

St. Mary Pastoral Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday January 13th 2020

In Attendance: Fr. Leo Leblanc, Lisa Stewart, Darleen Farland, Tim Rodrique, Steve Skowronek, Dan Crossin, Nancy Malone, Ed Romeo via conference call.

Distribution of Welcome Packet

- The Council discussed the distribution of welcome packets in pews and at entrances.
- The council noted concerns about the packets creating a mess in the pews if placed there in an ongoing basis.
- Fr. Leo recommended having welcome packets available for Christmas and Easter masses and the Epiphany Pageant. Steve recommended and will work on an index size registration card to be included with the welcome packet.
- The Council also discussed sending welcome letters to new parishioners with a goal of providing basic initial information. Darleen has a template, and it was agreed that the letter should come from Fr. Leo.

MINUTES

- The minutes from the 11/11/19 Parish Council meeting were approved.

Legacy of Hope:

- Lisa reported that we now have 96 families participating representing 64% of our goal of 150 and have received pledges of \$229,170.00 representing 51% of our pledge goal. The purpose of the funds, specifically capital improvements as opposed to operational expenses will be published in the bulletin.
- Steve asked if the Legacy of Hope campaign will cut off when Partner's in Charity begins. Fr. Leo indicated that it would continue but would be mentioned less.

Budget

- Lisa reported that collections are still an issue. Income is \$3000.00 behind budget. Additionally, expenses were at \$2,714.84 due to earlier than normal snow removal and repairs to the elevator and boiler.
- Tim asked if capital money can be released for things that have been accomplished. Lisa noted that the Finance Committee was meeting this week and they will take a look at what can be used.
- Tim asked if there is a "state of the parish" year-end report submitted to the Diocese that enumerates Baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Lisa stated that we have the data in bits and pieces and that the Finance Committee may be able to help.

Mass Time Survey

- Following up on pastoral feedback the committee discussed creating a neutral survey regarding mass times. Fr. Leo stated that he is not in favor of surveys because of the way they are worded.
- Based on discussion the Council decided to hold off a survey.

Bulletin Improvements to Date

- Nancy reported that the elder community is asking if it costs more to print in color. Fr. Leo responded stating that there is no additional cost. Our sponsors pay for the bulletin. Nancy noted that this should be communicated back to the parish.
- There was additional discussion about featuring a ministry in the bulletin .Fr. Leo has discussed with staff highlighting one ministry per month.
- Following discussion of highlighting ministries, Darleen asked if the Pastoral Council would consider inviting ministries to have a table in the gathering space to display what they do. Ed reported that he created a ministry spotlight on the website using a book that Helen Rayburn had put together. He noted that there are forty ministries listed between both parishes.
- Tim asked to verify that all the ministries are active. Nancy agreed to help coordinate with Ed.

Creating Guidelines for Property Committee

- The Council discussed the need for a property committee responsible for keeping a list of regular maintenance items, and keeping up the grounds.
- The goal of the committee will be to improve welcoming atmosphere
- Tim will work with Rick Ross and the Finance Committee and come back to the council