

MINUTES OF THE February 2, 2016
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Staff in attendance: Deacon Darrell & R. Smith.

Fr. Tom opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Leo moved and Brian seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting as corrected.

Stewardship: Bill highlighted the Diocesan Stewardship Handbook. The handbook gives guidelines on how to start stewardship in the parish. The handbook maintains that stewardship “is a way of life- that is, a set of attitudes and actions that shapes all our thoughts, words and actions.” The document also explains that “this is not a program, something to be started and finished after a set time.” Bill confirmed that the handbook has good practical ideas on how to get started. The document emphasizes that “prayer is the beginning of stewardship, and a continuing thread in the pursuit of stewardship for the parish.” The Stewardship Commission should be the arm of the Pastoral Council, with representation from the Finance Council, there followed a discussion on implementing stewardship in the Parish and that this program is not just treasure, but time and talent also. The Pastoral Council is going forward with stewardship and forming a commission and ask that the Finance Council offer a representative. Fr. Tom suggested that Leo is qualified to head the stewardship commission. Fr. Tom will talk with the Finance Council about the Pastoral Council’s plans for Stewardship. A discussion followed on the importance of the Communication Director position. Fr. Tom asked Paula to summarize the points and send them to him.

Annual Report: Paula presented the Annual Report. She asked that all Pastoral Council Members proof the report for any corrections or omissions. The budget will be an insert for the report.

EFT: Paula related that she had talked with Andrea Laplante from the diocesan Finance Office concerning the online giving program. Andrea reported that following the investigation of a number of on-line giving programs, the Diocese has suggested that parishes use “We Share”, a program of Liturgical Publications (LPI). LPI provides signs, posters, and other marketing material regarding “We Share.” Andrea gave Paula the “We Share” contact information and they are willing to do a workshop showing how the system works and answer questions. There followed a discussion with the council agreeing on exploring this process. Paula will talk to Mary about scheduling an online workshop for the council.

New Parishioner Welcome: Rosanne stated that the group met and approved a new parishioner welcome letter, which can be entered into the PDS program. She suggested inviting new parishioners to a special Sunday morning coffee and donuts. Fr. Tom calls all new registered parishioner. In addition, it was suggested that a council representatives call to welcome the new parishioner and maybe get a little more information, such as areas of .

“Since You Asked”: Elizabeth Kiley and Brian gave a sheet of “Since You Asked” answers put together by Linda Rose. Fr. Tom will preview these.

Young Adults: Fr. Tom informed the council that he had two listening sessions for Young Adults with children. Each session had around forty participants. These sessions were part of the ongoing faith formation of young adults. A few of their concerns were: Mass time schedules are not always family friendly; parents struggle to make option for Mass a positive choice; certain Church views are hard to reconcile with young people; parents struggle with balancing lots of things, and several more.

Summary:

Paula:

Will send write up on Director of Communications discussion to Fr. Tom.

Will discuss with Mary the scheduling of a presentation of “We Share” by LPI for the Pastoral Council members.

Rosanne:

Will provide the final draft of New Parishioner welcome letter and form for collecting New Parishioner data at the next meeting..

Fr. Tom:

Will draft message for the first page of the Annual Report

Will address Director of Communications position and discuss stewardship at the Next Finance Council meeting.

Will schedule and hold the next young adult without children listening session.

All:

Will review draft of the Annual report for correctness and omissions ASAP.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:10 p.m.