

**Mary, Mother of Mercy**  
**Parish Council Meeting of 5/12/2022 ~ Minutes**

**Present:** Tim Davis, Tom Duff, Gerry Frank, Scott Hamula, Leo Kawczynski, Fr. Bernard Maloney, Andrew Morpurgo, Charles Mullins, Richard Pell, Kathleen Rourke, Donna Ryan, Br. Francisco Serrano, Lynne Stager, Barbara Willers, and Marty Woledge

**Not Present:** Mark Albanese (excused), Laurenda Denmark (excused), Bill Masterson, Jacqueline Leidenfrost, and Susan Guydosh

**Opening Prayer:**

Br. Fransico led us in an opening prayer of thanksgiving and a request that the Holy Spirit provide guidance for our discussions.

**Minutes:**

The minutes for the Council's meeting on March 10, 2022, with one deletion and clarification, were approved as amended.

**Word (evangelization and education) Committee report** *(see also written report)*

- There was a suggestion of having "tutors" to visit families.
- USCCB puts out the curriculum, grade based, with each grade having an area of emphasis, "spiral learning."
  - We are not big enough to have kids in each grade
  - Some discussion followed about whether or not it is better to have parents do the instruction, if so, how?
- What worked this year is a Zoom review by Br. Francisco with parents who were doing the teaching.
- One family's kids go down to Ithaca with their friends.
- Richard in Ithaca has too much going on to come here to teach. When he did help with our instructions he had weekly assignments with a meeting once a month.
- It is sad that families are not making faith important. This may be partly due to our aging congregation and societal reality.
- It is an ongoing and challenging problem. "All we can do is offer it [religious education]."

**Worship (liturgy) Committee report:** *(see also written report)*

- The girl receiving her first communion at St. James will place flowers before the BVM statue at the end of Mass. Her first communion will be this Sunday.
- There will be a rosary said before Mass for the next 3 weeks.
- An invitation for musicians will be appearing in the bulletin.
  - At HC, all Masses have musicians.
  - At St. J, two thirds of Sundays have an organist with rotating cantors
  - At St.F. there is only an organist

**Witness (outreach) Committee report:**

- The committee has not met since our last PC meeting.
- The committee asks that there be a verbal announcement at Mass the week before the food pantry collection in Trumansburg on the second Sunday.
  - Should there be a collection box? Right now Gerry sets up table with sign.

- Even a little once a month is important. Bring whatever you can.
- A notice about supporting the Tompkins County Workers' Collaboration for worker's rights and a fair "living wage" will be placed in the bulletin.

**Fellowship (social) Committee report:**

- The fellowship committee had not met recently.
- Some discussion followed about a summer/fall social.
- If we want to resume social gatherings after weekend Masses a person will need to be identified as the host at each church.
- HC will have their usual Pentecost social on June 5.
- The parish picnic will resume on the second Sunday in September.
- There will be a social evening for young adults (21-45) on Pentecost Sunday. It will be free of charge due to a generous donor.
  - E-vites will be sent to everyone in parish who has e-mail.
  - The goal is to bring this younger group back to church.
  - Inviting people to events is not necessarily limited to Catholics.
  - Provides a good opportunity to ask why they don't come to church?
- The why is not just related to the Catholic Church. There is a part of our society that is not concerned about faith.
- Many of the younger generation has a spiritual faith, but is not interested in institutional church. How to reach them?
- This is a complicated subject and a lot of discussion followed. The suggestion was made that we consider dedicating a PC meeting next year to this topic.

**Operations Update:** *(see also written report)*

- Brief review of the financial statement, prepared in part by Rebecca Pizzirusso, along with buildings and grounds report and CMA Appeal update.
- Mass attendance numbers are sent to the diocese every weekend. Some downward trends noticed. While numbers are no longer listed in bulletin, it would be nice for the PC to have the numbers.

**Other Business:**

- There are 5 PC terms ending this year.
- K. Rourke has completed two terms and will need to take the required "gap" year. Tim thanked her for her many years on the council and for being secretary through his term as chair.
- Tom Duff is moving out of the parish before his term is completed.
- So far 3 nominations have been received. Our present alternates have the option to have full 3 year terms and each "would be great additions to the Council."
- Our next meeting will be on June 9 at the boathouse. Newly elected members will be invited to join us. Someone suggested donating wine for the meeting.
- Lynn and Tim will not be able to attend the next meeting and will be listed as excused.

**Closing prayer:**

"Our Father"

*Respectfully submitted by Kathleen E. Rourke*