

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting

DATE: April 4, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Father Peter DiTomasso, Pastor
Bruce Kocsis, Chair
Justine Gibbon
Karen Graff
Dick Heibel
Helen Hornbake

Joli Kocsis
Bill Emory, Men's Club
Mary Anne Gardner, Parish Nurses
John Butcher, Chair, Finance Committee &
Secretary

Father Peter began the meeting at 7:00 pm with everyone saying the Diocese of Harrisburg prayer.

MINUTES: Minutes of the March 7, 2018 meeting were approved.

FINANCE: John Butcher provided the finance report for the month ending February 28, 2018. We are 67 percent into the fiscal year. Operating income is 77 percent of budget and operating expenses are 70 percent. \$20,000 of a contribution from the estate of Msgr. Vincent Topper was transferred from our diocese operating funds into our general savings account.

Sunday and Holy Day offerings for the year-to-date averaged \$5,168 per week, exceeding our \$4,850 budget. They are ahead of last year's \$4,632 average. Overall, contributions are ahead by \$14,000 year-to-date. Operating expenses are down \$6,000 year-to-date. Year-to-date we have received a refund of \$3,585 in Lenten Appeal contributions. Our current Lenten Appeal campaign exceeds our goal by about \$2,000.

John has begun work on the budget for next fiscal year (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019). See discussion of major projects under new business. Father Peter mentioned that we will be receiving about \$50,000 from the sale of property donated to the church. John noted that this should happen before the start of the new fiscal year and will not affect the new budget.

Monitoring the cost of our online contributions, we had \$2,890 in income in February and expenses were \$96.88, or 3.35 percent of income. Income from credit cards was \$750 and costs were \$35.19 or 4.7 percent.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parish Survey/Stewardship: Dick Heibel provided a summary of the results of the Lenten simple supper and details on the supplies used. He has volunteers signed-up to help with the effort next year. Father said he was happy with the attendance at the suppers. He said any excess donations received from the suppers should be contributed to the Soup Kitchen.

Dick said there will be a pot luck dinner on the 21st. He said someone needs to start the rosary before the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturdays for it to continue the rest of the year.

Karen Graff and Joe Ferguson will attend Rebuilt; a conference for people in the trenches who are interested in building or rebuilding healthy and growing communities of faith. It is hosted by and based on efforts of the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland on April 16th, and 17th. They will be providing the council with feedback/suggestions from the conference, comparing our parish ministries with the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Church Directory: Father Peter said one parishioner is moving forward with steps to publish a new directory. Helen Hornbake suggested that it be optional that people may include their email addresses.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Vacancies: The three-year terms on the council end for Roger Butt, Justine Gibbon, and Karen Graff. John Butcher said this completes Roger's second three-year term and he is not eligible to continue. A new candidate is needed. Justine and Karen are eligible for a second three-year term and agreed to continue their service.

Major Projects: John Butcher had asked Father for input to prepare the budget. Father said he would like to replace the wall paper behind the altar with stone; he circulated a picture from St. Matthew's Church in Dauphin, PA. John will include a "guesstimate" of this cost as well as replacing another air conditioning unit in next year's budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Knights of Columbus: Bruce Kocsis reported that the Knights will host a movie night this Saturday, March 7th, with the showing of Risen. Dick Heibel said the Knights will have their baby bottle collection during May.

Men's Club: Bill Emory reported that the Men's Club has been evaluating their Pippinfest food stand. Of concern is the declining number of people in the area of their food stand. There are no vendor spaces near them and sales have decreased. The men will contact the lot owners where they sell Christmas trees (because the space is more centrally located) and the Pippinfest Committee to see if that might be an alternative location for their food stand. John Strahler will be away during Pippinfest and his pop-up camper will not be available for use as storage.

Bill said Dick Heibel discussed stewardship as it relates to getting volunteers for specific events, such as helping with spaghetti dinners, or pancake breakfasts. The men plan to help with drinks for Father Mike's fiftieth anniversary party, and will pay for the beer. The men will host the May donut social.

Buildings and Grounds: Dick Heibel noted the need to repair cracks in the parking lot. He referred back to the long-range plan which included estimated costs of major repair and replacement projects we may be facing in the near future. John Butcher said we replaced one air conditioner at church and there are three or four more of the same vintage.

New Evangelization: Bruce Kocsis plotted the many parish ministries and their activities, noting that we have a very full schedule for a small parish. He said we may want to include four new activities in the coming year. First is a holy hour; Karen Graff suggested there be separate holy hours for men and for women. Second is adopting the Knights of Columbus' Family Fully Alive Program starting in May. Monthly topics guiding family prayer would be published in the bulletin. Third, our parish picnic is scheduled for September 9th; Bruce believes the entire week should be considered "family week". Fourth, our CCD students can present "Journey to the Inn", another Knights program, during Advent.

Parish Nurses: Mary Anne Gardner presented the Parish Nurses report. One Parish Nurse attended the monthly Parish Nurse Network meeting in Hagerstown, where the presentation included a demonstration of Reflexology. Two Parish Nurses attended the meeting of the Adams County RNs on March 28. The annual Parish Nurse/Clergy Luncheon will be in Hagerstown on Thursday, April 12. The Parish Nurses will sponsor the Donut Social this coming Sunday, April 8th. Blood pressure checks will also be offered.

PCCW: Peggy Leister submitted the following report. **The Prayer Shawl Ministry** - meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. We have shawls available monthly at the Anointing of the Sick and any other time by request. **Meetings** - Our March meeting was cancelled because of snow. **Funerals** – One funeral lunch in March **Quilt** – There will not be a Quilt Raffle this year. We made very little money on the 2017 quilt raffle. **Other** – We have a Tea scheduled for April 22nd at 2:00. All ladies are invited but must reserve by signing the sheet in the vestibule or contacting Mary Devlin. The cost is \$10.00. Mary Anne Gardner is concerned because the potluck dinner will be held the evening before the tea. Bruce Kocsis said he will have the Knights help to make the hall ready for the ladies. **HDCCW Convention is April 16th**. The deadline for registration was April 2nd.

Religious Education: Joan Ritter submitted the following report. On Saturday, April 7, 2018 the second-grade students will be making their Blessing Cup and their Banners for First Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. First Holy Eucharist will be Sunday, May 6 2018 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Confirmation practice will be held on Monday April 16, 2018 at St. Rita's at 6:30 p.m. Father Peter said Confirmation will be held Friday, April 20, 2018 at 7:00 pm at St. Rita's. Father Clark, the head of the diocese tribunal will administer the sacrament. The Knights of Columbus will provide an honor guard.

Facebook: Justine Gibbon said she continues to post parish activities.

Ruth's Harvest: Karen Graff reported in March we collected 364 servings of food. Becky also has some financial donations. The last collection for this school year is this weekend. St. Mary's volunteers packed backpacks on March 1, and we will pack again on April 5 and May 3. We're currently serving 40 students.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm with everyone saying the Glory Be to the Father. The next council meeting will be held on May 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Butcher, Secretary