

# Holy Spirit Parish Council

## Meeting Minutes

### October 17, 2019, Kostka Hall

Present: Fr. Steve Brice, Deacon Rick Letto, Paul Peterson, Ginny Williams, Eric Leary, Bob Ostrowski, Justine Brilowski, Casey Davis, Mary Ann Krems, Vern Schroth, Bill Fehrenbach

- I. Chair Paul Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:05. Fr. Steve led us in prayer.
- II. The Minutes of the September meeting were approved.
- III. Council Enrichment: Discussion of *Christifideles Laici*

The council discussed Chapter 1 of *Christifideles Laici (The Lay Members of Christ's Faithful People)*. The bishop is asking all parish councils to read this. It was written by Pope John Paul II. Fr. Steve explained that the Second Vatican Council broke open the role of the laity. There is a need for women and young people to get involved. The lay faithful are "on the front lines."

Council is asked to read Chapter 2, All Branches of a Single Vine, for the November meeting.

- IV. Holding the Vision: Social Justice Ministry Report

Deacon Rick presented the Social Justice Committee Annual Report for 2019 (separate document). It is a very thorough document. He highlighted several things.

The Vision Statement: Empower Holy Spirit Parish, according to the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church, to meet the needs of all Creation with love, prayer, and service through acts of Social Justice and Charitable Works in our community, nation, and world.

Charitable Works Ministries are listed on the Annual Report. Several were highlighted and discussed: Reverse Giving Calendar, Feeding Hungry Kids, Salvation Army Meals, Haiti Mission, Christmas Team Dinner.

The Haiti Mission originally addressed teacher salaries, but there was discussion about whether access to clean water might be a bigger concern.

Areas of future interest are also included in the Report. Fr. Steve also mentioned the local clergy association focused on Social Justice issues.

- V. Update of Sale of Newman Center and Building Project Update

Fr. Steve reported that we have funds through November without the sale of the Newman Center. He reported that the UWSP Chancellor (Bernie Patterson) told him this week that acquiring the Newman Center was his #1 priority. The realtor says the property will sell, even if the university does not act. The Diocese of LaCrosse this week offered a larger loan to Holy Spirit Parish.

VI. Thank You

“Thank You” notes from the Parish Council are requested for Sr. Barb for all of her work with the finances and to Lee Olsen, because she always deserves our thanks!

- VII. Next Meeting is Thursday, November 21, 6:00 pm, Kostka Hall. Council members, please read Chapter 2 of *Christifideles Laici*, All Branches of a Single Vine, linked [here](#).

Meeting Adjourned at 7:25 p. m. , within the scheduled meeting time!

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Fehrenbach