

Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

January 20, 2020

In Attendance: Fr. Mark Smith (Pastor), Robert Bourque (Disabilities Ministry Representative), Cathy Buffington, Jennee Chin, David Cutler, Katherine Hunter (Pro-Life Representative), Loren Lavoy (BSA Representative), Celia Lewis, James Parsons (CYO Representative), Guillermo Rivero, Joseph Smith (HSA Representative), Rita Thompson (GSA Representative), Wayne Williams, Marie Winterson (Parish Secretary) David Brosch and Larry Prikockis (Ecological Justice Visitors)

Absent: James Hudson, Robert Martin (Stewardship Committee Representative), Brian McAllister, Ginger Thompson, Millie Vega

1. Opening prayer and Pastor Comments

Opening Prayer: Brief Bible Study on John 15:13 *"No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."*

Pastor Comments: Planning team for the upcoming Family Retreat has been formed and is doing well. One day retreat is planned for Saturday, April 25, 2020 to be held at Sacred Heart in Bowie, Maryland led by Fr. Conrad Murphy with a track for all adults and one for youth open to all parishioners of HR; especially the families who could not attend previous ones due to child care.

The effort to support and strengthen marriage/family is coming along well. The Feb. 15th event looks good with babysitting and other plans coming together.

Physical plant projects: LED lighting conversion complete, new confessional doors for better sound protection complete, exit signs installed in church as required by latest Fire Marshall visit, Disabilities Ministry is working on modifying a church pew for wheelchairs. Project is in progress. They completed the new vestibule shelf for new hearing assistance devices and large print bulletins. New Music Room is on schedule to begin construction at end of this school year.

Fr. Andrew & a team of Eucharistic Ministers continue to make weekly visits to anoint or bring Holy Communion to many of the ill and infirm of our community

2. Church/school exterior sign update: see attachments

We had a new sign designed for front of church yard. A parishioner offered to build one as well. Council reviewed both proposals and presented pros and cons of each. Meanwhile another Council member volunteered to offer a proposal. We are reviewing all options aware of the need to decide soon.

3. Anniversary date of parish: see attachment

The topic of the date we recognize as the anniversary our parish was raised since it might be included on the new sign. We use 1912 as our established date, which is actually the year they began construction

of the original church/current Fealy Hall. The Mission: Holy Redeemer, was established a few year earlier, in 1910, and we remained a mission until 1920. That is the point we were established as a parish and a pastor was appointed to serve here and this is the point most parishes use as an established date. If we followed that path, 1920 would be the date we use as our est. date. The consensus was to continue using the 1912 date as we have been.

4. Formed Catholic Library for parishioners: \$1500 per year

We are considering purchasing a parish subscription to FORMED: a Catholic Netflix of sorts. Formed is a website that would allow HR parishioners assess to Catholic content from more than 60 organizations. It supports thousands of movies, children's programs, ebooks, audio, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device. Cost to the parish would be \$1500 per year. Response was not strong so we may encourage interested parishioners to pay the low annual fee and try it out. If demand or interest increases, the parish could invest in an annual subscription.

5. Ecological Justice

Parishioners David Brosch and Larry Prikockis presented a proposal to offer monthly gatherings at the parish for parishioners interested in Caring for God's Creation. We reviewed the current good work we are doing on this issue as well as the potential work we can still do. They agreed to send a proposal.

6. Committee Reports

Disabilities Ministry Projects: continuing great work to ensure our parish is welcoming to all people, especially those with disabilities.

Loren LaVoy: Boy Scouts presented that Thomas Parsons has completed his Eagle Scout project requirements. Winter Camping Trip / Polar Bear Plunge.

Rita Thompson: Girl Scouts presented that all Holy Redeemer Scout Troops participated in Wreathes Across America. Girl Scouts held the Holy Redeemer School Christmas Concert Concession Stand and are hosting ongoing Babysitting Nights to help pay for their trip to Georgia

Katherine Hunter: Pro-Life presented continuing to work with crisis pregnancies. There is a need for gas cards, food cards. Naturally lends itself in to discussion of immigration and human trafficking. Works with Fr. DeRosa at St. Mary, Mother of God in DC.

7. Around the Table

- Recap on last meeting's Charitable Giving Criteria documents
 - Happy to report that the parish tithes. We give at least 10% away to charity. Actually much more than that.
 - It was recommended that the full contributions of parishioners should be accounted on our financial reports. This would include Second Collections and Annual Appeal more accurately reflecting the parish's support of our own parish needs, the needs of College

Park and programs of the Archdiocese of Washington as well as the programs that support needs throughout the world.

- Fr. Mark will crunch the numbers some more to give a more accurate picture of what our charitable giving numbers are.
- Our Stewardship Committee will continue to work to find ways move the parish to rely less on fundraising by increased the awareness and vision of a parish of people who fully give according to their means to support the needs of the parish.
- Suggestion on having some sort of set up for children to meditate upon during Mass
 - Proposal for a children's area in the vestibule.
- Concern about communication issues between the Archdiocese and donors to the Annual Appeal.
 - Donation acknowledgements. Errors happen.
- Continue the effort to keep the parish informed about our events and activities.
 - Various ministries should keep Marie updated on their happenings so that she can let the parish know about the good things that are happening here.
- Concern about some minor crime in Berwyn
 - Stolen, abandoned car behind Fealy Hall
 - Break ins of unlocked cars and homes
 - Concern that the PG County non-emergency number does not function

Next Meeting: Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7 PM