

Parish Council Meeting Minutes March 18, 2019

In attendance: Fr. Backes, Chris Andrews, Roger Hof, Godfrey Pinto, Mary Angela Boyle, Michelle Igoe, Andy Igoe, Nancy Dunn, Dawn Andrews, Kurt Schollmeyer, Jim Donick, Marge Sullivan, Kevin Sullivan

- With her recent decision to step down as Coordinator of K-6 Faith Formation, the Council thanked Marge Sullivan for her 4 years of faithful service to the parish. Father Jay noted that a search is underway to identify a replacement.

- **Education Committee** (Michelle Igoe and Dawn Andrews): A Family Stations of the Cross is scheduled for Friday, March 22. Faith Formation families have been invited and the Knights will offer a reduced (\$5/person) fee for Faith Formation families that attend the fish fry before Stations. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. Vacation Bible School will be the first full week of August. Communications will be coming out shortly. Family Catechesis is scheduled for April 9 and 10. The VBS theme this year is the 7 last words of Christ and all members of the Council and the parish are invited to attend. Finally, a reflection and meditation on our Lenten journey is being offered for adults from the parish on Sunday, March 31 from 3pm to 5pm. Interested adults must RSVP by March 22. Additional details are included in the weekly bulletin.

- **Finance Committee** (Kevin Sullivan for Fred DeWald): The Income and Expense Summary for 2018 was included in the March 3 bulletin. In terms of highlights: income exceeded expenses for the year by nearly \$6,000 (in 2017, income exceeded expenses by \$32,000); income and expenses were both up for the year; increases in income were driven by Religious Education tuition (up \$16k), donations and bequests (up \$34k), and investment income (up \$10k); decreases in income came from the regular collection, holiday collection, and Cardinal's Appeal rebate; most expenses were flat or up slightly for the year; the largest increase in expenses was in the area of Buildings and Grounds, which includes the new water system, snow removal, contractor services, and waste removal; snow removal expenses are expected to drop in 2019 now that a new provider is in place, and savings will be realized when a new waste removal supplier takes over on May 1. Father Jay noted donations to the weekly collection and the Cardinal's appeal are affected by recent issues in the Church. The March 10 bulletin contained an update on Renew and Rebuild progress.

- **Liturgy Committee (Jim Donick):** Every few months, this committee continues to write the Prayer of the Faithful used at the weekend Masses. Additionally, the Liturgy Committee is working with the Knights of Columbus this year to offer Eucharistic Adoration overnight from Holy Thursday evening (9pm) to Good Friday morning (9am). In the past, this Adoration ended at 10pm Holy Thursday evening. Information on the meaning and importance of Eucharistic Adoration will be provided to the parish and a signup list for overnight adoration will be available at the rear entrance to the Church.

- **Building and Grounds Committee (Andy Igoe):** Andy provided a handout and talked through the following items this committee is currently handling. A great deal of prep work is underway to prepare for redoing the parish parking lot: a title search to confirm the Church's boundary lines; pumping/inspecting the parish septic system (which is underneath the parking lot in the rear of the church) to ensure it is functioning correctly before any repaving; identifying and marking out all underground utilities such as gas, water, and electric; assessing the condition of the garage, including estimates to fix or replace it; and relocating/replacing above-ground IT cables currently running from building to building. In addition to the parking lot, work will begin this spring on repairing the doors to the church. A supplier has been selected to do this work. We are awaiting estimates on maintenance work and cleaning for the air-handling systems for the Church and Parish Hall. Options are being explored for replacing the current steps into the Community Room. Estimates are also being secured to determine the cost for replacing the flooring in the Community Room. Finally, the water softener serving the buildings was recently replaced and discussion will begin soon for maintenance and painting for outdoor windows, sills, wood trim, etc.

- **Nancy Dunn** provided a recap of the pre-lent parish mission hosted by Fr. Herald Brock and the Friars of St. Michael Friary in New Jersey. With a focus on "holiness," the mission was well attended and received very positive comments. Eucharistic Adoration was the cornerstone of the mission. Many thanks to the friars as well as to Nancy who coordinated their visit. Nancy also spoke about "You're Chosen," a gathering on March 11 at Regina Coeli and hosted by the Sisters of Life from the Archdiocese Respect Life Office. The sisters reinforced the truth that each one of us is unrepeatable, unique, and loved by God. There was discussion around the horrific, recently passed "Reproductive Health Act" in New York State and what parishes and individuals can do to promote the culture of life. Additional information is provided in the weekly bulletin, including

details on the upcoming movie “Unplanned,” which tells the story of an abortion worker turned whistleblower. This movie will be showing at the Lyceum Cinemas in Red Hook on March 29.

- **Knights of Columbus (Godfrey Pinto):** Godfrey noted that the Knights are continuing their popular fish fry on Friday evenings during Lent from 4pm to 7pm in the Parish Hall. As in the past, the Knights will also be offering a breakfast on Palm Sunday. Finally, the Knights recently presented the Pleasant Valley Library with a check for \$3400, proceeds from their Mardi Gras evening. A big thanks to the Knights for this donation!
- Marge Sullivan noted that the Archdiocese is offering an Active Shooter training module for Faith Formation coordinators, directors, and catechists. A limited number of seats are also available for other interested parishioners. Five members of the parish are scheduled to attend.
- Finally, Father Jay noted that the Cardinal recently sent a letter to parishes regarding Making All Things New. In summary, parishes will be asked to work within their cluster to: coordinate Mass/confession schedules; offer adult faith formation activities across the cluster; seek additional opportunities to evangelize; further support Catholic schools; increase vocation awareness as well as outreach to the homeless and hungry; explore ways to better coordinate financial resources; etc. More to come on this as details become available.