

MINUTES OF THE March 7, 2016
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

In attendance: M. Colombo, J. Bacon, B. Flynn, D. Murphy, P. Moses, D. Rousselle, and E. Kiley

Staff in attendance: Deacon Darrell, C. Houston, & R. Smith.

Fr. Tom opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

Stewardship: Donna stated that everything has been put on hold until the Finance Meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 10.

Jubilee Year of Mercy: The Work of Mercy for April will be to feed the hungry. Parishioners will be asked to bring in non-perishable food items throughout the Month of April for both food pantries. Fr. Tom voiced a concern for holding monthly events for the year of Mercy since the Parish is doing a great deal already; we can highlight what we are doing presently. On Palm Sunday, the Parish will host a penitential service at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's. A celebration for Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated in May. Carolyn affirmed that Funeral Brunches are an important and popular ministry.

Annual Report: Paula presented the Annual Report and reported that 500 copies have been ordered and will be available to the parishioners this weekend at each Mass. The celebrant will announce this from the altar. This report will also be available on the website.

Director of Communication: This position remains unfunded. Fr. Tom will meet with the Finance Council on Thursday (March 10) and will discuss this with members. Fr. Tom also informed the Council that he had met with an experienced individual who expressed interest in helping with website development. Mary suggested that this person might be part of an advisory committee for the Director. A discussion followed and council members suggested that Fr. Tom invite this individual to the next Pastoral Meeting.

New Parishioner Welcome: Rosanne provided a sample of a welcome letter and flyer that the committee had created. The Parish Social Life Committee will look into hosting a welcome lunch at each church to welcome new parishioners sometime in May. Follow up calls by the Pastoral Council were considered.

"Since You Asked": Elizabeth Kiley gave Fr. Tom another article written by Linda Rose for him to proof for the "Since You Asked" section of the bulletin. Brian will also send Fr. Tom more questions to preview.

Young Adults: Nothing new to report.

Green Committee: Mary met with Doris Kain as was agreed upon at a previous meeting at which Doris had presented a proposal to join a new composting service available in Kennebunk. As the committee includes only three people, their first goal will be to increase membership. The Committee would like to advertise in April around Earth Day and will emphasize the Pope's Encyclical on the environment. The Council agreed that this was a positive step to take.

Santa Claus at Holy Spirit Parish functions: The St. Martha's Knights of Columbus asked the Council to reconsider a previous decision that banned Santa from the annual children's Christmas party. After a discussion that included a description of the party, concerns, and suggestions, Fr. Tom affirmed that the Knights would be grandfathered, allowing Santa to be part of the Christmas party.

Handbook: The Council had previously agreed that a parish handbook would be a positive addition to the communication strategies being considered. However, because of the number of initiatives underway at this time, the members agreed that the matter of a handbook should be tabled until the Fall.

New Council Members: By Council bylaws, (Article III – Membership), a call for nominations is made on the last Sunday in March. Nominations are accepted until the last Sunday in May, at which time names are drawn. Don Kreppein and Carol Hickman (recently resigned) had served the limit of two three-year terms; therefore their slots are open. Brian Flynn and Dan Rousselle have each served one three-year term and are eligible to continue for another three-year term if they wish.

Fr. Murphy Update: Fr. Tom announced that Deacon Darrell and Marla Blackwell will lead the Worship and Spirituality Commission at his request. They will recruit and train all liturgical ministers.

Fr. Tom asked Paula Moses to describe her appointment to the National U.S.C.C.B. Advisory Council (NAC), which met recently in Baltimore. The Advisory Council of forty-three members representing fifteen regions across the US, and includes priests, religious and laypersons. This committee meets twice a year to provide feedback to the USCCB on its planned initiatives, and to provide NAC-developed recommendations for USCCB consideration.

The meeting closed with prayer at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 4 in Kennebunk.