



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – June 10, 2019

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

Elected Members Absent: Pam Vogt

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 May 20, 2019, were accepted with minor corrections having been made.

The following updates were given:

Ministry Reports:

Administration & Stewardship:

Was it four chances to win – or food available after the Masses – that renewed interest in the fundraising raffle? Realistically, it was probably the food. But regardless, 57 tickets were sold that weekend, with long lines of parishioners anxiously awaiting the opportunity to take a chance.

Education & Faith Formation:

- The Adult Faith Formation Committee screened the movie “Romero.” Ten people attended.
- Although Bishop Dominick Lagonegro was in terrible pain with arthritis, he was 100 percent himself as he enthusiastically confirmed 32 of our young people this weekend. Along with obviously enjoying the way the name “Cecelia” sounded as it rolled off his tongue four times, he also once again made a positive impact on our kids by engaging them in dialog beforehand. They asked about his vestments, why he became a priest, etc. One of the newly confirmed subsequently attended his cousin’s Confirmation, where it was immediately apparent to this young man that his

experience at St. Paul's was far better – and he didn't hesitate to tell his cousin so.

Welcome:

Nothing to report.

Christian Services:

Although 100 had signed up the preceding month, 92 actually showed up for the last Senior Luncheon. There are some new volunteers – including a couple who are actually younger than those being served.

Social Activities:

The Parish Council liaison will be reaching out to Rick Dzurilla to ascertain whether there is a Parish Picnic planned for this year.

Worship & Spiritual Life:

The Youth Ministry's end-of-the-year party or summer kickoff celebration is set for Friday, June 21. A water balloon battle was an initial incentive. However, Rick Dzurilla has volunteered to prepare burgers and hot dogs, so now it's a full-fledged barbecue. The Confirmation class received personal invitations.

Additionally, the Youth Ministry is working on securing basketball information, becoming more proficient with Flocknotes, poring through books on contemporary youth ministries and figuring out how to best handle some kids with behavior issues, particularly at the planned off-site summer outings.

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

Despite challenging topics and a review of the audit report in detail, Fr. Sean reported that the last Finance Committee meeting was one of the best ever – and not just at this church, but in general. The questions were difficult, but the group offered answers.

Unfortunately, a budget deficit is anticipated for the next fiscal year of between \$53,000 and \$63,000. While income from collections is holding steady, the \$33,000 annual Renew & Rebuild payment to the Archdiocese during the course of five years (with four years remaining) is not without huge impact. Additionally, two new positions have been added: a youth minister and maintenance/facilities person. The Finance Council recommended maintaining those two new salaries.

On the plus side, the increased giving campaign planned for the fall has not been taken into consideration, and the interest on savings with the Archdiocese will provide some relief.

Discussion ensued regarding the Parish Council's role in talking to parishioners honestly about finances and the need for fundraisers such as the raffle. A simple script linked to the current raffle will be prepared and read by a Parish Council member at each Mass. It will be written so as to stress that our intent is to be proactive so our financial reality does *not* become something to fear.

Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)

Nothing to report.

Other business

- Attendance at the Simple Profession prompted the question as to whether the newly professed - given their noted enthusiasm and role model potential - could be invited to Youth Ministry activities. No reason was given as to why such an invitation could not be extended.
- The question was raised as to whether July and August meetings were necessary. For continuity, it was decided to leave the meeting schedule as set. However, no major decisions will be made if there is no quorum, and the option to cancel still does exist if too few members are available on any given meeting day.
- Will our new Deacon Michael – whose ordination makes it the first time in church history that St. Paul’s has two deacons - will join the Parish Council? That could be problematic because he is employed in Manhattan and commutes to the City daily.

The meeting closed at 7:10 p.m. with prayer.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti