The meeting was held at the new parish center at Saint Mary’s and called to order at 7:10 pm

Role call of council members:

Angie McMaster (co-chair)     Ray Wagner     Jessica Hagg (youth)
Cliff Mann (co-chair)      Chickie Rigazio     Paul Therrien (absent)
Father Brian Mahoney       Paul Sidari     Rachel Beechin (youth) (absent)
Laura Conte                 Scott Davidson   Julianna Magbonzi
Matthew Larson (youth)     Julie Seitter    Karen Drake
Matthew Pontbriant (youth) Lori McDonald   Laura Zatta (absent)
Peter Lando                Ross Drew       Mike Condor

1) The meeting began with an opening prayer led by Father Brian.

2) The minutes from the May meeting were approved.

3) Nominations for the open parish council positions are still taking place. Father Brian stated that two members from each parish, one female and one male from each, will be ending their terms. There are yet to be officially identified.

4) An update on the projects related to the facilities at both parishes was discussed next. Father Brian reported that the house next to St Mary’s was officially sold. The Archdiocese will keep a percentage of the profit and the rest will go against the principal of the outstanding loan St Mary’s owes on the new parish center. Another project at St Mary’s is to see if the innards of the lift at St Mary’s can be saved in order to save money during the repair process. Projects at St John’s for this year will consist of serious repairs needed to the bell tower and the air conditioning unit at new parish center. Currently, St John’s has better cash reserves than St Mary’s. Father Brian reiterated that if anyone sees something that also needs to be repaired, to send him an email so he can forward the issue to the proper personnel. The resurfacing of the parking lot will not be done this summer.

5) Father Brian confirmed we are definitely not going to get a priest to replace Father Ren. He will continue to try and find retired priests to assist with our Mass schedule. He will be looking to hire a full time Pastoral assistant in the Fall. Their main duties will be: to come up with ideas in reaching out to parishioners, building up of our current ministries and cultivate new ministry opportunities, non-sacramental duties and other general tasks as assigned. He will draw up an official job description during the month of June. As interested candidates apply for the job an initial phone interview by Father Brian will be conducted followed by scheduled time with parish staff schedule time with the finalists.

6) An update on the upcoming operating budgets was briefly discussed next. The budgets for both parishes were based upon a 5% increase in donations from parishioners. Currently the projection at St John’s is a $5k to $10k deficit while the deficit St Mary’s is projected to be somewhere between $8k to $15k. A big improvement from years prior.

7) Paul Sidari gave an update on the Hail Mary challenge. The current count is approximately 141,000 reported between both parishes with five months to go in order to reach the goal of one million. With June, July and August potentially becoming a challenge in keeping up with the momentum due to vacations, etc. he has researched other ideas. To try and keep the numbers up during the summer, Father Brian suggested offering up a different petition every week. Paul thought this was a great idea and that he should communicate via email to Angie McMaster and Cliff Mann with updates during the summer. Paul also registered our collaborative on the ‘Coast to Coast’ Rosary website which officially begins on August 15th. Beginning that day, a worldwide 54 day novena will begin. It will...
end on October 7th which is ‘The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary’ and will be highlighted by an outdoor Mass. Father Brian asked Paul to place write ups in our weekly bulletin pertaining to this in order to keep our parishioners informed in the hope it will increase in participation.

8) Paul then complimented Father Brian on his recent presentation to the parishioners on our Blessed Mother. It was suggested that using podcasts for future presentations for those who cannot make the presentations in person might be very beneficial. Father Brian stated he is hoping to have another series of presentations on our Blessed Mother during the Fall.

9) It was reported that we are one of the top parishes in the area who have used the FORMED online service. Although many of our parishioners are not using it, the ones who are, use it a lot. We are currently in the middle of a two year subscription.

   a. To register free (for the remainder of 2 years) go to https://chelmsfordcatholic.formed.org
   b. When the page loads, click on Register Now and fill in the required information.

10) Although discussing Chapter 4 (Generosity) of the ‘Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic’ was scheduled to be discussed during this meeting it was decided this item would be table and set to be the first agenda topic on the September meeting.

11) Round Table topics of discussion

   In follow up to a side discussion earlier in the meeting pertaining to how do we try and curb people from leaving Mass immediately after communion, Ray Wagner light heartedly stated that we could mention that Judas left the last supper early and look how he ended up 😊

Scott Davidson wanted to give everyone a summer challenge. While some of us are away during the summer months and attending Mass someplace else, appreciate the different surroundings. Father Brian suggested that we bring back a copy of their bulletins to see if it contains good ideas that we can incorporate in our parishes.

Julianna Magbonzi invited everyone to the **African Mass that will be held at St. John’s on July 8th at 10:30am.**

Julie Seitter brought up a concern with the Mass survey committee as they discuss proposed changes to the Mass schedule. She stated that religious education classes are already scheduled to begin in the Fall utilizing our current Mass schedule. If the Mass weekend schedule changes, the Mass and education class schedules may not sync up any longer. Father Brian stated this would not be an issue as he has already discussed this issue with the directors of the religious education programs.

Angie McMaster stated that Lilianna Lucas in the parish office is looking for assistance for the collaborative float during the upcoming 4th of July parade.

Father Brian thanked everyone on the parish council for their service. There will be a Parish council meeting sometime during the summer to discuss the proposed Mass schedule change once the sub-committee is ready to present. This sub-committee will have their first meeting to discuss this topic on June 19th at 7:00 in the St. Mary Parish center.

Closing prayer was offered up for our graduation seniors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

**Next meeting Sept 9th, 2018 at Saint Mary’s new parish center – 7 pm**

We are looking for a volunteer who will present the closing prayer
Respectfully submitted

YBIC
Ray Wagner