

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting

DATE: February 6, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Father Peter DiTomasso, Pastor	Buddy Weller
Father Christopher Onyeneke, Parochial Vicar	Rick Wolfgang
Bruce Kocsis, Chair	Roger Butt, K of C
Justine Gibbon	Bill Emory, Men's Club
Karen Graff	Becky Sites, Parish Secretary
Dick Heibel	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 December 5, 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 December 31, 2018. We have completed half of our fiscal year. Income is 54% of budget and expenses are 52%. The repair and maintenance collections are ahead of budget and ahead of last fiscal year. Sunday and Holy Day offerings for the month averaged \$5,129 per week due to the Christmas collection. This exceeds our \$4,900 budget. However, offerings are \$8,600 less than last fiscal year. Overall, operating income is ahead of last fiscal year due to the \$13,087 insurance refund for the cemetery sign damage. Payment for the new sign was made in December and it pushes expenses slightly higher than budget and \$8,000 more than last year.

Payment for the cemetery sign was made from savings rather than our regular parish account. Becky transferred \$14,000 into our general savings account. In addition to the sign, we paid \$2,791 for a new water heater for the church.

John also distributed the quarterly report for December 31, 2018. The large increase in savings is due to the sale of donated property and an inheritance from Msgr. Topper's estate.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stewardship: Dick Heibel presented the following summary.

Change from Consumer to Disciple

"I give you a new commandment, love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

1. Focus on Young Adults:
 - a. Have contact in Md. (Karen Johson)
 - b. Theology on Tap at Corpus Christi in Chambersburg.
2. Focus on Teens. Mike, Youth Minister, has moved. Hopefully the new person can be

- persuaded to move towards a more structured program "Life Teen".
3. Publicity: evaluating whether a monitor in lobby would be feasible. Joe Ferguson will check at church in Williamsburg as to the effort involved.
 4. Lenten Meal will be on Friday this year before Stations. Bob Fritts has agreed to prepare meals again this year.
 5. Rosary before the five PM Mass during Lent. Will also try on Pro-Life Saturdays.
 6. Married Couples: Have settled on "Choice Wine", however, need at least two young couples to lead the program.
 7. Stewardship rollout cards and Corporal Works of Mercy.
 8. A computerized parishioner list would help target our efforts.
 9. Dropped: Potluck Meals Movie Night.
 10. Still need to evaluate needs of parents with small children.

Parish Safety/Security: Father Peter said the safety and security committee met to review the guidelines. Karen Graff is compiling them and will meet with Mary Anne Gardner when she returns from travel.

Church Directory: A bulletin announcement said the directory is being proof read and checked. Becky Sites said she has not yet received the online link to access the directory for review.

Columbarium: John Butcher reviewed the columbarium proposal. The cost of a 32 niche columbarium is \$29,877, a bit less than \$1,000 per niche. We plan to charge \$1,000 per niche; we also have to collect the same amount for perpetual care. Therefore, the cost to parishioners is \$2,000 per niche. Thirteen parishioners expressed interest so far. Codori Memorials has asked that we pay a third of the cost at the time of the order, a third when the columbarium is shipped, and the final third when installation is completed. John proposes we have interested parishioners pay installments of \$700, \$700, and \$600 in accordance with the above schedule. This would generate about \$13,000 now. The parish would cover the balance until all the niches are sold in the future. At that time the full \$2,000 would be due when purchased. There was a discussion of the money for perpetual care. John said the diocese has \$56,000 in our perpetual care account. They pay interest on the account. We do not have access to the money. Father Peter explained that the purpose of the account is to provide cemetery maintenance if St. Mary's goes out of existence. After discussion, the council approved the purchase of the columbarium.

Fire Detector Upgrade: Father Peter circulated the Hull's Electric proposal to install a fire detector system. At \$12,750 with an additional \$950 for an automatic dialer system, it is the lowest of the three bids. Dick Heibel took the proposal and blueprints to the Township code enforcement officer for review; it meets the requirements for continued occupancy by Sacred Heart Tutorials. The council approved contracting for the work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donut Socials: John Butcher said the Men's Club had several dozen donuts left from the social they held in January; the Knights had raised concern about hosting donut during Lent. John asked if we should continue the monthly socials. The response by the Council members was solidly in favor of their continuation.

