

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16, 2017
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. MARY'S CHURCH – 6:30 P.M.

In attendance: M. Colombo, L. Ouellette, D. Ouellette, D. Murphy, B. Sawyer, B. Hewitt, R. Robinson, D. Barton, Marie Guerin, and E. Kiley,

Absent: J. Bacon, P. Moses

Staff in attendance: D. Blackwell, & R. Smith.

Guest: Marla Blackwell

I. Prayer

Diane Ouellette opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Approval of Minutes

Leo moved acceptance of the minutes, Bill seconded. Unanimously approved.

III. Welcome New Member

Mary introduced Marie Guerin, a new member to the council, who will complete Dan Rousselle's term.

IV. Old Business

A. Work on accomplishment of the three goals

- a. **Communication:** Mary circulated a printout of a PowerPoint entitled "Communication as a Tool for Evangelization" by Dave Guthro that he had recently presented to the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Mary suggested that, if available, that we invite Dave come and present a workshop on this topic to our parish and that we invite the parishes in our vicariate to join us. The council agreed and suggested scheduling for June if Dave is available. Mary will follow up.

Mary reported that Kurtis has updated the parish council page on our parish website.

Mary circulated draft copies of a brochure on the opportunities for stewardship (time and talent) created by the Communication Subcommittee that Fr. Fred had suggested. Fr. Fred asked that individual's telephone numbers be left off and that anyone interested in any of the ministries, commissions, or groups contact the parish office.

Mary provided a copy of the Job Description for the proposed Communication Director as a review of the position that had been recommended last year. Fr. Fred discussed this briefly. No decision was made about hiring.

- a. **New Parishioners:** At a previous meeting, the Council had decided to conduct a telephone survey of newly registered families to determine the effectiveness of the Council's efforts to improve new parishioners' welcome into the parish. Rosanne passed out sheets to members, each with about six (6) families to contact using the script that had been developed for the telephone survey. Mary will email the script to each member so that they can make a copy per family called. Members will make calls before the next meeting. Fr. Fred suggested that if parishioners preferred, we could email the questions to them. A discussion followed on how to use the script.

- b. **Young Adult:** Beth reported that the Young Adult Subcommittee has had two meetings. Questions talked about were: Where they would like to be? Where should our focus be and where there are gaps? What is broken within the church community? Beth stated that they were using the list of goals for young adults from the USCCB site. Some of these are uniting the group with a peer group. She also said they had added a few new members who are not members of the Pastoral Council.

Fr. stated that he had met with the Parish Social Life and felt that this older group does not seem to have young families in mind when they do their planning. Senior citizens lose sight of young family's schedule. Ideas were discussed on how to include young families.

- c. **Since you Asked:** Elizabeth reported that Linda Rose has interviewed Carolyn Houston for the next "Since You Asked" bulletin article on faith formation.

- d. **Fundraising approval:** Bill Sawyer told a story about how fundraising has run amuck. There have been too many requests and fundraising guidelines have not been followed. He presented a chart he has put together to keep all requests organized. Revitalizing the cash calendar and a parish picnic sponsored by the Pastoral Council were discussed. Mary will ask for Pastoral Council volunteers (outside the meeting) for the parish picnic preparations.

- e. **Stewardship :** Bill described a Parish Stewardship Handbook and the importance on communicating with people to make parishioners aware of parish needs. The new electronic giving program, WeShare, will help. Bill asked the Council to think about forming a stewardship program for next year. What can we do better? Do we need a commission? How do we pull these together? He reported that parishes that have adopted a stewardship focus flourish.

A discussion followed on possibly publishing a yearly parish tithing report to explain where the money goes. Fr. Fred circulated the WeShare bulletin insert.

V. New Business

- A. **Friendly visitor:** Marie reported her experience with her 90-year–father that led her to the realization that such a program was needed. He did have someone who brought him communion off and on and talked to him. She stated how important it is to know your neighbors, etc. All ages can participate in volunteering to be a “friendly visitor” but they would need guidelines. A discussion followed on whether the Council felt there was a need for this type of service. Marie is willing to do the background work on how to get started. Fr. Fred suggested that Catholic Charities be contacted so that the program may be set up under their auspices and with their training. Marie will follow up and report at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned with a closing prayer led by Leo at 8:20 p.m.

March Meeting Prayer Volunteers:

Opening prayer: Donna Murphy

Closing prayer: Dave Barton

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanne L. Smith