

## PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING 9/16/19 MINUTES

The September 16th Council meeting began at 6:30 pm with a "Meet and Greet" giving members an opportunity to engage with St. Paul's new Youth Minister, Dan Tome. Present were Pastor Father Joe, Father Michael, President Nancy Timbrell, Vice-President Mary Corrigan, Secretary June Heffernan, Council members Roland Baikal, Joe Casso, Betty Lasker, Paul Miano, Elaine Pavasaris, Tom Sullivan, and Rafael Szczygla. Father Joe lead the council in an opening prayer for the success of the Archdiocesan Synod.

Dan Tome addressed the Council, speaking of his time in the Seminary, his teaching background, and previous experience as a Youth Minister, and Director of Religious Education in another parish. Dan has been busy formulating agendas for the youth of our parish. Father Joe added that Dan has fully engaged himself in his new position.

President Nancy Timbrell spoke of the purpose of the council being in an advisory role to the Pastor, and the importance of reflecting the needs and concerns of the parishioners. Members offered suggestions on ways for members to be more visible and approachable, as well as ways to encourage parishioners to attend and be more involved in council meetings.

Paul Miano gave a raffle update, a total of 1038 tickets were sold, raising \$12,500 for our parish. Our parish had two \$1000 winners. YouTube televised this year's drawing on a limited basis. Plans are in place for next year's live feed to be handled more efficiently now that St. Roch is more familiar with specific technical guidelines.

Vice-president Mary Corrigan spoke of the upcoming "Volunteer Appreciation Open-house" to be held after the 12:00 pm mass on October 27th. All parishioners who volunteer in any capacity are invited to attend. She requested that members assist in cleanup after the event.

Father Michael informed the Council that Scripture Study for the Acts of the Apostles have started with classes taking place on Monday and Wednesday evenings through January. Father Joe familiarized everyone with the "That Man is You" program. It is a 13 week, nationwide program with approximately 600 parishes taking part. The program offers men an opportunity to come together to discuss ways to resolve worldly issues through promoting spirituality. Father Joe announced the "Blessing of the Animals" to take place on Sunday, October 13th, at 2:00 pm. All animals are welcome.

Father Joe lead a discussion comparing the Anointing of the Sick sacrament, intended for individuals experiencing physical or mental illness, and those about to undergo treatment or surgery, and Extreme Unction, formerly intended for those in the dying stage of life. An Anointing of the Sick celebration will take place on October 26th and 27th after all masses at St. Paul Church and Sacred Heart Church.

Training of Lector's and Eucharistic Ministers will take place Sunday, November 10th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The training is for four hours and will include separate training for each position. Eucharist Ministers must qualify and then receive training prior to administering to homebound individuals.

Father Joe gave an overview of St. Paul School and the Religious Ed program. There are 267 students in attendance at the school, down 7 students from last year. A

Recruitment Enrollment Committee has been formed in an attempt to increase retention. Enrollment in the religious ed program is down 50 to 75 students. Training material from a new publishing company is being used this year. The lessons are related to the Sunday worship participation and based on the readings of the week.

The Thanksgiving Food Drive, which supports the Berlin Food Bank, is currently underway in a coordinated effort with collections for St. Clare's Pantry. Confirmation students will be filling the bags on November 9th at Sacred Heart. This food will be distributed to 30 families for Thanksgiving.

Father Joe suggested that the council hold a "coffee and" event to coincide with the Knights of Columbus mum sale taking place on September 28th and 29th after each Mass. Several parishioners originally approached Father Joe with this idea earlier this year in an effort to promote parishioners coming together. It is hoped that other ministries will volunteer to host this program on a regular basis.

Father Joe discussed St. Paul's finances stating that the Parish is solvent through August of this year. Summer collections are down approximately \$25,000 to budget. He made mention of this to encourage parishioners to support their parish even when on vacation.

Betty Lasker questioned the process of follow up with attendees of the monthly New Parishioner Orientation. Father Joe suggested a "coffee and" periodically giving parishioners an opportunity to network and to ask questions.

Father Joe commented on the ongoing Listening Synod. All priests will attend a celebration on October 14th through the 16th. Information from the Synod will be drafted and presented in May of 2020. Action plans will be posted in the bulletin.

He also updated the council on the Archdiocesan Capital Campaign which will be implemented in phases. St. Paul is on the schedule for Phase Three in 2021. It is an \$80,000,000 campaign to assist parishes in planning for their needs. \$2.1 million has been allocated to this point.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held on October 22 at 7:00 pm in the church hall. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Closing prayer was led by Father Michael.