

## NOTES from Parish Council Meeting November 28, 2018

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Capital Campaign Update:**

- Currently we have outstanding pledge payments remaining in the amount of \$76,600.90, out of our total pledged amount of \$1,115,972.08. \$3,061 was collected on past due balances this month. We will probably send FFL I statements along with FFL II at year-end as a reminder to those who still have an outstanding balance. We are extremely pleased that we received approximately 94% for the campaign; most campaigns only achieve 80%.
- Our Facilities Faith Lift II began on July 1. Our pledge goal was initially \$950,000. To date we have received \$666,556.25 in pledges from 251 parish families. Total pledges paid to date are \$160,097.96. The pledge balance due is \$506,458.29. We continue to be very grateful and appreciative to all our pledgers for both campaigns.
- Our **Pennies to Bricks** Children and Youth Group campaign is running very smoothly. An exchange of pennies for bricks (Legos) continues, those bricks will start to form a foundation to represent the efforts of their stewardship to the parish during our FFL II 3-year campaign. The next Children's Mass will be on Sunday, December 9 at 11 a.m.

#### **Building Expansion Update:**

- Our original plan 3-1/2 years ago was to break the construction into 3 phases, consisting of the Bathrooms, Quinn Hall and the outside renovations. The architectural drawings were done with the 1st campaign. The next phase must be done during the summer months (June-August). For an expense from \$25,000-\$100,000, a letter must be written to the Bishop by Father. Expenses over \$100,000 must go to the Priest Council. The cost of Phase II will be about \$1,000,000. We will have to change the grade of the parking lot so there is a lot of digging and leveling that must be done. We must meet with the Deposit & Loan to see if they will lend us the money. This loan request of approximately \$300,000.
- A suggestion was raised to mention FFL II at all masses again to see if it will draw more interest and pledges.

#### **Parish Giving – Online Collections Program:**

- There has been no change to last month's report. We will work on expanding this program beginning in January, 2019.

### NEW BUSINESS

**New Council Member Elections:** There is 1 opening for a 3-year term on Parish Council to fill Dave Connor's vacancy. Lori Psota and Jim Cunningham have advised of their willingness to continue for another term. We have 3 volunteers who have expressed an interest. Father and John Parente have agreed to meet with the candidates this Sunday, with elections the following week.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### **Building & Grounds:**

- The roofs have been inspected and, although the roof on the church is in the worst condition, the rectory roof will be replaced first. The roof is leaking and we hope to have it replaced sometime in January at an estimated cost of \$8,000.

#### **Parish Life:**

- Our Clergy Appreciation Weekend went over well.
- The Advent celebration was cancelled due to last year's low attendance. Next year, rather than the Advent celebration, we will have pictures with Santa at the Christmas Craft & Food Fest.
- Instead of the "Notes of Thanks" at Christmas, we will just be doing the Easter "Eggs pression" during Lent.
- We will help coordinate the Simple Suppers during Lent.
- Other upcoming events in 2019 are: The Easter egg hunt, Tea Talks in May, the Graduation luncheon, the Parish picnic (but holding it indoors because the transporting of food was difficult), Padre Pio tour in September, Vocation awareness program and scheduling a ride on the Colebrookdale Railroad.
- Eric McGill will be sending out information as to what the Parish Life Committee is all about and the need for more committee members. The Committee is about involving the whole parish not just families.

#### **Finance:**

- On Thursday, December 6 we will have a brief meeting. Pete Waldron, who is the Executive Director of the Catholic Foundation of Eastern Pennsylvania, will share information with us concerning long-term investment options for the parish outside of the ACBA, as well as various Endowment Funds and Scholarship programs that are available for us to contribute to. We will be having our FY 18/19 Half-Year Actual vs. Budget review in late January. We will also be preparing for a meeting with the Allentown Catholic Beneficial Association concerning securing a loan for the FFL II Campaign. With our project estimate of \$950K for FFL II and pledges thus far of \$666K, we will have the potential need for a swing loan as well as a long-term loan for the difference

#### **Fundraising:**

- The Craft & Food Fest will be held this coming weekend, December 1/2.
- The Chili Cook-off will be held again this coming year as well as our Night at the Races.
- Our lottery ticket sales are on-going.
- We will sell Pellman cakes in the spring and are again planning on having our Golf outing.

