

MINUTES OF THE May 2, 2016
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Staff in attendance: C. Houston, R. Smith.

Guest: Marla Blackwell

Fr. Tom opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Paula moved and Bill seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting.

Stewardship: Mary asked for any feedback regarding the “We Share” presentation. The two members of the Finance council, Kevin and Carol, who were at the meeting were not very receptive to the idea. They felt that this type of program was not needed. Bill stated that the data showed that when this program was implemented in other parishes the collection increased. Young adults do not write checks. Father Murphy agreed that the parish should implement the program.

Young Adults: Fr. Tom held a few listening sessions and related that our young people were not church people. Their interests are purely social; therefore creating some social events geared toward younger people might be an effective approach. Father suggested to the Parish Social Life that they hold socials for our young adults, and they were receptive to the idea.

Fr. Tom felt that the transition in pastor will help since our incoming pastor, Fr. Fred Morse, has worked with young adults in his past ministries. It was pointed out that there are two groups we are dealing with, the young adults with young children and the young single adults or young couples without children.

The upcoming workshop on Evangelization was discussed, which Rosanne, who is attending, will report on at the next council meeting.

New Parishioner Welcome: Rosanne reported that the new parishioner welcome is now being implemented, with more than 100 letters sent out during the past year. New parishioners will receive a welcome letter, a flyer with parish information, and a detailed registration form. Father Tom is calling each new parishioner.

Jubilee Year of Mercy: The Work of Mercy for May is to bury the dead. There are no special plans for this month other than the parish is donating \$10,000 to Bishop Deeley to send to Pope Francis to help with refugees.

Communication: Mary stated that Kurtis Grant, our new website volunteer, has done an excellent job at updating the web site. Don asked if one could communicate with the web-master on the website? That function is not available now. Mary also presented the new Holy Spirit logo that Kurt designed, which was followed by a discussion on using the new logo on all parish correspondence, including emails, and function notices.

Paula informed the council that there has not been much feedback on the annual report received through the St Mary e-mail address, but that the responses we did get were all positive. Father reported that he had received quite a few comments directly and that they were all positive. Paula is willing to gather all the information for

the next annual report; however, she does not have the skill set to put it together as it should be, so recommends that Kurt be asked to do that.

Fr. Tom asked and a discussion followed on whether the Pastoral Council should reaffirm the need for a communication position. Leo moved that we inform the Finance Council that the parish will be considering hiring a communication person in 2016. John Bacon seconded and all agreed. Fr. Tom will give the Finance Council a directive to include the tentative salary for a Communication Director in the budget.

The Communications Committee will tweak the Communication Director job description to reflect that we have an excellent volunteer already doing the website, and provide it at the next council meeting.

“Since You Asked”: Elizabeth Kiley reported that Linda Rose has interviewed food pantry volunteer and Doris Kain from the Green Committee and will be writing a report to be included in the bulletin as well as the website.

Fundraiser update: Bill related that the only new request for fundraising has come from the Parish Calendar Committee, which would start the fundraiser in July through the end of August.

John Bacon asked that some of the restriction on fund raising advertising be re-considered as two weeks is not enough time to advertise and sell tickets for an event. However, the guidelines were clarified; actually a total of six weeks is allowed. Unfortunately, the Knights’ spaghetti supper had to be cancelled due to this misunderstanding. John agreed to provide the Knights with the correct interpretation of the guidelines.

New Business: Joan Fowler sent a prayer booklet she would like to suggest the parish purchase. This was discussed and it was noted that the parish provides prayer booklets every Advent and Lent, which contain a meditation for each day. Mary will let Joan know. The staff will consider increasing the number of booklets that are provided.

Fr. Murphy Update: Fr. Tom updated the council with the details of his transfer. Fr. expressed that this year on the Council has been very successful.

A sub-committee was established to look at the by-laws and create a draft for Fr. Fred Morse. Donna and Diane will present this at the June meeting. All members were asked to look at the by-laws and give suggestions to Donna and Diane.

Task List:

Mary: Contact Keith Albert of We Share about the steps necessary to use this in our parish.

Mary: Contact women on Parish Social Life to plan party for Fr. Tom. Follow up with Donna and Elizabeth, who will be part of the group doing the planning.

Everyone: Send any revision suggestions for the Update on PC Progress document to Mary by Monday

Mary: Make final revisions to Update on PC Progress document and submit to be included in the bulletin, webpage, and Facebook.

Paula: to discuss the Annual Stewardship Report with Kurt to see if he would be willing/able to put this year’s report together.

Mary: Ask Kurt Grant to add comments for the webmaster, and if a space can be made for "Since You Asked." Ask Diane to send electronic copies of previous Since You Asked to Kurt.

Communications Subcommittee (Paula, John, and Mary): Revise the Communications Director job description to reflect that we already have a well-qualified person for the website.

Donna and Diane: Study bylaws and revise as necessary. Bring a draft to the June meeting.

Everyone: Read over the PC By-laws and send revision suggestions to Donna and Diane

Rosanne: Report at June meeting about the chancery evangelization workshop.

Father: Pass on to Parish Social Life the idea of the parish logo on a pin for parishioners.

The meeting closed with prayer at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be June 6th **in Wells** with a social. (Note the change of location!)