

Diocese of Lexington
St. Peter Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2017

Members Present: Brian McDowell, Peter Cassidy, Stewart Neer, Kelly Latiff, Cathy Davis, Theresa Pezel, and Craig McCloud.

Members Absent: Cara Wrona, Mollee Starr, Shellie Hall, and Aaron Coker.

Others Present: Father John List, Deacon Ted Fraebel, and Pam Berger.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Craig McCloud read from Romans 5:1-5 for the *lectio divina*.

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

Peter commented that the reading was straight-forward and methodical. Deacon Ted noted the phrase “justified by faith” was a phrase Martin Luther emphasized. Deacon Ted also commented that faith provides peach through God. Pam noted the themes of birth, death, and resurrection are important themes through the Lenten season and into Easter, as is holding on to hope.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Minutes from the January 19, 2017 meeting of the Parish Council were approved.

Committee Reports:

Faith Formation –

Pam Berger’s committee report was presented and is attached and incorporated into these minutes. Pam noted that she attended a meeting today with the Diocesan Director of Faith Formation and anticipated some changes may be coming from the Diocesan level. There was recognition at the meeting of the struggles the parishes are facing with low attendance and that many parents are not the primary catechists for the students, and are not routinely providing a lot of background in faith, prayer in the home, or discussion of liturgy and the religious calendar. Father John also discussed the phenomenon of the “stop and go” parents who are dropping their children off for Faith Formation classes but not attending Mass and not taking their children to Mass. Many of these parents are not embracing religious faith as part and parcel of their family culture. Craig wondered if there was a possible speaker candidate we could invite to teach on this topic. Father John expressed hope that the Lenten Mission activities might help reinforce some basic principles.

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Youth Committee –

Mollee Starr was not able to attend this meeting but Pam's attached report is included and incorporated into these minutes. She noted that attendance has been good overall, although somewhat lower last week due to illnesses. More adults are still needed to participate in Youth Ministry.

Liturgy –

Pam also presented the report of the Liturgy Committee which is attached and incorporated into these minutes. The Liturgy Committee is meeting next week and new liturgical schedules were just mailed out.

Buildings and Grounds –

Brian McDowell presented the report on Buildings and Grounds. Brian reported that the final phase of stain galls window renovation is scheduled to begin the Monday after Easter. Brian also reported that the commemorative bench for Father Ted has been installed and looks good. Deacon Ted wondered if the pipe organ might be up next for renovation. Father John commented that he was told 10 years ago that the pipe organ had maybe 2 – 3 years remaining. Father John also reported that there a lot of homeless still sleeping in the grotto and that some of the remaining 4 hemlock trees may need to come down. Jim may be seeing the need for this happen.

Finance Committee –

Craig reported on the Finance Committee, which did have a meeting. Craig reported that the number of parishioners donating is down 30%. Brian wondered if donations in the Diocese as a whole were down. Father John wondered aloud on a recurring theme in our meetings about how we emphasize stewardship in the Parish, and communicate to Parishioners that there are some expectations as to what can be your weekly/monthly commitments. Discussion ensued about Parish involvement generally. Cathy Davis noted again the need to get more people coming to Mass and wondered if a rejuvenated choir program might help. Pam noted that music was one of the comments offered as a reason by some recent Parishioners who just left St. Peter's to join Holy Spirit. Father John noted the challenges involved at St. Peter as to the position we have available for a part-time Music Director.

Outreach Committee –

Father John reported on the Outreach Committee. A B.U.I.L.D. ("Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct Action") Nehemiah Action Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25 at Heritage Hall and Father John again encouraged attendance by St. Peter council members and parishioners. Father John noted that two payday lending bills had made it out committee in the State Legislative session. On affordable housing, Father John noted that the Access to Justice Ministry had created 500 new housing units over the last two years but that the Mayor is

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reporting Lexington is losing approximately 400 affordable housing units a year. Much work remains to be done.

St. Vincent de Paul – Cathy reported that things are going well. There is a need for more food donations but she has received a good response as far as the number of volunteers willing to participate. Brian reported that he had suggested to Melanie Noe, who previously reported to the Parish about donations raised during Catholic Schools Week, that if there was interest among the students, to coordinate with Cathy about a similar drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul.

Social/Hospitality Committees –

Theresa Pezel discussed the Reverse Raffle. See below.

Update on the Lenten Mission. See below.

Father John noted that a reception would be held for the Dacci family.

