



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – Oct. 8, 2018

Elected Members Present: Deborah Harrison, Lourdes Eyer, Peter Adams, Pam Vogt, Ross Terranova, Christine Forbes

Elected Members Absent: Kevin Green, Kevin Maher

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

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Ex-Officio Members Absent:

Parish Members Present:

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Sept. 10, 2018 were accepted.

The following updates were given:

Ministry Reports:

Administration & Stewardship:

Father Sean gave an update on the parking lot repairs. The work has been completed. The cracks were repaired, but more importantly, the 20-foot drainage ditch with a 13-inch stone base was installed parallel to the parking lot so as to divert the water away from the lot. There has been more rain than normal this month, but the excessive puddling has not been noted. The cost is expected to be in the neighborhood of \$16,000.

Father also reported on good news: A youth minister has been hired, Chris Worthington. Chris Worthington is Deb Harrison's husband, and Deb Harrison was the prior youth minister, credited with an active ministry. Chris will take four or five months to investigate other programs and options so as to hone in on which direction St. Paul's wants to head. He will help clarify program goals and what would be required for success.

Therefore, there might not be immediate physical evidence that we have a new youth minister, but it's important not to start off on the wrong foot by rushing forward without thinking ideas through.

Education & Faith Formation:

Discussion ensued with regard to what the Parish Council wanted to learn from the Religious Education liaison. Most of its events are posted on the calendar, such as the testing of children on their prayers in two weeks or the preparatory events leading up to the Sacrament of Confirmation on November 10 for the ninth-graders (because Confirmation has been switched to eighth grade).

The Council should be aware of the number of students participating in the program and what the overall finances are, i.e., income vs. expenses. It should be kept apprised of how enrollment changes from year to year, especially the decrease after First Eucharist.

It was noted how fortunate it is to have so many catechists resulting in an average class size of 10-12 students. The liaison should ensure that the catechists are aware that the Council is here to assist in any way it can.

A recent change was team-teaching the weeknight classes, which allows more people to get involved with less commitment as the team members alternate teaching weeks.

The Adult Faith Formation Committee will meet on October 14, so there will be a more complete report thereafter regarding its many fall programs. Anecdotally, there seemed to be a deep hunger for Father's "Praying the Mass" series. More than 50 people attended the first week, 45 the second and about 25 the third, and the feedback's been good.

Only about 15 parishioners showed up Sunday evening Oct. 7th to watch the cardinal's video regarding the sexual abuse crisis. Even though the numbers of reported abuses are down and many preventative policies have been instituted, a wound has been opened. Deacon Carl reported that from attending a Deanery meeting, he learned that most parishes has not shown the video during Mass as the cardinal wanted because they were concerned it wouldn't be suitable for children at Mass. Logistically, St. Paul's is not able to show a video during Mass, so the evening presentation addressed that concern. Still, most in attendance were not impressed with the video's content or delivery. There was no mention of what happens to the perpetrators nor was it believed that much compassion expressed.

Christian Services:

The bake sale for the Prayer Blanket Ministry raised about \$1,000 for supplies. They're meeting Friday to produce more blankets, and the Confirmation candidates are enthusiastic.

Volunteers have been cooking meals for Joanie Fredericks, a long-time parishioner who's in failing health. Helen Schwarting coordinates with Joanie's daughter, Nancy Quick. Helen secures three volunteers per week, for two or three consecutive weeks, and then takes a break for a week or so. This takes some of the burden off Nancy, while also providing some extra visits to Joanie. There is some bureaucratic red tape that presently prevents Joanie from qualifying for Meals on Wheels or Office for the Aging services, which is why Nancy reached out.

Next month, Peter hopes to provide an analysis of Christian Services as reflected by the Parish Survey.

Social Activities:

There were fewer people at the picnic than expected. Possibly 40 or more people purchased tickets but didn't show up. There were hardly any children, and many of those who were there seemed to be with their grandparents.

Discussion ensued about past years that were successful because of planned activities; however, that takes a committee to pull off. And it was also shared that years ago, that involvement had been an activity for Confirmation candidates. The younger children welcomed the attention of the older students.

Worship & Spiritual Life:

Eucharistic Ministers are needed for the Saturday evening Mass, as well as some choir members.

There was some inconsistency with altar servers during vacation time, even though it is their responsibility to communicate when they can't serve. However, the situation has improved now that summer is over.

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

There was nothing else to report, other than the Renew & Rebuild payment has not been made yet, although preparations are being made to do so.

Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)

Just to revisit and continue the “cheat sheet book,” it had been decided that all of the ministries should provide a synopsis that details in the absence of the person in charge, what would someone stepping into his or her shoes need to know? What are the primary responsibilities and which existing members can easily fill in? Are there outside contacts that should be made known?

However, within some ministries – particularly Christian Services - there are other key players, and not just the coordinators, who should also contribute, such as Rebecca Suchy and her work on the Christmas Pageant, or Rick and Julie Dzurilla, for example, and the process that results in a successful dinner or breakfast.

Other business

- The second 100-ticket raffle will certainly be finished. Should we keep it going or resume after the holidays? No decision was made.
- The Parish Survey has opened. As of today, there were 153 responses, although 15 were not yet completed online. A reminder email will be sent out on Friday, thanking those who have participated and encouraging those who haven't to do so by providing the link once again. A separate table will be set placed next to the Raffle table - complete with surveys and pens - to make it convenient for parishioners. Depending upon how many people respond via pen and paper, help might be needed to input responses to Survey Monkey. The Survey Committee was applauded: The Council had an umbrella goal of learning what the people are thinking. The survey is thorough, but not long. It is obviously well-written and easy to navigate as evidenced by an initial rapid response. And another high note: Eighteen ex-parishioners responded – and positively.
- The need for more social activities was brought up and discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a bus trip to see a show, perhaps the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. It was agreed that the particulars should be pursued – the cost of the bus as well as group ticket prices. If reasonable, then interest among parishioners would have to be gauged before actually booking anything.
- Father Sean is interested in starting a ministry of men and women to assist during funerals, which would be comprised of Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Greeters – and even people to hand out tissues. He found this very helpful when he attended a funeral Mass in an unfamiliar church. His goal would be to get this in the works after the Parish Survey but before Lent.

The meeting closed at 8:00 p.m. with prayer.

Next meeting will be Monday, November 19, 2018, at 6:45 p.m..

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti