

Minutes for Parish Council Meeting – August 3, 2017

In Attendance: Fr. Tom, Deacon Frank, Deacon Jim, Gary Perrydore, Jeff Mesch, Bridgette Galbraith, Emily Shurtliff, Jacob Visovatti, John LaRock, Marie Skrobola, Bill Boudreaux. Absent: Maria Russell.
Visiting: Jim Renfer

After prayer, Fr. Tom related the three-fold purposes of the parish council:

- Oversee the spiritual and pastoral welfare of the parish
- Guide the parish
- Determine direction of the parish

The council is a collaborative body that will deliberate through consensus but ultimately is an advisory panel. The council advises and assists the pastor who is the ultimate authority for pastoral and managerial decisions.

For the remainder of the year, the council will meet monthly. After that, it will likely meet quarterly.

The council discussed the appropriate term for council members and officers. While the diocesan guidelines recommended terms of 3 to 6 years, it was agreed that 6 year terms were probably too long. Fr. Tom decided to establish 3-year terms for parish council members.

During the initial transition period, some of the council members will serve shortened terms to allow for staggered membership. The transitional terms for current council members are as follows:

- 3 year terms: B. Galbraith, Marie Skrobola, John LaRock and Jeff Mesch
- 2 year terms: Emily Shurtliff, Jacob Visovatti
- 1 year term: Maria Russell (confirm), Bill Boudreaux

The council named Jeff Mesch as Council Chair, Bill Boudreaux as Secretary and Bridgette Galbraith as Vice Secretary. It was agreed that a Vice Chair would not be named until 2018.

The council then discussed a possible transition plan for new Council Chair. Part of the plan involved electing a Chair-Elect in the last year of the current Chair's term in order to shadow and assist the current Chair and learn the responsibilities of the position. A final decision was not reached.

As for substantive business, the Council discussed a special Diocesan Appeal that the Bishop has requested in place of the DSA this year. The bishop wishes to raise \$65M for the diocese and has assessed a \$480K goal for the parish. This goal is based on the total parish income of the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Father mentioned that the 2016/2017 income had dropped to \$380K. The Finance Committee is monitoring current collections and determining possible impact on operating expenses.

The Council briefly discussed ways to roll out the Appeal. Additionally, the Council discussed various uses of the parish's share of the money including possible capital improvements – stairs, parking lot, recreation area, pavilion, etc., or possible beautification of the interior of church, particularly restoration of the religious art in the sanctuary.

Fr. Tom indicated that the parish finances are in good shape and we have a decent cushion thanks to Fr. Gerald's prior management.

Finally, Fr. Tom asked the Council members to consider and pray about a Pastoral Vision and/or Pastoral Plan for the parish to discuss at the next meeting. He would like us all to consider where we would want the parish to be in 5 years and how to get there.