

## ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

June 18, 2018

**Present:** Rev. Peter Worn, Ken Shrank, Bob Vertucci, Heidi Stemkoski, Mike Filipski, Charlene Hart, Eileen Dailey, Dotti Hetnar, John Sullivan, Jamie Klaben, Lou Lamphear, Barb Shepard, Debbie Moore, Anastasia Mello (youth member)

**Excused:** Nancy Light, Kristen Bealer, Griffin Sasso (youth member)

**Guests:** New members Terri Ferguson, Theresa Williams, Thomas Kanaley

At 6:30 pm, Bob Vertucci called the meeting to order.

**Opening Prayer:** John Sullivan

### Approve Parish Council Minutes

- Both the March and April minutes were electronically approved and sent to Tammy Abdou for distribution.

### Parish Committee Reports

#### Finance

- We are down \$20k in weekly giving. Credit card giving is increasing.
- There is 1 week left in the financial year.
- Typically there is a drop in giving when we go to 2 masses in the summer.
- In the fall we may start looking at a fundraiser for parish support and for large capital improvements.
- Peter has received a notice from the Diocese to begin the Evaluation Process for his 6 year term. A committee will be formed shortly to facilitate.

#### Liturgy

- Mass attendance: the average attendance before the Mass schedule change is as follows:
  - 4:30 – 289
  - 7:00 – 108
  - 9:00 – 263
  - 11:00 – 315
  - Average weekend total - 976
- The average counts three weeks into the new Mass schedule is as follows:
  - 4:30 – 291
  - 8:00 – 213
  - 10:30 – 293
  - Average weekend total – 797
- It's too early to tell if this is because of the changes or if this is just because of low summer attendance
- It should be noted that the counts for 11:00 and now 10:30 mass are not completely realistic. The 11:00 always got a boost whenever we had kid masses or big Confirmation class Masses. Same with the 10:30 Mass on June 10 because of the Grad Mass. So, while those Masses are a regular part of our Parish schedule, it should be known that without them, those averages would be much lower.
- New Diocesan policy for Parishes with one priest – Only two Sunday masses and one anticipated mass.

## Building & Grounds

- Carpet in the church will be replaced.
- Painting and staining have been done by volunteers.

## Youth Ministry

- We are busy collecting and organizing our donations for the WorkCamp. We will be handing out snacks and drinks next week, Monday June 25.
- We are once again co-hosting BVS for Brady Faith Center with St. Ann's ~ St. Charles. This will take place the week of July 16. We have quite a few of our kids volunteering to help as councilors.

### Confirmation:

- Confirmation day went well. We had 91 students confirmed, 7 from St. Francis Xavier.
- The Bishop sent a note saying how pleased he was with our Candidates and how much he enjoyed his time with us.
- Our Confirmation II Candidates raised over \$1,000 to gift to a family they met at the Down 's syndrome Holiday Party (the party was a major Service Project for the group). One of the family members, only 27 years old, suddenly passed away when he got home from the party. He left behind a wife, days-old infant, and a toddler. He attended with his niece, whose joyful presence left an impact on our candidates, thus, they decided as a class to do this on their own.
- Conf I classes ended this session with a Retreat at Lourdes Camp. Over 65 of our students and 6 from Holy Family attended. The feedback from the Candidates and the parent chaperones was positive.
- 2018-2019 Confirmation Registrations were mailed out in early May and will continue to come in throughout the summer. They tend to trickle in late.

### Teen Faith:

- We finished up the TeenFaith sessions with a service project to help with the upcoming WorkCamp coming to Syracuse.
- We have also integrated more bible focused lessons as part of each session.
- We have received positive feedback from our parent helpers, our Jr. & Sr. mentors, and the students.

### Juniors & Seniors:

- Our Jr. & Sr. students continue to be a presence at St. Joe's. This group has continued to stay involved and often helps us out with service projects and with Youth Masses.
- More than 85 people attended the Sr. Mass and picnic – the largest group ever!

### St. Joe's Young Adult Ministry: (ages 21-30's)

- YAM just got approved for another grant and is planning great things for 2018-2019.
- More to come!

### Activities Committee:

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## Faith Formation

- Registrations are coming in
- Grades 4&5 are closed – full for Sunday – grade 3 is close to closing – Sunday is popular

## Pre School

- We have 70 students registered for the fall semester.

