



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting –March 20, 2018

Elected Members Present: Peter Adams, Kevin Green, Deborah Harrison, Kevin Maher, Ross Terranova, Lourdes Eyer and Christine Forbes

Elected Members Absent: Pam Vogt

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, O. Carm and Deborah Botti

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Carl Locatelli

Parish Members Present:

The meeting began with prayer at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of February 12, 2018 were accepted, with the addition of Kevin Green to the Handbook Committee

The following updates were given:

Ministry Reports:

Administration & Stewardship: Nothing to report.

Education & Faith: The ministry liaisons have connected with the ministry coordinators, offering another set of hands to help whenever they're needed.

- As anticipated, the addition of the Children's Stations of the Cross this year to Soup to Sustain the Soul made for a very positive experience for young and old alike in attendance.
- Forty-eight people participated in the March 10 Lenten Retreat, and the freewill offering garnered approximately \$300. Discussion ensued regarding the positive, and even enthusiastic, feedback that was received – with only one person expressing disappointment about the speaker. The question was raised as to how much weight should be given to that one complaint. Considering the presenter not only wasn't a priest but was a woman, the potential existed for many to be upset. One complaint, then, is really a testament to the retreat's success.

Christian Services: There was resounding praise for the Prayer Blanket ministry. Since its inception, about 100 blankets have been made, with another 34 recently blessed. Kudos to coordinator Rebecca Suchy, not only for the work done, but her ability to involve her own family and draw myriad age groups – from fifth-graders to 80-some-odd-year-olds – out on a Friday evening.

- At some point, blanket storage might have to be addressed. Right now, they're kept in labeled bins in the bridal room
- A bake sale is planned for May to help raise funds for supplies as it costs, conservatively, about \$20 per blanket.

Social Activities: About 135 attended the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner, and the 50/50 raised a little more than \$300.

Worship & Spiritual Life: Nothing to report.

Quorum discussion ensued. Most of the reasons for not attending a Parish Council meeting are last minute, such as a family emergency, illness or work conflict. According to the Constitution, there must be a quorum, or six members, for a meeting to take place. It was agreed to change the Constitution to require instead "the majority of elected members," which would now be five, to be present in order to proceed with a meeting.

Vicar's Report (Fr. Sean Harlow, O.Carm.)

- Because we will be sending \$26,000 each year for five years to the Archdiocese for our Renew & Rebuild commitment, we should be thinking about ways to replenish our coffers. Fundraising? Second collections? The flip side is that we're paid 5 percent interest for our savings, which translated into \$12,000 this past year. Additionally, these funds help fuel inter-parish financing, the importance of which Fr. Sean experienced on more than one occasion while serving at poor parishes in the city.
- The Stations of the Cross were pretty well attended during Lent, with Mary's Way of the Cross being the best attended. Marisol Burgos' dramatic reading – in costume – was powerful and even touched the young people who attended.
- The annual Cardinal's Appeal needs to be talked up. The funds are needed and put to good use throughout the Archdiocese. However, our goal is \$48,000 – almost \$10,000 more than last year.

Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)

One of the runners-up from the last Parish Council election was contacted to learn if there was interest in filling the vacancy left by the recent Council member's resignation, but the timing was not good. The concern was raised that if the Council continues to reach out, the reaction might be, "Oh, now you need me."

In light of the newly-agreed-upon change to the quorum requirement, it was agreed to wait until the next election to fill that spot.

Other business

- The Parish Handbook Committee will summarize the necessary changes to be made to the Parish Handbook for discussion at the next meeting. It was suggested this could be done in the same fashion as the Minutes, giving the Council time to read and approve the revisions independent from the actual meeting.
- Right now, there are about four or five people who will create a Parish Survey based upon the parish goals, which will be clearly communicated to them. Initial meetings are being set for next week – including a speaker-phone conversation with a committee member who is in Florida – so as to begin to draft the survey. The Committee will need access to the Adult Faith Formation survey and questionnaire. Fr. Sean even has a complete copy of the 1990 survey for reference.
- Once the survey is completed and approved, the next step is to ensure that it is filled out not just by the "usual suspects," which would result in "the usual and anticipated answers," but is crafted to obtain honest, informative responses. Because summer attendance is typically light, it might not be the best time to begin the survey. Perhaps it should be a Religious Education requirement as those are the parents who often aren't participating – and we need to know why. A lot of effort will be put into formulating the right questions – and then calculating from whom responses would be the most critical. Obviously, more than four or

- five people are needed to accomplish this undertaking.
- Parish Council has always been meeting on Mondays. It was agreed that the meetings will remain on Mondays. However, if a particular Monday is a holiday, then the meeting will held on Tuesday. The time will remain at 6:45 p.m. to accommodate those who commute.
 - The question was raised whether the Parish Council should continue to meet through the summer months, or just take one month off, as there is positive momentum that often becomes lost after an extensive break.
 - The importance of a Youth Ministry also needs to be kept in the forefront, especially considering the multigenerational success of the Prayer Blanket ministry and the gaping holes that exist in what's provided for our youth.

The meeting closed at 7:40 p.m. with prayer.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 9, 2018 at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti