



## ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – August 13, 2019*

**Elected Members Present:** Deborah Harrison, Kevin Maher, Christine Forbes, Ross Terranova, Kevin Green, Pam Vogt

**Elected Members Absent:** Peter Adams, Lourdes Eyer

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Deacon Michael McCabe

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

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

**Parish Members Present:**

**The meeting began with prayer at 6:30 p.m.**

**Minutes of the Meeting of July 9, 2019, were accepted.**

*The following updates were given:*

### **Ministry Reports:**

#### Administration & Stewardship:

It was suggested that a letter be written on behalf of Fr. Sean, the Parish Council and the parishioners of St. Paul's to Jacob Smith to thank him for his extraordinary Eagle Scout project. The walkway that now leads to our outdoor Shrine to Mary, along with the paved section unifying the sitting area, is now polished and conducive to quiet prayer as well as celebratory photographs.

#### Education & Faith Formation:

The first catechists' meeting is scheduled for Wednesday evening, September 4, and is actually more of a mini-retreat. The featured guest speaker is Tony Bellizzi, who has a history of inspiring and engaging our Confirmation candidates. Religious Education classes begin September 10 and 11, and the first Seeds class for potty-trained preschoolers is September 22. The commissioning of the catechists will take place the weekend of September 14 and 15. The program coordinator is trying to wrangle a few more catechists before then. Last year, there were more catechists, but there was also team teaching. The final structure/number of volunteers is unclear at this point.

Discussion ensued about the Confirmation program. This is the first year that the

Sacrament of Confirmation will be made in eighth grade, not ninth, so there is technically the loss of an entire class of students. Anecdotally, it was mentioned that some parishes are considering increasing the age for Confirmation so the candidates are more mature. Another member reflected on her ability to choose from a selection of classes in her Confirmation program, which, of course, isn't practical in a small parish. And while it would be wonderful to offer opportunities that might be more appealing, the reality is kids are kids. And today's youth are more involved in school and sports, while their religious education is increasingly more compromised by families that are not participating with their faith community.

### Christian Services:

There were about 90 in attendance at the last Senior Luncheon on August 7, a little less than normal, but it was hot. A Repast was also provided after the funeral Mass of Chris Snyder, following her unexpected death on August 3. Both events went well.

### Social Activities:

The Parish Picnic is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, September 15. To hopefully increase participation – and energy – the Youth Ministry will get involved. It was suggested for continuity that in this case its Friday Night Live! gathering be changed to Sunday Afternoon Live! and that some competition-oriented events – such as kids vs. adults kickball and a water-gun battle – be planned. An accommodating Deacon Michael has agreed to let the kids turn him into a mummy via rolls of toilet paper. Rick and Julie Dzurilla will be in charge of the food. As a side note, a member drove by the park and noted the cooking area appeared to be in total disarray. The Dzurillas will be advised.

### Welcome:

Nothing to report.

### Worship & Spiritual Life:

- The next Friday Night Live! is this Friday.
- There is a need for just about every type of liturgical minister. There was discussion earlier in the year about a Ministry Fair. To simplify its organization, there is a step by step record from the previous Ministry Fair. It details what to do when, beginning three weeks before the event. On the day of, a table with cookies, coffee and tea will be available as extra incentive for parishioners to meander into the hall after Mass.
- Should the Ministry Fair be timed with the Parish Council elections on the Sunday in October? It was agreed that combining the two makes sense and could help increase participation for both. And on what date? The second weekend is Columbus Day weekend, so it was decided to move the election to October 19. (See the Chairperson's Report for more election information.) If the Ministry Fair is still going on at the time that ballots need to be counted, the counting will take place in a locked classroom.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Parish Council nominations will take place the weekend of September 28 and 29. There will be a blurb in the bulletin two weeks before, at which time a Parish Council member will also be available to speak at the Masses. Those nominated will be called to see if they accept. If they do, their bios and pictures will be posted.

The Parish Council is supposed to have nine members, with elections staggered so that three new members are voted in yearly during the course of three years. This election, the Parish Council will try to get back on that cycle, which was thrown off by events such as terms not being completed, a vacated position not being filled and elections skipped last year. Instead of three-three-three it's now five-four.

So to catch up: For this year, wherein there are technically five seats open, Peter Adams and Christine Forbes, whose terms end this year, will be automatically reappointed, but to two-year terms expiring December 2021. (The Constitution provides for the Parish Council to do this.) The remaining three seats will be filled via election and for three-year terms.

Next year, when there will be four seats open, one of the three members whose terms are expiring will be appointed to a one-year term to expire in December 2021, while the three remaining seats will be filled via election and for three year terms.

Because the three limited reappointments all expire in December 2021, the election that year will be held for three new members to serve three-year terms. Thus, the three-three-three stagger will then be back on track.

## **Other business**

The hope is to finish raffle sales by September 8 so that the drawing for the next four winners can take place at the Parish Picnic on September 15.

**The meeting closed at 7:20 p.m. with prayer.**

**Next meeting will be Monday, September 9, 2019, at 6:45 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**