**Knights of Columbus:**

- We currently have 76 members with 4 new members waiting to take their First Degree.

**Upcoming events:**

- Adoration Hour: We continue to support a weekly Adoration hour from 1:00 – 2:00 a.m. on Friday mornings.
- Parish Military Member Christmas Cards: Cards have been signed and mailed to our Parish military members.
- Parish Food & Craft Fest: We will be assisting our Fundraising Committee with set-up on Friday, November 30.
- Christmas Ornaments & Magnets: These will be sold in the Narthex starting December 8 after all Masses.
- Berks Multi-Service: We will be helping decorate trees for their Festival of Trees on Thursday, December 6.
- Knights in the Morning: Next one is Saturday, December 8.
- Knights Monthly Breakfast: Next one is Sunday, December 9. Santa Claus will be there and will be available for pictures.
- Support of a Parish Family: We will be buy food for Christmas dinner and gifts for the children of a Parish family in need.
- 5th Sunday Rosary: Sunday, December 30 in the Chapel.
- Parish Family of the Month: Starting in Jan, we will recognize a Parish Family every month and present them with a certificate showing our appreciation for being an exemplary model for other parishioners and supporting our Parish.
- Christmas Food Baskets: We will put together food baskets for families in need in mid-December.
- Baby Bottle Fundraiser: To be held 1/6/19 – 2/7/19. Funds from this fundraiser will support several Pro Life causes.
- March for Life: Several Knights will attend and we will help to sponsor the bus on 1/18/19.
- Habitat for Humanity: We will be working on a project in Reading renovating row homes on Saturday, 1/19.
- Soup Kitchen: We will be helping with a soup kitchen in Allentown on 1/19.
- PennDot Highway Clean-up: This was cancelled due to snow and is being rescheduled for the spring of 2019. Clean-up is done along a two mile stretch of Route 73 just east of Oley.
- Youth Scholarship: Scholarship is to be awarded in June; we will hold a Prime Rib Dinner to support this in May.
- Membership Drive: Will be held in February.
- St. Valentine's Day Dance: To be held on Saturday 2/9/19 or 2/16/19.

**Human Concerns/Health Ministry/St. Vincent DePaul:**

- We will work on making phone calls to the homebound to see how they are doing. We have 8 candidates.
- Our Annual Coat Drive brought in between 150-200 coats, which was lower than past years.
- Our Warning Tree will be held on three consecutive weekends, November 24/25, December 1/2 and December 8/9.
- Love Lights will be available this coming weekend at \$4 per card.
- Multi-Service Festival of Trees – 3 Youth Group members have volunteered. The theme is "Legend of the Snowflakes".

**Evangelization:** No report.**Youth Group:**

- Went to the corn maze at Wilcox Farms on Friday, 10/19 with 18 students, parents & siblings.
- We held a Halloween bake sale the weekend of October 27/28 and earned \$500.
- Our monthly teen Adoration on Fri., 11/2 had 4 students and a parent in attendance.
- We had 10 teens and adults go to the Matthew West and Jeremy Camp concert on Sat., 11/3. They were awesome!
- On Fri., 11/16, 2 teens attended the 177 Project Adoration, an Adoration with Praise & Worship experience that is hosted by the Diocese.
- The Rake with Faith event was cancelled due to snow.
- We had our November monthly meeting where we held our first annual Turkey Olympics. There were 33 students in attendance. We enjoyed tacos for dinner and played 3 different events: Turkey Toss, Turkey Relay and Turkey Shot Put/Roll with frozen turkeys. We wrote down things we were thankful for and put them outside the narthex on a board.
- A core team of volunteers/leaders has developed. These volunteers are consistently coming to help at the meetings and it truly the vision hoped for in Youth Group.
- Upcoming events: Our poinsettia sale is this weekend, Dec. 1/2 at the Craft & Food Fest. All poinsettias are \$12. We will host an Ugly Christmas sweater contest at our next monthly meeting as well as make Christmas cards for Meals on Wheels. There is a trip to Hersheypark Christmas Candy Lane on Dec. 22. The Winter Newsletter is in progress.

**Parish/Staff Items:**

- Father Bob is home.
- John Parente attended an identity theft/church security presentation and wondered if it would be something we would be interested in hosting. They require a minimum of 100 people in attendance to come. It was suggested that we could possibly include other churches and other faiths to see if there is an interest.

We will not be meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.