

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting

DATE: December 5, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Father Peter DiTomasso, Pastor	Lauren Phelan
Father Christopher Onyeneke, Parochial Vicar	Buddy Weller
Bruce Kocsis, Chair	Roger Butt, K of C
Karen Graff	Bill Emory, Men's Club
Dick Heibel	Mary Anne Gardner, Parish Nurses
Helen Hornbake	John Butcher, Chair, Finance Committee & Secretary
Joli Kocsis	

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

MINUTES: John Butcher noted a couple of corrections to the draft minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting he had emailed to the council. The revised minutes as presented were approved.

FINANCE: John Butcher provided the finance report for the month ending October 31, 2018. We have completed a third of our fiscal year (33%). Income is 34% of budget and expenses are 32%. Sunday and Holy Day offerings for the month averaged \$4,850 per week, slightly less than our \$4,900 budget. They are more than last year's \$4,816 average. Overall, operating income is ahead of last fiscal year, due mainly to the insurance refund for the cemetery sign damage. The repair and maintenance collections are ahead of budget and ahead of last fiscal year.

We paid \$1,830 for the ice machine (the Men's Club paid \$2,000) and \$937 for candles. The \$13,087 payment for the cemetery sign is due. John said the payment will be taken from general savings account. Hopefully the Christmas collection will help boost our overall finances.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stewardship: Dick Heibel said he would like to have a "what's going on" calendar in the church.

Parish Safety/Security: Father Peter said the safety and security committee has not yet met. January 7th at 7:00 pm was set for the meeting.

Church Directory: Father Peter said the directory is in its final stages; parish groups are to select their photographs for the directory.

Columbarium: Father Peter said if we order a columbarium from Codori Memorials, they require a one third deposit upon order, one-third upon delivery, and one-third upon installation. John Butcher said 15 parishioners have expressed interest in acquiring niches in the columbarium and Bruce Kocsis added his name to the list. We have not yet decided the pricing; Father Peter suggested that we have a payment plan. He also said his former parish did not collect for the perpetual care fund on its columbarium niches. John agreed to look into this before we decide on pricing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Workers' Party: Father Peter said the party normally takes place at the end of January. The council suggested that Father pick a date and proceed with preparations.

Fire Detector Upgrade: As discussed at a previous council meeting, we held a fire drill while the Sacred Heart Tutorials School was in session. Father Peter said we learned from the fire chief that our current smoke detectors need to be replaced. Our fire alarm system does not meet current codes which were changed about the time our church building was completed. In addition, our system needs to be upgraded if we continue to host the home school. John Butcher had distributed emails estimating the cost of an upgrade to the system at about \$20,000. He suggested that the home school would have to pay about \$1,000 per month or about \$100 per family over two years to cover the cost. Father said he would consider asking the homeschoolers to cover a portion of the upgrades, but not all.

Lauren Phelan responded to Sacred Heart contributing to the upgrade cost by asking to see a breakdown of the bills the parish pays for utilities (gas, electric, water, etc.) and necessities (such as toilet paper, as Roger Butt mentioned) for the two years before Sacred Heart came to the parish, and for last year and this year so far, so that we as council members can have a clear understanding of how the homeschoolers are impacting the parish financially, and how far, or not, the rent they are paying is going. She believes this would be helpful for all to see and would help us in determining how much Sacred Heart may need to contribute. John Butcher agreed to get together with our parish secretary to see what kind of information we have.

Father Peter said some parishioners are not in favor of having the home school in our building and would not be in favor of an upgrade to our system for them to continue to stay there. The council discussed the handout and the need for an upgrade. Karen Graff suggested that we need to go above the minimum for the safety of our parishioners and the protection of our church building. Dick Heibel said a wireless system might minimize installation costs. Roger Butt suggested that Father communicate with parishioners about both the home school and the state of our current fire detection system. Father noted that our present fire detection system would allow the church to burn undetected if nobody was in the building.

Helen Hornbake and Karen Graff suggested that Father obtain bids on upgrading the fire detection system. The council voted unanimously to proceed to get bids and install an upgraded system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Knights of Columbus: Roger Butt said the Knights are helping-out at the Men's Club's Christmas tree stand. They sponsored the December donut social and will host a Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner for the residents of Comfort Care Nursing Home on Saturday December 8th. They are helping with K of C functions at other parishes and have installed the "Keep Christ in Christmas" sign along Rt. 116. Dick Heibel said they will be contributing toward a bus to the Right to Life March in Washington.

Men's Club: Bill Emory reported that the Men's Club has started its tree stand but is in need of some help in filling times of operation. Dick Heibel said there was a good response to the request for volunteers to pick up trees from our supplier.

Buildings and Grounds: Dick Heibel said there is an issue with the thermostat for the classrooms; a repair company has been out to take a look.

Parish Nurses: Mary Anne Gardner reported that the Parish Nurse Networking meeting in Hagerstown was postponed due to snow. The nurses will assist Charmaine and Tom Malik with the remembrance ceremony on Sunday, December 9th.

Religious Education: Bruce Kocsis said the Advent play has been cancelled. More effort will be put into planning for the play next year.

Ruth's Harvest: Karen Graff said we collected 204 servings of food even though we didn't have a November collection. The next collection is December 8-9. We still have \$68 in monetary donations from last year and this year. Five parishioners packed backpacks on November 29th, and we're scheduled to pack four more times this schoolyear, the next is January 24th. We're currently serving 46 students.

Ruth's Harvest is contributing Kenzie's \$50 gift cards to 16 of St. Mary's giving tree families. Alison Hess had a letter put in the backpacks of the Ruth's Harvest students asking if they wanted to be part of our giving tree, and 16 families responded.

Pastor's Comments: Father Peter reminded everyone that December 8th is a holy day of obligation.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with everyone saying the Glory Be to The Father. The next council meeting will be held on February 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Butcher, Secretary