

Parish Council meeting 6-14-18

Present: Fr. Tom, Deacon Papp, Gary Perrydore, Jeff Mesch, Jacob Visovatti, Emily Shurtliff, Bridget Galbraith, John LaRock, Marie Scrobola

Absent: Bill Boudreaux

Excused Absent: Maria Russell

Visiting: Doug Nelson

After opening with prayer Fr. Tom handed out two documents for the council members to read and consider.

1) Instruction on Formation of a Parish

2) Parishes as Ships (a theological vision of a parish)

He also mentioned a book he would like us to purchase https://www.amazon.com/What-Parish-Canonical-Theological-Perspectives/dp/1595250336/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1529066805&sr=1-1&keywords=What+is+a+Parish

Fr. Tom pointed out that a parish is a community of people, there are tasks for the pastor and the laity.

Old business: There was discussion of the two new staff, Tom Merlo, and Dr. Wolf. Both are off to a good start as DRE and music director, respectively. Jacob Visovatti reported that while the music director will need to build up both the choir and the pool of cantors, he felt that the music program is going in a positive direction.

Jeff Mesch reported on the Witness to Hope campaign: We had been told we made our goal. Fr. Tom said that the accounting had been reported incorrectly from the diocese and we were short by \$14,961. Disbursements will begin on a schedule, and we are in the process of getting bids for the resurfacing of the parking lot.

Fr Tom reported that we made our DSA goal. We are one of nine parishes to do so.

Membership feedback: There have been positive reactions to the staff changes, the Corpus Christi procession, the St. Patrick's Day party Fr. Tom pointed out his joy at all the faithful families in the parish. Jacob mentioned that Fr. Tom is willing to perform the EF of Baptism.

How can we serve the parish better? A few families have left the parish or may leave. Feedback council members have received indicate OSP should ask directly for feedback from those leaving. There seem to be rumors of pending change, although the council seemed in agreement that there was little change in our liturgy. Emily Shurtliff mentioned that people would like to know Fr. Tom's vision. The council agreed that it may help if Fr. Tom were to clarify his vision for the parish and specifically the liturgy. There was discussion of removing the center altar except for the occasions when it is needed.

There was discussion of strengthening outreach to the youth and young adults, and the OSP community as a whole. Emily, and others, pointed out how important a rich, traditional (or orthodox) liturgy is, and her desire for a beautiful Latin N.O. Mass.

Fr. mentioned how unique the history of our parish is and how different his management style is from his predecessor. He is finding parishioners reluctant to commit to tasks.

Replacing some of the Eriksen's Tasks: The Eriksen Family has shouldered huge tasks for the parish over the years and are ready to step down. Bridget Galbraith mentioned that she would be willing to help run VBS in the future.

The discussion pivoted back to the direction of the parish and how to address people's concerns. Fr. asked what other things we can do to grow in holiness and reach out in service. The council members reiterated that it would help if Fr. Tom's vision for the parish is clarified and that the rich, beautiful liturgy is essential to all other considerations.

The issue of the Holy Thursday rite of foot washing came up. Doug Nelson pointed out that the rubrics allow, but do not require the washing of women's feet. Perhaps Father could 'meet us where we are' and let go of his wish to include women in this rite.

The council concluded this discussion in agreement that we all want Fr. Tom and the parish to thrive, that our community is unique and valuable, and the liturgy should remain rich and traditional.

Jacob brought up the prayer for vocations and passed out copies. There was some discussion of where to include it in our Masses.

The council agreed that Jeff would send out a doodle to determine an August meeting date.

Deacon Papp closed with prayer.