout of the responsibilities under each committee. Everything that happens in the parish comes under the purview of at least one committee. Ex: Youth group – could go under Word, or Witness, ended up under Fellowship.
- The committees’ responsibilities are to send in a brief report on their activities/deliberations prior to each PC meeting. During the meeting, rather than repeat their report, they should be prepared to answer questions about what was in the report and be open to the PC discussions and referral of new proposals.
- PC doesn’t need to be involved in committee work, but should be aware of what is going on. PC can send proposals to appropriate committee for their further discussion and /or action and report.
- The goal of each PC meeting to only take 45 minutes and it is not necessary that the PC meet every month.
- New council members submitted nomination for officers. While ballots were being counted there was an informal discussion about inviting younger people (newly confirmed) to be lectors and otherwise engaged in the parish (i.e.: altar servers). Lectors need to be confirmed, altar servers can serve after their First Communion.
- Results of nominations and elections: Barbara Willers for chair and Gerry Frank for vice chair. Kathleen Rourke volunteered to continue as secretary and her offer was accepted by council members.
- There was a recommendation to have next year’s closing meeting at Friary (with wine).
- Committee appointments:
 Word: Susan Guydosh, Andrew Morpurgo (chair), Tim Davis, and Laurenda Denmark
 Fellowship: Scott Hamula, Nancy McGourty, Janice McLaughlin (chair)

Worship: Tom Duff (chair), Mark Albanese, Charles Mullins, and Jackie Leidenfrost
Witness: Richard Pell, Leo Kawczenski (chair), Lynne Stager, and Tommy Perry

- Reminder: Be sure to let pastor know about committee meetings so he may attend.
- Next PC meeting dates: September 12 and November 14, 2019; January 9, March 12, May 14, and June 11, 2020.

Closing prayer: Our Father.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke