

Minutes of the March 18, 2019 Parish Council Meeting

Present: Fr Larry, Marilyn Hill, Peg Sass, Paul Hill, Ted Lang, Deacon Greg Willoughby, Dawn Pulcer
Absent: Ed Pavlica, Phyllis Brady, Bob Brady, Neil Fraylick, John Karski, Jeff Vitale, Randy Berd, Matt Ostrowski, Pete Connors

Guests: Chris Piebiak, Communications Director

I. Call To Order: Fr. Larry called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

II. Opening Prayer: Marilyn Hill led us in prayer

III. Review/Approval of current meeting agenda:

All ayes after deferring scheduled updates on Pastoral Council Projects, except for item c. on Suggestions.

IV. Review/Approval of minutes from January 2019 meeting:

MB Peg Sass, SB Ted Lang. Ayes all, after deferring the follow-up by Parish Council members, originally scheduled for February meeting, on prioritizing the costs for recommended security updates, (Agenda item V. Guest Topics item b.) discussed with Bill Scally, Facilities Manager at the January PC Meeting.

V. Guest Topics - None

VI. Pastoral Council Projects

a. Parish Response to Emergency Situations (PRES) Updates - *Pete Connors* -

Defer to May meeting

- i. Building Security Protocol
- ii. A.L.I.C.E. Training completed January 17, 2019 (Sgt. Dowty & McLean)
- iii. AOD deadline of July 1, 2019 was changed to September 1, 2019

b. St. Therese "Involved" Volunteer Questionnaire Update - *Pete Connors*

Defer to May meeting

- i. St Therese "Involved" volunteer questionnaire was sent out to 640 active volunteers on Jan 7, 2019. As on Jan 21, 51 responses were returned. Deadline was extended into February.
- ii. Communications Director, Chris Piebiak has input all of those returned comments and presented a preliminary report for Council to review and consider at the January meeting. Chris will meet with Pete Connors to review and distribute a revised report for review at the May meeting.

c. Suggestions - "Are You Curious" Program Update - *Paul Hill*

Paul Hill updated us on the requested door stops on the outside doors. The doorstops are completed on the front left doors which helps for funerals. However, the right-side front doors will not have door stops installed as it could interfere with security. Suggestion #4 has now been closed. Paul passed out a new suggestion #8 which deals with evaluation forms to be completed after events. A sample form was distributed. We discussed having a generic form that could be modified based on whether we are looking for children versus adult responses. Council members agree that feedback is important and approved having Paul send out a

generic form to all Commissions encouraging them to modify as needed in order to provide attendees with an opportunity to evaluate each event.

VII. Member Topics/New Business

Peg Sass announced an upcoming event planned by the Music Ministry to raise funds for the purchase of equipment. It will be a Trivia Night with a "Michigan Theme" scheduled for Saturday, May 4th after 4:30 Mass. Doors open at 6PM, tickets will be \$25 per person which includes 2 drink tickets, taco bar, snacks, desserts, munchies, etc. Flyers will be distributed in the Parish Bulletin this weekend and tickets will be available in the office or on the parish website through Event-Brite.

Fr. Larry announced that we now have a handrail installed by the credence table side of the altar. It is going to be helpful for volunteers who have trouble with carrying items up the stairs. It now complements the railing on the tabernacle side of the altar.

Ted Lang brought up the suggestion discussed at the last meeting of the Evangelization Committee. The suggestion is that when we have events promote them at the end of Mass. The concern is that it would be an interruption in the flow of the Liturgy. Mass is not over until after the closing hymn. Events are presently promoted on the screens, in the weekly bulletins and on the parish website. There would have to be guidelines, if we were to pursue this. Fr. Larry suggested that we table it for now and take it up with the new pastor at the September meeting.

VIII. Commission Updates

1. Christian Service Commission: Agape Outreach Brown bag Project, 640 bags handed out; Bountiful Bakers has 6 new volunteers to bake and 8 new volunteers to serve coffee and donuts; Circle of Friends working on quilts and pillow cases for Market Days; Health Ministry has 8 volunteers to help deliver meals to the home bound, the medical lending closet received many donations and the Blood Drives are set up for March 27th and September 4th; Rambling Roses had a meeting on Hospice with 40 in attendance; Market Days will be the weekend of April 6 and 7; Right to Life is looking for volunteers to sell carnations on Mother's Day, May 11th and 12th.
2. Evangelization Commission: Fish Fry Evangelization Table has been successful, many picked up medals and brochures and it was a great opportunity to welcome and talk to people; North Vicariate - looking at hosting more events as the Healing Service with Father Patrick Gonyeau held at St. Isidores in January was considered very worthwhile; articles on "How to Evangelize" for the Bulletin will continue; Welcoming Counter is staffed on Sundays and looking for additional volunteers to staff all Masses; Welcoming Dinner with the Pastor and tour for new Parishioners will take place on March 30th.
3. Stewardship Commission:
 - Weekly collections are up this year nearly \$6,700 or 1% over last year.
 - CSA 2018 as of March 13th, \$761 remains in reaching the AOD goal. Any additional monies beyond \$184,279 will be refunded to the parish. It could reach \$9,830 if all pledge dollars are paid.
 - The Ash Wednesday email/video blast has a 36% open rate and the First Week in Lent email was 30%. This topic will be placed on a future agenda for discussion as to modifications and/or elimination of these emails.
 - \$90 was collected via children's tithing for St. Leo's Soup Kitchen. Many children wrote of their good deeds and these comments will be featured in the parish bulletin during the next 5 weeks.

- Family Fun Fest will occur again this year. While contracts need to be signed, it was decided a Magic Show/Magician will be the show immediately after dinner. A DJ will provide music during the picnic dinner after the 4:30 PM Outdoor Mass and again in the evening after the Magic Show.
 - Status of Sponsor Invitation Letter and Sponsor Categories - after a second review of the three sponsorship categories (\$250, \$500 and \$1,000, the numbers were changed to \$100, \$250 and \$500. The \$1,000 sponsors of last year will be given additional marketing if they renew in 2019.
 - CSA 2019 - The CSA 2019 goal arrived from AOD - \$180,734 which is approximately \$3,500 less than this year \$184,279. The 2019 campaign will begin later this month with a dinner.
4. Worship Commission: Discussion on "What Does It Mean to 'Be Church'?"
- Lectors, EM's and Ushers/Greeters need to recruit more volunteers
 - Music Ministry scheduled an event for May 4th, "Trivia Night with a Michigan Theme" to raise money for equipment purchases. Flyers will be distributed and tickets for \$25 per person will go on sale this weekend. The event will include a taco bar, snacks, desserts and drink tickets.
 - Grief Ministry has been unable to set up a Spring grief support session as the presenter now has a full-time job with travel.
 - Several choir members are participating with other choirs in the Vicariate in the "Onward to the Kingdom" Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Isidores on March 28th.
 - A choir workshop will be presented by John Angotti here at St. Therese on Sunday, March 24th at 2PM.
 - The Music Ministry is looking for instrumentalists.
 - Sign-up sheets have been posted in the Ministry room. All events will be covered for Lent and Holy Week by the various groups in addition to the weekly liturgies.
 - The church will be decorated for Easter Services after Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.
5. North Macomb Vicariate:
- Unleash the Gospel Initiatives:
- Strengthening Catholic Education in the Vicariate - St. Lawrence open house was very successful. Visitors line out the door. St. Lawrence now charges a unified tuition for all parishes.
 - Confirmation Prep Collaboration - larger parishes have established confirmation programs and retreats. Smaller parishes may benefit more from collaboration on participant retreats.
 - Marriage Prep Collaboration - St. John Vianney parish is hosting a marriage prep retreat in June. Our Lady of Sorrows in the Fall. No action on collaboration until/unless pastors determine the needs.
 - Shared Parish Calendar - Shared calendar link for parish websites has been worked out with all North Macomb parishes but one. Should be operational by March 23rd for "Onward to the Kingdom."
 - Discussion of Sunday evening Masses in the vicariate - St. Isidore Sunday evening Mass at 5:30 consistently has attendance of a few hundred people.
 - Presbyteral Council Update - Fr. John Ricardo appointed coordinator of "Unleash the Gospel" efforts for the AOD.
 - Fr. Steven Pullis sent a letter to parishes with a questionnaire on "Unleash the Gospel". Every parish is to create a missionary strategic plan.
 - Parish safety and security plans are due by September 1, 2019. Extended from July.
 - AOD policy regarding firearms on church property are to be sent to parishes within the next few months.
 - Policy for Sunday sporting events was discussed. Presbyteral Council indicated 2019 adoption was probably too early.

IX - Fr Larry's Comments

Wednesday evening Mass in the Chapel during Lent
GIFT program for Lent will focus on having SEDER meal for religious education children
Mass of Anointing on Saturday, April 6th at 11:00AM
Saturday, April 13th at 1:00PM Confession at St. Therese
Saturday, April 13th in the morning is the Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 31st is the CSA kickoff dinner
Saturday, May 4th there are 2 First Communion Masses scheduled
Sunday, May 5th will be the May Crowning
June Meeting will be our annual Pot Luck Dinner (date needs to be verified).
Fr. Larry will check to see if our new pastor is available to attend.

X. Next Meeting: Monday, May 20, 2019 7:00pm (Reminder that there is no meeting in April)

-Marilyn Hill will be the Prayer leader

- Closing Prayer: Marilyn Hill led us in prayer

XII. Adjournment: Fr. Larry adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM