

Minutes of Joint Parish Council Meeting  
Thursday, March 15, 2018 held at St. Mary of the Lake

Present: Father Pete, Deacon David Dose, Bill Diedrich, Lucas Grieves, Meg Sprick, Jerry and Marilyn Pfeilsticker, Bob Wenger, Lea Sexton, Jerry Ott, Morgan Pavelka, Jennie Dieterman, Maria Schultz

Absent: Marty Foster

Guests: Kendra Walker, Jeanette Blethen

Opening Prayer: Led by Bob Wenger

After the opening prayer, introductions were made

Meeting roles: Chair: Marilyn Pfeilsticker; Timekeeper: Jerry Pfeilsticker; Recorder: Maria Schultz

Observer: Meg Sprick

Agenda: Addition of "Sister Parish" and correction of date of Men's conference – agenda approved

Minutes of meeting held November 16, 2017 were approved

**Sister Parish:** Jeanette Blethen recently returned from doing missionary work at our Sister Parish, Sacred Heart in Belize. Fr. Pete read a letter that he recently received from the Father Rodolfo, Pastor of Sacred Heart, inviting us to renew our sister parish relationship that had begun many years ago with St. Mary of the Lake. Questions were asked on how to do this. Jeanette commented that any donations or gifts of any kind especially religious articles are greatly appreciated as the people in Belize have very little. Future steps are 1) Father will reply to Father Rodolfo with the message that we want to develop and continue the sister parish relationship with both St. Mary's and St. Patrick's and ask him for suggestions; 2) The letter from Father Rodolfo will be in the bulletin and Father will speak to the parishioners about it; 3) Jeanette will speak at some point in the future of her experience in being a missionary in Belize; 4) We have to be careful not to move too fast. The relationship needs to be equal, meaning we do not want to be taking care of their needs. They have something to offer to us and us to them. The new pastor may have some additional ideas as well.

**Confirmation Students** are strongly encouraged to attend council meetings. It is important that they learn how things run in a parish and become active volunteers. A list of upcoming meetings will be given to the Confirmation Directors of both parishes who will encourage students to attend future meetings.

#### **Council Membership**

- Discussion of the policy for membership on the pastoral council clarified whose terms are ending. The policy states that each member may serve two consecutive terms and each term is three years. Membership consists of six members from each parish, not including trustees. Meg Sprick's term (SP) expires June 30 and Morgan Pavelka (SM) will step down from serving because she will be leaving for college. She will offer recommendations to Father for a high school age replacement. There is one opening from SM and two from SP to be filled. All other members who were present at the meeting agreed to serve another year. Father will ask for new members to serve on the council before the new pastor arrives (June 30).

#### **Pastor's Report**

- Holy Thursday Mass will be celebrated for both parishes at St. Mary's. Young people have been invited to participate in the Mass roles as readers and to have their feet washed.
- The new pastor will begin the weekend of June 30-July 1. Father's last Masses will be Saturday, June 23 at St. Mary's and Sunday, June 24 at St. Patrick. Father Russell will celebrate the 10:00 AM Mass at St. Mary's on June 24. We need to continue to pray for our new pastor by including an intention in the prayers of the faithful and the introduction to pray for vocations every other week.
- Positive feedback has been received from the inspirational emails that Father has sent to 58 young adults of both parishes. The 49 care packages sent from St. Mary's has also received positive feedback.

**New Business:** Maria reported that the Catholic United Financial chastity/abstinence grant application for St. Patrick and St. Mary's was denied. She will apply again in the fall 2018. It was suggested to apply for a technology grant that could offset costs of having a hotspot installed at St. Patrick, if possible. Anyone with ideas on how to do this, please see Maria.

**Old Business:** Virtus Training – we need to do another session. There are several people at St. Patrick who have not yet been trained as well as several council members. Father will work with Becca to schedule a date(s) for training in the near future.

**St. Patrick updates:**

- Meg Sprick made an announcement that St. Patrick has met recently and received training from Catholic United Financial to form a Parish Volunteer Team. The Fundraising Committee of St. Patrick will form the PVT. After hearing of the many opportunities to receive funds by having a PVT, St. Mary's would like to explore the idea of having a PVT. Action Item: Invite Catholic United Financial to the next St. Mary's Parish Council meeting.

**St. Mary's updates:**

- Deacon David gave an update on the monstrance used at St. Mary's. He asked for approval of repairs that are estimated around \$600. Council approved.

**Reminders:**

- Men's Conference-Saturday, April 7 at Lourdes High School, Rochester
- Father Pete Retirement celebrations: St. Mary – Sunday, June 10 after 10:00 AM Mass
- St. Patrick, Sunday, June 25 after 8:00 AM Mass
- Father Pete will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October 2018

**Observer Comments:**

There was a lot of discussion of the sister parish. Communication is needed before proceeding. There was follow up on lots of little things. We need more members on the council. People need Virtus training. The meeting was short and sweet and we ended four minutes early.

- Next meetings: Individual parish meetings in April, 2018.
  - o St. Mary's: Thursday, April 5, 2018 – Mass at 6:00 PM, meeting at 6:30 PM; Lucas Grieves to lead prayer; Marilyn to lead meeting
  - o St. Patrick: Thursday, April 12, 2018 - 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:00 PM Deacon David to lead prayer; Bill D. to lead meeting
  - o Next Joint Meeting: Thursday, May 24, 2018 at St. Patrick's; Mass at 6:30 PM; Meeting at 7:00 PM. No one yet assigned to lead prayer.

Closing Prayer: Led by Bob Wenger