

St Joseph's Church Parish Council

Minutes

November 14, 2016

6:30-8:00 PM

Present: Robert Vertucci, Will Mathewson, Al Thompson, Julie Bressette, Dave Kaminski, Lorraine Pigula, Heidi Stemkoski, John Sullivan, Lou Lamphere, Mike Filipski, Jamie Klaben, Charlene Hart, Griffin Sasso

Excused: Rev Peter Worn, Nancy Light, Mikayla MacDougall, Ken Schank

6:30 PM Call to Order

- I. Opening Prayer: Julie Bressette

- II. Approve Parish Council Minutes
 - Electronic vote - 9 votes to approve as written
 - No corrections received
 - Approved

Going forward, each member will receive Minutes via email, will have 3-5 days for review, will respond to the recorder with either corrections or acknowledgement of agreement. If no response is given it will be assumed the response was in agreement.

- D III. Parish Committee Reports
 - Building and Grounds - Will Mathewson

Projects:

1- WiFi has been installed at cost of under \$6000. The installation of the camera will proceed as soon as ordered parts arrive.

2- Apple Roofing is presently working on the roof of the Parish Center. Asbestos abatement is needed and has been started. Total cost is a little over \$100,000. Should take another 1.5 weeks.

3- Will go ahead with a separated/private rear entrance to rectory living quarters at cost of not more than \$4,000. Will use cost savings methods to keep cost low.

4-on the Priority List but having no in hand cash to proceed includes: resurfacing parking lot areas, siding on the Parish Center. Also includes replacing Church carpeting, tiles/finishing flooring under pews, replacing the rug with tile in the gathering space.

IV. Old Business

1- Pastoral Care Area Update - Heidi Stemkoski

PCA meeting was held. Ken Schrank, Susan Ross, Heidi Stemkoski, and Fr Peter Worn attended from St Joseph's.

All priests in PCA attended along with many support lay persons.

Priests each reviewed the history of each of their parishes- successes and struggles.

Some pairs of parishes have already begun to work closely together; for example a joint ebulletin sent out on Thursdays, parish of St Michael/St Peter had a "meet and greet" gathering with their partner St Francis Xavier to begin a close working relationship.

General impression was the parishes in our PCA have a wide range of sizes, challenges, strengths, and resources.

Holy Family's two priests attended but their lay leadership was not able to attend.

Some possible initiatives to consider: have a joint calendar of Mass times and activities in the PCA, a PCA website for each PCA with interconnected links (possible help from the Diocese)

Heidi would like to organize a "meet and greet" between St Joseph's and Holy Family to start some conversations about future collaborations. Dates will be discussed with Fr Peter and staff and brought to the Parish Council.

Next meeting is scheduled for May.

A current joint venture between Holy Family and St Joseph's is Saturday morning men's group held in "Cry Room" at Holy Family at 7 AM. 20-25 men attend,

opportunity to both have faith fellowship and connect with each other about events.

Holy Family Parish has been reduced to 2 priests and they have decided to offer one daily Mass rather than two. The Holy Family schedule change will take place the first week of Advent. The scheduling is coordinated with St Joseph's present schedule on four days of the week.

Monday 6:45 - Holy Family

9:00/9:30 - St Joseph's

Tuesday 6:30 - St Joseph's

9:00 - Holy Family

Wednesday 6:45 - Holy Family

9:00/9:30 - St Joseph's

Thursday 6:30 - St Joseph's

9:00 - Holy Family

Under consideration at St Joseph's is a change from our regular 9:30 Daily Mass to a 9:00 daily Mass on Monday and Wednesday. This would be less confusing between the two parishes and may allow for more flexibility in funeral scheduling. One parish council member had asked two 9:30 "regulars" their opinion about the change and both of those individuals were in agreement with the proposed change. No change is proposed for the 6:30 daily Mass on Tuesday and Thursday because individuals who go directly to work from Mass would be adversely affected. Parish Council supports the change in daily Mass time to 9:00 AM beginning the first week of Advent.

It is possible that St Joseph's daily Mass be relocated to the main church if the numbers of attendees is greater than the Upper Room can accommodate. That will be determined as we go forward.

2- Harvest Festival - Julie Bressette/Dave Kaminski

The Festival changed a lot. It is very much a family event. Timing around Halloween allowed for children and adults to wear costumes.

No tent was needed as the location was changed to the gym in the Parish Center.

Donations lowered the cost of the event. It is not a fundraiser so prices could be kept very low. There was a surplus of about \$200. NCYC raffled off donated baskets which netted them about \$750.

A rough estimate of how many people attended was 300.

One question/possible consideration - this year the Festival was held on Sunday after the 11 Mass, perhaps a consideration of having it held Saturday evening after the 4:30 Mass.

3- St Joseph's 50th Anniversary Celebration Update -

No information available at this meeting

4- Homebound Ministries Update

No information available at this meeting.

5- Human Development Update

No information available at this meeting

V. New Business

1- 2016 Road Show (coordinated by Office of Pastoral Planning)

Will Mathewson/Bob Vertucci

Held by the Diocese on 10-17. Bob Vertucci, Will Mathewson, Fr Peter Worn attended.

Catholic Charities presented. They have multiple community outreach/ human development parts including residential, emergency, mental health, employment, elderly care, etc.

Their funding comes from government grants, Hope Appeal, and donations.

Each county highlighted their present community concerns which included Opioid Addictions, Rural poverty, and a large number of persons in all communities needing assistance.

This was an informational gathering. No real follow up is needed.

VI. Share Parishioners' Feedback

1-Several members shared that they had very positive feedback about the Parish Mission presenter- Fr Kevin MacDonald and the Mission itself. Mentioned was how an native English speaker is easier to understand for many people.

2- question about Mass intentions. How is it communicated to the family of the person the Mass is for? And can a communication before the Mass offer that family the opportunity to participate? , for example bringing the gifts up. If that is offered would it be an announcement by the presider mention "The Family of.... will bring the gifts from east/north/south"

3- a couple of positive comments about the new finance information in the bulletin. It gives better snapshot look at our financial situation.

4- a Parish Council member was a greeter at one of the Mission nights and noted that a smiling greeter was a welcome addition to the gathering helping people feel welcome.

5- refreshments after Mass are welcome and numbers of participants seem to be increasing.

6- a personal note of how grateful one of the Council members was for our pastor's warmth and welcoming attitude during the recent funeral of his son. Family felt very welcome and the funeral Mass was beautiful, including the music. He was very appreciative of the church community.

7- Cathedral Restoration Fund comes at a time when our parish has several large budget items that need to be addressed. There is no assessment by the Diocese but they are grateful for any donations.

8- two liturgical ministers mentioned that it may be a good idea if there is update trainings so the everyone involved in those ministries are doing similar things. A Liturgy Committee member reports that there are two days scheduled for December 3 and 4

9- an "Evangelization Toolbox of Ideas" is available from the Diocese which lists many activities/ministries from around the Diocese. May be a good place to look for ideas for St Joseph's.

10- Should members of Parish Committees be noted in the bulletin/on the website/on the bulletin boards? And if the Committees take Minutes could/should those Minutes be published as Parish Council's are to promote more communication and more transparency in the Parish.

11- regarding volunteering- the parish is large and very busy. Volunteers have expressed some frustration lack of communication. Fr Peter is one person with

huge responsibilities - he cannot answer every question, solve every problem, or anticipate every contingency. If the budget allows he could use an assistant to take responsibility for some of non clerical parts of the parish.

12- discussion about how to encourage more active participation in all areas of the parish by a wide range of individuals. Are we trying to balance gender participation in Committees, liturgies? What would help people want to volunteer? The traditional sign up sheet is a simple listing but does not tell anything about the opportunity. Possible improvements- sheet broken down into more manageable parts; having a contact person for each ministry/opportunity who can answer questions and resolve problems; more specifics about each opportunity; what the commitment entails in time, effort, any specific qualifications; have a book and/or a section on the website that offers further description with links if appropriate; ask for specific help via bulletin/website.

VII. Pastor's Comments - via Bob Vertucci

- a. Parish Mission with Fr. Kevin MacDonald went quite well. His individual talks, though short, were well received.
- b. Hope Appeal assessment was met. Many thanks for the sacrifice and generosity of those who contributed.
- c. Cathedral Restoration Drive's results will be reported when received
- d. Religious Ed seems to be going along well. Our numbers are up. The monthly Children's Mass had a good start at a 4:30 Mass in October with 2nd graders. We are having one soon with grades 4 and 5.
- e. We will again distribute a book to parishioners at the Christmas Masses- Resisting Happiness by Matthew Kelly. We would like greeters at the Masses to distribute the books
- f. Christmas Masses will be Christmas Eve Pageant 3:45 followed by Mass, Mass at 6:15PM and 10:30PM. Christmas Day at 10 AM only.
- g. Holy Family parish, which is down to 2 priests from 4, has decided to go with one daily Mass effective the beginning of Advent. They will "piggyback" off our schedule. Presently we have daily Mass at 9:30 AM on Monday and Wednesday and 6:30 AM on Tuesday and Thursday. Holy Family will have 6:45 AM on Monday and Wednesday and 9 AM Mass on Tuesday and Thursday.

- h. Because of the coordination of Masses with Holy Family it is suggested that our 9:30 AM Mass be changed to 9:00 AM. This earlier time will allow for better funeral scheduling. The 6:30 AM Mass would continue at 6:30 AM to allow for people to attend Mass on their way to work. One slight drawback that might occur is that if numbers go up we may have to move daily Mass back into the main church.
- i. After the 7pm mass on December 7th there will be an unveiling of a plaque for renovations and Upper Room in honor of Fr Gregg. It will be noted in the bulletin the weekend before.

VIII. Prayer Leader

January 23, 2016 Meeting

Mike Filipski

IX. Closing Prayer - Julie Bressette

Next Meeting:

January 23, 2016