



## ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### *Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – December 9, 2019*

**Elected Members Present:** Kevin Maher, Deborah Harrison, Lourdes Eyer, Peter Adams, Christine Forbes, Pam Vogt, Kevin Green, and newly-elected members Rosa Gonzalez and Thomas Mulroy

**Elected Members Absent:** Ross Terranova

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

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:**

**Parish Members Present:**

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

Rosa Gonzalez and Thomas Mulroy, two of the three newly-elected Parish Council members whose terms begin in January 2020, were introduced, welcomed and familiarized with meeting protocol via a verbal run-through.

The actual meeting then began:

**Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2019, were accepted.**

*The following updates were given:*

### **Ministry Reports:**

#### Administration & Stewardship:

An eye has been kept on the refrigerator for the past month. It seems to be more consistently in the 40- 41-degree range. The refrigeration specialist has not returned the calls yet, but it appears there is no urgency.

All the tickets have been sold in the sixth fundraising raffle series. It was decided that a drawing during Advent Family Movie night – with Jessica Carpino orchestrating children to pick the winning tickets – would be a nice touch. And maybe at least one of the families in attendance would get some extra holiday cash!

#### Education & Faith Formation:

Nothing to report.

### Christian Services:

- At the Senior Luncheon on December 4, 70 guests were served. That number is on the low side; however, we had quite the snow-and-ice storm two days prior. And there will be no Senior Luncheon in January as the first Wednesday is also New Year's Day.
- As anticipated, 74 Thanksgiving Baskets were distributed. Next weekend, about the same number of Christmas Baskets will be filled.
- Giving Tree gifts were due yesterday, and all the angel tags were taken.

### Social Activities:

At the annual Senior Thanksgiving Dinner, 113 seniors were treated to a festive holiday meal, prepared and served by Rick and Julie Dzurilla and their team.

### Worship & Spiritual Life:

- The Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen was amazed – and very grateful – for the 125 take-away bags for the homeless that our Youth Ministry was able to pack thanks to parishioners' generous donations. Foods containing nuts were donated separately – along with a huge box of socks. Prior to sorting and assembling the bags, the kids were shown a powerful video on homelessness that stimulated both compassion and continued conversation.
- The Youth Ministry is now comprised of 17 core kids in fifth through eighth grades who love to hang out with each other. Some also have been introducing their other friends to the group. This actually might be the impetus for a second family to switch from another parish and join St. Paul's.
- The Youth Ministry will be teaming up with kids from the Religious Education program to carol at Montgomery Nursing Home. The RE kids filled stockings for the seniors yesterday, which will be dropped off at caroling time. And Rosa Gonzalez volunteered to be Santa.

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

- Saft Electrical provided an estimate of \$1,800 to better illuminate the parking lot using large LED lights and motion sensors while paying particular attention to the areas by the Dumpster and basketball hoop. An additional estimate to include the far corner of the lot was subsequently requested. That will probably double the cost.
- We are also moving on maximizing our security camera, which might involve changing companies. There is one channel open on our existing system and we're seeking quotes to get outside coverage in the vicinity of the entrance to Deacon John Hall.

- Safety team members attended two recent meetings. The first was through the Archdiocese and more of a repeat of that held by the Sheriff's Department. The second was paid professional training run by those who train anti-terrorist task forces and found to be much more valuable. At this point, the congregation needs to be addressed to not only keep them abreast of what is going on but to recruit more volunteers. The 5 o'clock Mass, for example, started with 12 members and is now down to four; the other Masses are similar. The same people shouldn't be responsible week after week. Additionally, there needs to be clarification of required credentials and qualifications. There are roles other than that of a "first responder" that need to be filled. Most of the threats in churches are not terrorist-related but domestic violence that spills over, which is more worrisome.
- The shrubs outside of Deacon John Hall will be removed.
- The Town of Crawford Police Department will be notified of our holiday Mass schedule.

### **Other Business**

Retiring Parish Council members Lourdes Eyer and Kevin Maher were thanked for their years of service with small gifts, cake, crackers, cheese – and pastrami!

**The meeting closed at 7:25 p.m. with prayer.**

**Next meeting will be Friday, January 10, 2019, at 6:45 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**