## Food Pantry

- More and more communities are realizing how difficult it can be for children to receive a lunch once they are out of school for the summer. Many kids receive a free lunch during the academic year, but once summer comes they are not getting that important meal during the day. St. Joe's pantry would like to help school-aged children by having them stop by the pantry once a week during pantry hours to receive a bag of 'lunch' food items in hopes that it will help them during the summer months. Hopefully it goes well! Thank you for your interest and support. We are truly blessed to be able to offer this in our community!
- The pantry estimates that 35 families might participate.
- The clients of the pantry are always very grateful for the food they receive.

## **Old Business**

### PCA Update – Heidi Stemkoski & Peter Worn

- Not much action lately. The spring meeting was cancelled. Next meeting will be in the fall.

### Homebound Ministries – Eileen Dailey

- No new info to report. The group is acting on phone calls.

## Human Development

- In the fall the group plans to do something related to immigrants and refugees. There is a Vietnamese family in need – we may have sponsored them years ago. We are looking to see if we can help.

## **New Business**

- Call for Officers:
  - President (2 year term) Debbie Moore has volunteered
  - Vice President (2 year term) Kristen Bealer has volunteered
  - Secretary (2 year term) position is still open
- Ken Shrank attended the Diocese PCA meeting with a speaker from Boston.
  - Father Paul Soper is the Secretary for Evangelization and Discipleship for the Archdiocese of Boston, as well as the Director of Pastoral Planning.
  - He spoke for about 90 minutes, and took questions afterward, on what the Archdiocese of Boston has done over the last few years.
  - He started with the simple concept- Jesus intends the Church to grow- "making disciples"
  - Jesus showed us how to make disciples- one-by-one
  - Evangelization is not a program. It is one person seeking and/or walking with someone who is not yet, and assisting that person.
  - Jesus taught the first disciples to be disciple makers: Called- Equipped- Sent them out.
  - Fr. Soper said this is a big transformation- restructuring needs to be the focus
  - Boston created Collaboratives- 2-3 (sometimes 1) parishes phased in over a 12-year period
  - One pastor for the two parishes, assigned to both parishes. Priests assigned to both parishes.
  - One Key staff for both parishes. Shared cost of staff
  - One parish council, separate finance councils.
  - Fr. Soper noted Collaboratives will only last for a time, and have an exit strategy. There was no timeline for this, and it could be many years.
  - Year 1, just survive. Let the pastor learn each of the parishes, do not immediately start changing things.
  - Write a three-year plan after the first year.
  - Fr. Soper then discussed the Disciple Maker Index survey tool, created by Catholic Leadership Institute- National study of people who attend Mass, more than 100,000 surveyed

- 26 Perception Questions that focus on behaviors, activities, perceptions, and personal spiritual beliefs
- 8 Demographic questions in order to better understand the community
- There was a positive response from attendees. No next steps.

### **Share Parishioner Feedback**

- Josh does a marvelous job reminding everyone when they are serving at Mass, but people still don't show. Josh does always ask for conflicts from people before setting the schedule. Eucharistic ministers are difficult. Ushers are not as well organized
- Parishioners should know what we get when we meet the Hope Appeal goal. They might be more inclined to give.
- The choir seems smaller; the choir will likely focus on the 10:30 mass; there is some shifting that has to happen with the new mass schedule.
- The Bishop is retiring.
- The list of Parish Council members should be in the bulletin more often. Contact info is not currently included. We could put photos and names on the website.
- Looking for people to volunteer in the adoration chapel. It can only remain open if a volunteer is present, and there are open time slots. It is not open during Mass or other big church events.
- First Communion was great.
- The Episcopal Church did an "end of life" seminar. St. Joe's did something similar a couple years ago.

### **Pastor's Comments**

- The Bishop said churches with 1 priest should have only 2 Sunday Masses.
- Fr. Manno sent a thank you email for supporting the Holy Family school.
- 3 grants were awarded through the Hope Appeal last year to support coffee hour, the food pantry, and the young adult ministry.
- Peter has been at St. Joe's for 6 years. He received a letter from the Diocese asking him to do an evaluation to stay.

### **Prayer Leader**

Next meeting: Dotti Hetnar

**Closing Prayer:** John Sullivan

Prepared by,

Heidi Stemkoski  
Parish Council Secretary

**NEXT MEETING:** September 24 (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month), 6:30 – 7:30 pm

**MEETING SCHEDULE:** TBD for 2018-2019