

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
July 11, 2019 - Minutes of the Parish Pastoral Council

The meeting was **called to order** by Jack Smith at 9:04 a.m. Ruth led the opening prayer and Sharon read the scripture.

Attendance: Fr. Michael Woods, Jack Smith, Michelle Fecteau-Holmes, Jane Wicker, Joe Nanna, Jim Masson, Bob McCone, Donat Renaud, Mary Connell, Kathy Fitch, Sharon Helm, Joe Schurger, Francis Galvani, Sandy D'Allessandro, Judy Johnson, Ken Messerich, Ruth Hughes, Marguerite Schroeder, Kathy Donley.

Approval of the Minutes: Approved by consensus.

Opening Remarks –Jack welcomed the new council members. Welcome Home is the theme of the year and we want to welcome people and make this the best place to worship in Fairfield Glade. We have changed our web information to show that we are a scriptural based Church since some non-Catholics don't always know that Catholicism is based on scripture from the beginning of the Church. We are an active church community and we are trying to publicize this. We're working on our website and Facebook sites to show more of what goes on in our parish. When fliers for events are created we want to remember to put them online too. We are no longer using the My Parish app as it was not very successful. We are getting more hits on our website and Facebook now, as many as 6000 per month as people look things up. If we submit videos to Michelle she will usually post them the same day.

Jack explained the monthly committee reports and said that even though we are not having a meeting in August, the reports should still be turned in for each month so parishioners will know what is going on. The reports should be sent to everyone on the PPC. Jack also explained that every month there will be three oral reports that will briefly explain what the committee does and what is coming up in that committee during the next 90 days. Each oral report should be less than 5 minutes. On July 20 and 21 Father will introduce the Safety Committee and the booklet to the parish. There are a lot of volunteers for the committee and we still need more to join. Jack also mentioned that Father Meaux was here and commented that he looks forward to visiting our parish and that it is the most welcoming of all the parishes he visits in the U.S. Jack also mentioned the couple from Virginia who happened to stop here on their way to Kentucky on the bourbon trail and they ended up staying here the entire week as they were so impressed with what they found. They sent a letter to tell us they haven't forgotten their visit here.

Jack also mentioned the Gala that we will be having (Jane said she prefers to call it a "Homecoming" to go with our theme). It will be Friday October 4th on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. The Mass will be at 4 p.m. and the dinner dance will be at the FG Conference Center since our parish hall is too small. There will be space for 200 and tickets will be \$25 each person. There will be tables of 8 including singles and doubles. The tickets will be sold in August and September after Masses and in the office. Chef James from Legends will do the meal. Father will talk about it before he leaves in

August so parishioners will know that he's supporting it. If people can't afford it and want to come, they will be referred to Father. Since that is a first Friday, there will be an 8 a.m. Mass and at 11 A.M. he will be doing the Blessing of the Animals.

Staff Reports:

Financial Report & Budget – Joe reported that we have a 5.2% revenue increase over our budget which brought our revenue up 12% last year. At the end of our fiscal year June 30th we had a \$19,000 overage. The surplus goes to operating cash. We still have \$421,000 for future renovation and maintenance. We have \$321,000 in the reserve account for the future construction. Father wants us to wait and see if this is a pattern before we get too excited. A one year difference does not make a trend. We will try to continue to increase the number of online donors. We are also looking at separating donations for renovations so they are not taxed by the Diocese as regular income. Joe will prepare the year-end financials for the bulletin.

Staff Report – Michelle reported that the safety books will be handed out on the 20th and 21st.

Business - SACS Changes - Jack reported that SACS will be changing July 1st from Saint Alphonsus Community Services to include both parishes (including Saint Francis) on a 50-50 basis. We have been partnering with them and it is not just a food bank but includes managed care and 31 places to get food in Cumberland County. They plan to keep the **SACS** title and Jack hopes it will now stand for Social Action Community Services. They are setting up a plan to help get federal aid and SACS is now part of the envelope program. We've been paying more than our share so we will not be responsible for paying administrative fees for the next four years. 100% of the envelope collection goes to the poor. There is a new agreement and a Letter of Intent to reorganize. There will be a Board of Directors and they will be responsible to both pastors. The two parishes will work closely together in this all Catholic organization to help the poor in Cumberland County.

Kitchen, Etc. – Ruth Hughes reported on the status of the kitchen in the Parish Hall. Ruth asked that anyone who uses the kitchen make sure that it is thoroughly cleaned when finished. The counters should be cleaned with the bleach and water solution and all crumbs, etc. should be gone so that we don't get ants or mice in the kitchen. Ruth also explained that the Funeral Luncheon Committee will begin using the dishes again instead of the paper plates and all disposable table settings. Therefore they will resume using the Sanitizer for the dishes and they need two men per month to volunteer for the year to assist with it at funeral receptions. Since the Knights take two months, they will take care of those two months. The training will begin in January when the change is made to go back to real dishes. Also they need to look at a way to shade the windows when the sun is shining in too brightly.

Pastor's Report: Father Woods said that communication is very important and we need to get everything up on the website so that people will be able to see what is going on. He also said that they will be moving the statue of Our Lady for Mass on Marian feast days to be more prominent, since it is so far over to the side of the church. Father reported that Jim Aukland will be stepping down as the main Sacristan and there will be two people stepping up to assist – Fred Laufenberg and Cherie Trapp. Father thanked Jim (and his wife Terri since she has helped too) for all their time and assistance in that position for so many years.

Father will be taking his vacation from August 5th through August 28th. Father Kris Bartos will be here again in Father's absence and Father asked that we all make him feel welcome. Donut Sunday will be August 3-4. Father Woods also stated that Dave Offutt has been the liaison for Dynamic Catholic books that we receive every month – about 50 books each month. He asked for someone to volunteer to receive those and see that they are available to the parishioners. Mary Connell volunteered and she suggested perhaps starting a book club to discuss the book after people have time to read it. This will be under Faith Formation.

Father also said that he is thrilled with the Safety Team and its beginning. The team has worked with the Diocese and the Police department to ensure that it will be properly set up. He said that there are a lot of ideas and asked for volunteers to go talk with the Safety Team if they are interested.

Jack announced that there will not be a meeting of the PPC in August, but that the committee reports must still be submitted.

Closing Prayer offered by Father. Jack adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Committee Reports: due August 5th and September 2nd.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 12th.

Future meetings: (No August meeting) September 12th, October 10th, November 14th, December 12th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Donley

Recorder