

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 2, 2015  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

In attendance: P. Moses, M. Colombo, B. Sawyer, L. Ouellette, D. Ouellette, J. Bacon, B. Flynn, and E. Kiley

Staff in attendance: R. Smith.

Visitor: Doris Kain

Fr. Tom opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Brian moved and Paula seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the October meeting.

**Green Committee:** Doris Kain brought the idea of composting at both churches to the Pastoral Council. She began her presentation by describing the current activities of the Go Green Committee. Doris referred to the book *At Home on Earth* by Msgr. Charles Murphy encouraging all to help protect the environment.

Clynk bags are working very well. Parishioners take Clynk bags home and fill them with their returnables and take them to Hannaford, which credits Holy Spirit Parish. She did not know the total return from the program, but thought the last quarter was about \$75. The committee is also involved in recycling cards to help St. Jude's Hospital. Parishioners donate used greetings cards, and the fronts of these cards are mailed to St. Jude's Hospital where the children make new cards and sell them to benefit the hospital. Another project is collecting flip tabs from cans, which are sent to the Ronald McDonald House for the sale of the aluminum to support their house for children with cancer and their families. [Note: John Bacon suggested that cups be set out during the Parish Fair to collect tabs from soda cans.]

The composting would be through the *We Compost It Company* in Scarborough, which runs the new resident composting service in Kennebunk. They would bring a 35-gallon tote to be placed at both churches, which the company would empty once a week. The totes can be filled with leftover food from any parish event, including meat, and paper napkins. Mary asked if we could try this for a month and Doris responded that this process could be stopped at any time. The Council members overall were supportive of the idea; however, the Council recommended that the Go Green Committee communicate their work to try to increase membership on their committee and increase parishioner involvement and support. The current lack of knowledge and involvement of parishioners on the Go Green Team itself and in its programs would make it difficult for the Council to support a new initiative at this time. Mary agreed to work with Doris on a plan for communicating the Go Green team's goals in hopes of increasing participation.

**Evangelization:** Leo and Diane related that they had met with Sandy and Marla about the proposal from the previous meeting. Their proposal is to use their fifty-two suggestions and put one suggestion in the bulletin each week beginning in January. The Council was in support of this idea and suggested that a blurb explaining it be placed in bulletin and on Facebook in December. (Leo and Diane will give this feedback to Sandy and Marla.)

**Communications:** Paula informed everyone that the proposal for a Director of Communication is ready to go to Fr. Tom. The committee got job description samples from other parishes that currently have a communication director. The recommendation from the committee was to have a part time person who would

maintain the web page and Facebook to start and eventually prepare the bulletin. Fr. Tom asked that the committee put together a draft letter to present to the Finance Committee on this position and also the need for a website service. Mary and Paula will go to the Finance Meeting with Fr. Tom.

**Annual Financial Report:** Paula announced that she has almost all the information to complete this report.

**Young Adults:** Mary emailed a couple of people to volunteer for this committee, but has not been very successful. This is a work in progress. A discussion followed on strategies on how to involve young adults. Mary will search for successful young adult initiatives underway in other Maine parishes and for other younger adults in the parish who would be willing to assist, and report on this at the next meeting.

**Support for Caregivers:** Ginny Putnam, the chair of the Social Justice and Peace Commission, is temporarily unavailable to meet with Mary to see if this may fit under their commission, but a meeting should occur before the next Pastoral Council meeting.

**Year of Mercy:** A list of options for the Jubilee Year of Mercy was presented to the Council. It was noted that many activities already underway in the parish fall under the “umbrella of mercy”, such as the youth trip to Jamaica, the work of the food pantries, and the children creating gift tags for the Christmas Giving Tree, etc.. Paula mentioned that the committee had initially hoped that the parish would hold a Year of Mercy “kick-off event” which would focus on the elderly of the area and be ecumenical in nature, but realized that there was not enough time to plan for such a complicated event as a kick-off, since the Holy Year of Mercy begins in a month. Fr. Tom recommended that the list of options be given to Marla and Sandy to merge with their Evangelization plans. Paula shared that Donna Murphy, who had been on the committee, had expressed an interest in working on/planning one or more of the Year of Mercy activities.

**Holy Spirit Handbook:** The Council agreed to table the development of the handbook until a later date due to the volume of work underway at this time.

**Stewardship:** Bill Sawyer explained his handouts from Rev. Walter Woods, pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish in Acton, MA and St. Isidore Parish in Stow, MA on Time, Talent and Treasure. He also detailed a letter about how he encouraged his parishioners to increase their giving by 5% and to use Electronic Funds Transfer. Fr. Woods asked his parishioners to pray, plan, and give proportionately. Bill proposed that we consider these suggestions as a council and work together in a joint committee with the Finance Council. A discussion followed on stewardship.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:05 p.m.