Coverage During Lent: Father Peter and Father Chris will be in Rome during a portion of Lent (March 2nd through the 25th). Father Peter said he has priests arranged to cover all but the Wednesday evening Masses which will be cancelled. The Deacon and Donna Butt will conduct the Stations of the Cross.

Cemetery: Becky Sites attended the meeting to report on discrepancies in cemetery records, lot ownership, and burials. One body had to be moved at a cost of \$900, plus \$500 to provide a new grave space. A recent death identified that the individual's grave space had been sold to someone else. The Council expressed concern over the cemetery operations and recordkeeping. They discussed the official records on the cemetery and the need to get all the records corrected. Father Peter said we looked at computerizing the files; the cost was \$4,000. Karen Graff suggested that until the records are corrected, we should ask for the official easement received by the individual before any burials. It was also suggested that we may need to hire an auditor to verify the records. Father said he will talk with St. Mary's staff about the problems and will consult with the diocese about possible firms who could help us resolve them. The Council tabled the matter until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Knights of Columbus: Roger Butt said the Knights have a February 15th Valentines dinner at Keystone and the free throw competition at St. Francis on the 16th. They are considering taking-up the Men's Club's Pippinfest food stand and are looking for a new location for the stand.

Men's Club: Bill Emory reported that the Men's Club had a profitable Christmas tree sale. They thank John Strahler for mulching the front of the church. Their spaghetti dinner will be held on February 17th. The men elected Dick Heibel as President. They are evaluating their role and members are to bring ideas to their next meeting.

Parish Nurses: Mary Heibel submitted the following report. The Remember with Love Ceremony for bereaved members of our community was held on Sunday, December 9 was well received with thirty people in attendance. Two Parish Nurses attended a Network Meeting for a presentation on "Pain Management". Nurses continue to take Blood Pressures at Donut Socials. The date for next Multiphasic Blood Screening is Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

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. 1 shawl was given YTD

Funerals – Two funeral lunches in Jan-Feb.

Soup Kitchen – 59 guests were served in December on shepherd pie day and 34 on lasagna day. In January, 27 were served on shepherd pie day. Danielle Kirby prepared 2 turkeys for the soup kitchen Christmas meal and there were 38 guests. 14 ladies attended the Jan 8th soup kitchen volunteers pot luck lunch.

Other – We hosted the February donut social, we bought 15 dozen donuts and had 1 donut left over. \$43.00 was donated.

Spring Tea – We will hold a Spring Tea on May 19th. Tickets will be \$15.00.

We made a \$600.00 donation to the Kaiser family.

We will provide desserts for the Men's Club Spaghetti Dinner.

HCCW News – The 2019 Diocesan retreat will be at Mt. St. Mary's June 14-16th.

Religious Education: Joan Ritter submitted the following report. A Retreat and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for second graders will be held on February 9th from 9:00 am till 12:00 pm. As we celebrate World Day of the Sick on February 11, 2019, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, the students in the Religious Education program have colored prayer cards to be sent or given out to our church family.

Ruth's Harvest: Karen Graff said in December we collected 772 servings of food and in January 349. The next collection is this weekend. The March collection will be the last one for the year because the April collection would be the same weekend as Palm Sunday (we wouldn't have room in the foyer) and they don't want donations after April in order to use up the food they have by the end of the school year. . We still have \$68 in monetary donations from last year and this year that we can use in lieu of having a collection. Four parishioners packed backpacks on January 24, and we're scheduled to pack three more times this schoolyear, the next is February 28.

Pastor's Comments: Father Peter reminded everyone that the Bishop will be at Corpus Christy Parish for a listening session on February 25th. The Bishop is also scheduled to be at St. Rita's on July 8th for their 100th anniversary. We will have a combined reconciliation service with St. Rita's during Lent.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with Father Chris thanking the Lord for our efforts. The next council meeting will be held on April 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Butcher, Secretary