New Business:

CASA –

Cathy Davis reported that the Ladies Auxiliary wants to host a breakfast with proceeds going to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (“CASA”) program. See attached flyer. Pam reported that Brianna, one of our catechists, is on the Board of Directors of this program. The Parish Council approved the request for donations received from this breakfast, likely to be scheduled in May, to go towards the CASA program.

Black Diamond Farm/Gene Duffy Foundation –

Craig McCloud provided an update on the invitation for the Parish Council to meet at Black Diamond Farm. Mike Duffy will be out of town on the March 16 date that had previously been agreed to and suggested moving the meeting to April 20 or April 26, to start at 6:30 p.m.

Kentucky Council of Churches –

Father John reported on an e-mail he had received from Bishop Stowe sent to him and Father Dan. There is a Leadership Conference Grant for Justice Reform available but it will require holding 2-3 workshops before April in order to meet the grant requirements. Bishop John will provide the speakers. The Council expressed support for this proposal but concern at the short notice and ability to fit the events in before April.

Monday Noon Mass –

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Father John also reported on scheduling challenges with continuing the Monday noon mass schedule. Discussion ensued about whether to request a retired priest to conduct Mass on Mondays.

Old Business:

Reverse Raffle –

The Reverse Raffle is scheduled for Saturday March 25, 2017 at Malone's Banquets. Theresa is encouraging as many members and parishioners as possible to sell tickets for this event. Theresa reported 19 tickets had been sold so far.

Lenten Mission –

61 participants have signed up to participate, surpassing the threshold of 50. Registration is now closed!

Closing Prayer:

Father John led the Council in the Lord's Prayer.

President Brian McDowell adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:25 p.m. and Council Members enjoyed brief refreshments and camaraderie afterwards.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7 p.m., at the Wethington Parish Center. Please advise if you are unable to attend.

Formation Report to the Parish Council February 16, 2017

Parish Faith Formation Program

- Classes are in session every Sunday except April 2nd and April 16th.
- Attendance has dropped off a bit probably due to winter colds, stomach viruses and flu.

Sacramental Preparation

- Baptism Preparation
 - The next Preparation Class will be offered on February 23rd with one family registered thus far.
- First Reconciliation/ First Communion Preparation
 - We lost one child from this preparation due to her family moving to a different parish but picked up one child from a family that just moved to Lexington so we remain with 5 First Communicants.
 - The 2nd Parent Meeting was this past Sunday.
- Confirmation Preparation
 - There will be a Parent Meeting this coming Sunday.

Adult Formation

- Scripture Study.
- Catholic Book Club, Winter Session, did not meet this week due to Valentine's Day so will continue through March 7th.

RCIA

- We have one individual celebrating the Rite of Welcome this coming Sunday – please welcome Ty Hendrickson. She will be a Candidate for reception into the Church and the sacraments of Confirmation and 1st Eucharist.

Youth Ministry

- Attendance remains strong.
- It was decided not to meet the evening of Super Bowl Sunday but move the formation component to that Sunday morning and attendance was quite good.
- The Group bowled at Southland Lanes this past Friday evening with 13 young people attending.
- The youth will be serving at this coming Sunday's 11:30 Mass.

- Still very much need some adults to join the team!!!

Liturgy

- Will meet next week.
- A new Liturgical Ministers' Schedule has just been mailed out.



CASA OF LEXINGTON

The Problem

In 2015, there were 1,481 children in the Fayette County Family Court System due to abuse or neglect. CASA of Lexington was only able to serve 347 of those children. That means that there are still 77% still in need of an advocate!

The Solution

CASA Advocates are unique. Unlike lawyers and social workers, who are required to consider the parent's best interests, the CASA focuses solely on what is best for the child. The CASA is a constant source of support for the child who may have very little structure and support in his or her life.

How YOU Can Help

1. Make a Donation

Tax-deductible contributions are critical to help us reach more children in our community. Currently, only 23% of those who need advocacy are being served.

2. Volunteer Your Time

If you are interested in making a direct impact on the quality of life for an abused or neglected child by advocating in his or her best interest, call (859) 246-4313 today!

3. Spread the Word

Getting the word out about the need in our community is vital!



OUR MISSION

Through the power of volunteer advocacy, CASA of Lexington works to ensure that all victims of child abuse and neglect are given a chance to thrive in a safe, permanent home. CASA's trained and supervised volunteers provide an independent voice for children, one child at a time, by speaking for their best interests in the family court system.

CONTACT

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