

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2017
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
ST. MARTHA CHURCH - 6:30 P.M.

In attendance: M. Colombo, L. Ouellette, D. Ouellette, D. Murphy, D. Barton, M. Guerin, and E. Kiley

Absent: J. Bacon, P. Moses, B. Sawyer, B. Hewitt, R. Robinson

Finance Council Representation: B. Champagne

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

Guest: Marla Blackwell

I. Prayer

Donna Murphy opened the meeting with a prayer.

II. Approval of Minutes

Leo moved acceptance of the March 16, 2017 minutes, seconded by Diane. Unanimously approved.

III. Subcommittee Reports

- a. **Communication:** Mary reported that Dave Guthro, Director of Communication for the Portland Diocese, has agreed to present “Communication as a Tool for Evangelization” in the fall. We will invite the parishes in our vicariate to join us. Mary asked for volunteers to put together this Evangelization Event. Marie and Rosanne volunteered.

The new brochure with opportunities for stewardship (time and talent) is ready to be professionally printed and disseminated to parishioners.

- b. **New Parishioners:** Council members discussed the results of the telephone survey of newly registered families. The responses ranged from not remembering that a packet had been received to feeling welcomed. A number of parishioners had been “snow birds” or had been coming to the parish on a part time basis for a long time before becoming full time parishioners. David reported that he talked to a woman whose husband had recently passed away and the wife felt alone in the pew at Mass, so David and his family offered to sit with her. Mary talked with a woman who had a misunderstanding that was cleared up as a result of the call. Telephone calls seemed to be a positive way to connect with parishioners; more so than a letter. A member proposed this as a new ministry in our parish.

Many people were happy to receive the call. As for the questions about becoming involved, many felt they were not ready to make a commitment. Some said they like the idea of meeting other families at a coffee.

Mary asked for suggestions about what actions we should take after hearing the synopsis of information that was gathered by members. Members agreed that personal contact was important and would have a positive effect. Fr. Fred related that he would like to come up with a design to have quarterly events involving presentation and/or luncheons. A discussion followed on how to get people welcomed.

Other ideas proposed by members:

1. Mail information from the bulletin or the entire PDF of the bulletin to new parishioners
 2. Ask follow up questions at the new parishioner luncheon in the fall (because the telephone survey questions were “robotic”).
 3. Develop connections with young families; target communications to them.
 4. “Push” parishioners to the website through other forms of communication that the parish provides.
 5. Use more social media with the younger generation.
 6. Plan quarterly events and presentations sponsored by the Pastoral Council. (A Fat Tuesday event was suggested.)
 7. Send well-designed postcards about upcoming events.
 8. Avoid meetings during Holy Week to emphasize the spirituality of the week.
- c. **Young Adult Subcommittee:** (Renee Robinson, Beth Hewitt, Colleen Haley-Read and Mary Colombo). Mary gave a short synopsis of the Young Adult Subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee had been discussing the possibility of a survey, but noted that in the near future the parish will be participating in the Diocesan Disciple Maker Index survey. Too many surveys in a short period of time will be counterproductive. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet the following Sunday.
- d. **Friendly Visitor Program:** Marie reported that she had talked to Catholic Charities about the SEARCH program to train “friendly visitors” for the Parish. Marie is being trained and then will bring it back to the parish.
- e. **Cash Calendar:** Jim Heenan and Bill Sawyer will be organizing the summer Cash Calendar fundraiser.
- f. **Stewardship:** The Council agreed that stewardship should be woven into all aspects of the parish rather than being a separate effort. A discussion followed on how to keep in the components of time, talent, and treasure in the forefront of our thinking. The council agreed to maintain this topic as an agenda item for continued discussion, not a committee. *The Vibrant Parish* includes a stewardship emphasis that can inform our thinking. Members would like a brief summary of stewardship, which can be provided before our next meeting.

IV. New Business

- A. **Determination of vacancies:** The parish council terms of John and Paula conclude at the end of June. Since neither member was present the council was not sure of their intent. Fr. Fred will

appoint new members to a three-year term if they wish to come off the council, but expressed his hope that both would remain on the council.

B. Nomination and election of Chair and Vice Chair: Fr. Fred asked that Mary and Bill stay on as Chair and Vice Chair for another year.

C. Fr. Fred Updates

- a. **We Share Roll Out:** Fr. Fred informed the Council that the We Share program is ready to go but has not been officially rolled out because of the Catholic Campaign. He was afraid that people would get the Appeal and the We Share Campaign confused. He will introduce We Share in September at Masses and via an insert in the bulletin. In the meantime, a link is already available on the parish website for anyone who wishes to use WeShare prior to the official roll-out.
- b. **Sound System Fix:** Fr. Fred explained how each church had to be re-wired and re-worked with new amps. The results have been very positive with parishioners reporting they are better able to hear the priest and lector.
- c. **Parish Picnic:** After the last meeting three volunteers (Bill, Renee, and Marie) agreed to help Fr. Fred plan a parish picnic. Members agreed on a date and time of **September 10 from 2 to 5 p.m.** Leo will complete paperwork to reserve the Wells Harbor Community Park. Parishioners who attend one of our churches will be asked to bring salads and the other will be asked to bring desserts.
- d. **Other:** Fr. Fred is having discussions with someone who may be able to fill the Director of Communication role (20-hour part time position).

The meeting adjourned with closing prayer lead by David at 8:10 p.m.

September Meeting Prayer Volunteers:
Opening prayer: Mary Colombo
Closing prayer: Bill Sawyer

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosanne L. Smith