



### ***Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – April 9, 2018***

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

**Elected Members Absent:** Deborah Harrison, Pam Vogt

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Fr. Sean Harlow, O. Carm., and Deacon Carl Locatelli

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

**Parish Members Present:**

**The meeting began with prayer at 6:50 p.m.**

**Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2018 were accepted.**

***The following updates were given:***

#### **Ministry Reports:**

##### Administration & Stewardship:

- Not meant to memorialize procedures in stone, but rather to prevent the wheel from having to be completely reinvented, it would be helpful for all liaisons to detail highlights of ministry activities. This “playbook” would be organized in a binder and kept in the office as a reference point to allow continuity. Therefore, should a key individual, for example, unexpectedly be unable to do X for Advent or a ministry coordinator change, the question of “Now what” could be easily answered.
- Julio Beras, who takes care of the building and grounds, needs tools. A discussion ensued, and it was agreed that rather than purchasing a gas-powered chainsaw, electric belt sander, hand drill, table saw, etc. we should first seek donations from parishioners. A request will be placed in the April 15 bulletin. Donations will subsequently be acknowledged in the bulletin as well.

##### Education & Faith:

- Re-registration is April 9-11 and Confirmation set for 2 p.m. April 15.
- At the April 8 Adult Faith Formation meeting, it was decided that May 20 will be Social Ministry Sunday. Representatives from various nonprofits, including Hospice of Orange and Sullivan Counties, Catholic Charities, Meals on Wheels, Knights of Columbus,

Middletown Warming Station, Emergency Housing, among others, will be available to discuss their agency's services and volunteer opportunities. All of the participating agencies are linked to St. Paul's via a parishioner. Discussion ensued regarding whether the event should be limited to Sunday. It was agreed that even if a particular organization can't participate on both days, at least there would be some information disseminated at all the Masses. The event was renamed Social Ministry Forum.

Christian Services:

- The winter -weather streak was broken, and after a two-month hiatus for the first time anyone can remember, the Senior Luncheon was served up to 104 hungry attendees. An added bonus – the meal was meatloaf, a favorite.
- There was a repast after the Funeral Mass for Marie T. Smedes, Deacon John's sister, on March 9 for about 40 family members.

Social Activities: The annual St. Patrick's Day dinner was attended by 157 people. The 50/50 raffle raised \$220, and the net proceeds were \$140. The corned beef was described as "the best ever." It was agreed that Rick and Julia Dzurilla should be thanked publicly via the bulletin for their hard work. The next event is the picnic in June. Although this ministry does not hold regular committee meetings, a legion of volunteers always rise to the occasion on the day of an event.

Worship & Spiritual Life: Nothing to report.

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

From ushers to the choir and everything in between, it was a fantastic Triduum and Easter, with palpable positive energy. The Lenten offerings, including the Stations of the Cross, retreat, Soup to Sustain the Soul – resulting in wonderful photos on the bulletin board – were also tremendous.

**Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)**

Lourdes advised that the chairperson, who had a last-minute emergency, did not relay any specifics for her report.

However, discussion ensued at this point about potential uses for the approximate 60-by-60 plot of land, on which a house was demolished, that the church owns:

- That parcel could be transformed into a serenity garden or a place for quiet reflection, which could feature a fountain, labyrinth, community garden space for the food pantry as well as parishioners, outdoor Stations of the Cross, etc.
- That plot could be paved, because it is near the road, and another part of the parking lot be used instead.
- Dennis Lounsbury Builders has some interesting structures that could provide extra meeting space, a house for Father, gazebo, playground, etc.
- A manufactured building could provide different-sized rooms, including a large space for teen programs held in conjunction with the Town of Crawford. This would not only be good for St. Paul's parishioners, but a means of outreach into the community.
- A structure could be built with a courtyard in the center so as to provide both meeting and meditative spaces.
- Bricks with engraved names memorializing loved ones could be sold and used in any construction project, which dovetails with fundraising.

**Other business**

Parish Handbook revisions were discussed:

- A revised Parish Handbook was handed out for review for the next meeting. However, a quick glance prompted suggestions that the website be added and pages be numbered.
- The question was raised about the requirement that a child be attending Mass for a year before being enrolled in religious education, if he or she hadn't been in another program previously. The reasoning behind this requirement was discussed and deemed to be fair because in addition to participating in Mass, there would be a "bridge class" enabling the

child to properly assimilate into the classroom with the knowledge expected at that age.

The door to fundraising brainstorming was then opened:

- Sell raffle tickets for \$25 apiece. After 100 are sold, hold a drawing. The winning ticket gets \$500; the Church nets \$2,000. Thirteen such raffles during the course of a year, which might be feasible, would return \$26,000
- The office just received a mailing on a Catholic Church Cookbook fundraiser. Depending upon participation, this should bring in at least \$460 (100 cookbooks sold containing 150 recipes) up to \$2,900 (400 cookbooks sold with 500 recipes). A kit will be requested.
- Hold an auction featuring upscale donated items
- Consider a night at the races, which relies on films

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

**Next meeting will be Monday, May 14, 2018 at 6:45 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**