

## Catholic Community of Saint Peter, Saint Mary and Saint Hedwig

### Parish Council Minutes – September 21, 2020

**Present:** Rev. Jay Seymour, Rev. Jude Nnadibuahga, Deb Domagala, Linda Domagala, Tom Gillette, Deacon Ron Gingerich, Joyce Hill, Doug Isenecker, Mary Ann Lepkowski, Nadine Logan, Deb Mullin, Bob Mullin, Bill Paczkowski, Amy Peterson, Tim Reagan, Elaine Rosiczkowski, Deacon Ken Seymour, Terry Thisse, Rob Uttendorfsky, Lydia Wojnowski, Deacon Tom Yousey

**Absent:** Tony Andre, Deacon Ron Pominville

**Opening:** 7:00 PM

Deacon Ron Gingerich read the gospel for the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. Reflection followed.

#### Standing Reports:

- **Religious Education:** Deb Mullin, Faith Formation Coordinator, reported:
  1. First Communion was held on Aug. 30
  2. Confirmation will be Oct. 5
  3. Sunday School classes begin on Oct. 4 for grade 1 – 8. Half the grades will meet in person on alternating weeks.
  4. Darcy Fargo, Editor of the *North Country Catholic*, interviewed 7 of the 9 teen Catechists yesterday. They will be featured in an upcoming article.
- **Youth Ministry:** Deacon Ron Gingerich, Youth Minister, reported:
  1. Plans to start Y-Disciple groups “on hold” due to COVID
  2. Previewed a Y-Tube program as a youth gathering tool
  3. Plan to invite youth to gather using Google Meet
  4. Film clip describing “Youth to Youth meet” will be shown at masses this coming weekend
  5. Snow tubing happened just before COVID isolation! Praise God – first time in three years that this activity was not cancelled due to lack of snow.

#### Old Business:

- **Buildings and Grounds:**
  1. Lupini is presently at work sealing, removing and pinning stones on the tower at Saint Peter; they will be working to remove the leakage on the west side of the church. This is expensive.
  2. The retaining walls along the driveway and the back garden have been replaced at Saint Peter. This was expensive.
  3. St. Thomas is completely cleared out and ready for demolition. Terry Thisse reported that there have been 3 bids for demolition submitted and he is

awaiting a fourth bid from the Amish crew. Once demolished and the site is leveled, a shrine will be placed there.

4. Garage Sale held at Saint Mary raised (to date) “a little less than \$2,000”. Remaining items will be donated to the Lowville Lions garage sale. Volunteers from the Council will move the items with their trucks on Wednesday, Sept. 23.
5. Saint Hedwig driveway has deteriorated. Tom Gillette solicited two bids for repaving. Millcreek Paving submitted the low bid of \$27,900. Tom will contact them so the work can be completed before the end of October. While there, they will be requested to expand the parking in the rear removing the lawn and replacing it with crushed stone.
6. St. Mary stonework on front steps will be underway in October. New front door is installed and painted (first coat). Back door will be installed before the end of October. Catholic Charities’ presence will remain. Due to the loss of grant monies, office hours will be 3 days per week. Catholic Charities will continue to cover the cost of utilities but will no longer be able to pay rent.

- **Review of the Pastoral Plan:**

1. Family Catechesis: Goals not met due to COVID closures in the Spring. Committee will meet before the next Parish Council meeting to consider programming that can be implemented within present restrictions on group gatherings.
2. Community Outreach for Youth: Christian Music Concert cancelled along with May Festival. Band is “booked” for the 2021 Festival. See the *Youth Ministry* report above for plans during COVID restrictions.
3. Building Community: St. Mary 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration postponed until July 11, 2021. See comments *Merger and COVID Reality* below.

**New Business:**

- **Recent Developments – Merger and COVID Reality:**

1. Civil and liturgical merger requirements are met – Merger is complete.
2. Parish mission’s timing was “perfect” – recalling Father Pompeii’s words, “Fear is the work of the devil.”
3. Many St. Thomas liturgical items are now at St. Hedwig to be used there.
4. Masses at the larger church due to COVID restrictions has brought the communities together.
5. “Very difficult to hear” in St. Peter church. Company will be here to adjust soon.
6. Big screens are “great”. Kudos to the crew that made it happen.

- **Resume Masses at Saint Mary and Saint Hedwig**

1. Saint Mary: As result of a straw poll of parishioners, reopening will be delayed until Spring.
2. St. Hedwig: Reopening will result in “people coming back to mass”. Contingent on COVID restrictions in late November, masses will resume on the first Sunday in Advent.

- **Christian Response to Polarization:**

Bishop Terry Zehr will be drafting a letter affirming Christ’s teachings. The letter will be reviewed by local pastors before they affix their signatures. Father Jay plans to be a signatory. He plans to share the letter at a forum for parishioners.

- **Christmas Mass Schedule:**

After lengthy discussion, the following schedule was tentatively (subject to COVID restrictions in December) agreed upon:

Christmas Eve: 4:00 St. Hedwig	4:00 St. Peter
	6:00 St. Peter
	10:00 St. Peter
Christmas Day:	9:00 St. Peter
11:00 St. Hedwig	

This schedule should provide COVID restricted seating for each family that wishes to worship.

- **Bishop’s Fund Appeal:**

1. Goal: \$33,565. 260 families

### **Upcoming Events:**

1. Sept. 25 to 30 Pastor on Retreat
2. Oct. 2 Deacon Candidate Rob’s “Call to Lector”
3. Oct. 4 Confirmation – 7:00 P.M.
4. Oct. 12 Columbus Day – Parish Office Closed
5. Nov. 21 Parish Council at St. Hedwig
6. Nov. 26 Thanksgiving
7. Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent

### **Closing:**

1. Prayer
2. Adjournment: 8:43 PM

**Next Meeting:** St. Hedwig’s Nov. 23 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted, *Deacon Tom Yousey*