



Parish of the Holy Eucharist

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POTHE Finance Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 24, 2019—6:30 pm @ Holy Martyrs

Present: Fr. Phil Tracy, Marty White (chair for this meeting), Tom Peacock, Don Talbot, Jeanne Mavor, Mark Kostin (minutes), Tim Dexter, Jim O'Connell, David Ertz, Steve Mitchell, Ed Lechner

Absent: Melissa Bagdon, Fr. Peter Kaseta

Minutes:

- Father Phil opened the meeting with a prayer.
- The committee read the mission, purpose, and vision statements.
- The minutes of the September 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.
- Fr. Phil is continuing to approach worshippers at Holy Martyrs for a third member from this site.
- We're also still seeking a member of the Council who would be willing to serve as the Chair. He asked that we prayerfully consider taking on this role.
- We reviewed the most current financial report. It was noted that there was a sizeable increase on the POTHE Statement of Change in Position under "Assets held by CFM." While this is not an indication of an increase in revenue for the month, rather a change in bookkeeping.
- We also review the dashboard indicators
- The St. Jude Capital Campaign met this week. \$199,000 of \$220,000 have been pledged. 8 donations represent a little over \$150K of the amount. A total of 54 pledges have been made. Father indicated to the subcommittee that we have enough to confidently proceed with the proposed projects. All quotes in so far are at or below estimate. Fr. Phil also indicated that if we continue in this trend, he would support moving forward with items like the floor that did not make the initial cut.
- We don't yet have plans for the lift at SH. Ideally we want to have the details for this in order to clarify and present our vision prior to formally sharing our vision for both SH as well as the diocese. Fr. Phil will start a soft campaign approach by talking with a few parishioners this fall. A number of people have approached Fr. Phil to express their support and offer to help approach parishioners for their financial support.
- Fr. Phil reiterated his belief that we need to approach our longer term capital needs as a parish rather than a site by site approach. This includes focusing on accessibility and building a fund that would be able to cover unforeseen expenses (e.g. a boiler breaks in one of the churches).
- We shifted to a broader conversation around a set of questions that included:
 - What are the issues or concerns you have about POTHE financial status?
 - Is anyone interested and willing to form a subcommittee to meet with Elizabeth Badger to explore promoting planned gifts?
 - Many groups seem to ask to take up collections for issues/projects. Is this working, or should there be more oversight and procedures in place?

Holy Martyrs Church
266 Foreside Road
Falmouth, ME 04105

Sacred Heart Church
326 Main Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096

St. Gregory's Church
24 North Raymond Road
Gray, ME 04039

St. Jude Church
134 Main Street
Freeport, ME 04032

- Does anyone have thoughts on budgeting a certain percentage of for charity, capital replacements, etc.?
- Some of the themes that surfaced were:
 - Promoting stewardship and asking people to consider giving of their time or talents
 - With respect to planned giving, we could provide sample language to suggest incorporating into their wills; We could host gatherings of lawyers and ask them to suggest planned giving to POTHE with their clients. There have been an increased number of bequests of late. If anyone is interested in exploring this idea, please let Fr. Phil know.
- After long discussion, Father Phil asked us to consider whether there needs to be a structure and set of policies that help frame and inform our financial decisions. Fr. Phil is seeking our thoughts and counsel around thinking differently about our spending decisions as we move forward as a Parish. He would like for us to think proactively about the decisions we make – by thinking differently and considering longer term needs.
- Father Phil closed the meeting with a prayer.
- The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.