

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting

DATE: May 2, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Father Peter DiTomasso, Pastor
Bruce Kocsis, Chair
Justine Gibbon
Karen Graff
Dick Heibel
Joli Kocsis
Buddy Weller

Rick Wolfgang
Bill Emory, Men's Club
Mary Anne Gardner, Parish Nurses
Holly Wolfgang, Website
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 April 4, 2018 meeting were approved.

FINANCE: John Butcher provided the finance report for the month ending March 31, 2018. We are three quarters of the way into the fiscal year; operating income is 83 percent of budget and operating expenses are 78 percent. Sunday and Holy Day offerings for the year-to-date averaged \$5,118 per week, exceeding our \$4,850 budget. They are ahead of last year's \$4,834 average. Overall, contributions are ahead by \$6,513 year-to-date. Operating expenses are down \$10,875 year-to-date.

John noted that the Finance Committee met and approved the budget which calls for weekly contributions of \$4,900, a \$50 increase. The budget also includes money for applying stone facing to the sanctuary wall.

John also provided the quarterly report which will be shared with parishioners through our website. John said we received the latest quarterly analytics report from the diocese. There are no significant changes from prior reports. The main area noted for future attention is our salaries and benefits which are high compared with other parishes. When we replace existing staff, we should look to hiring part-time staff without benefits and seek volunteers for some work

OLD BUSINESS:

Stewardship: As a follow-up to our last meeting, Father said money received from the simple suppers will be shared between the soup kitchen and Ruth's Harvest.

Dick Heibel said Karen Graff and Joe Ferguson attended Rebuilt, a conference presented by the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland on April 16th, and 17th. The church had five main goals, one of which was increasing membership. Our goal is engaging parishioners, including younger members, in parish organizations and activities. Karen Graff said the conference covered ideas on how to engage parishioners and bring in the unchurched. Father Peter said there is a book on Rebuilt and there are online presentations at the Church of the Nativity website. Dick Heibel said the church he attends in California requires the parents of students at their Catholic school to be on a parish board/committee. We will review what we learned from the conference to see what we can apply at St. Mary's.

Church Directory: Father Peter said one parishioner is moving forward with steps to publish a new directory and is getting advertising. Holly Wolfgang said the photographer had an unexpected project delaying his work on the directory.

Council Vacancy: Father Peter has one volunteer; he will talk with her.

Church Projects: Before proceeding with installation of stone facing behind the altar, the diocese asked that we have the structure evaluated to determine whether it will support the stone. An engineer from the architect's office gave the OK. Father Peter said we are waiting approval from Father Joshua Brommer at the diocese.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Safety/Security: Mary Anne Gardner raised this issue at the last council meeting and Bruce Kocsis said it will be addressed over the summer. They will work with the police and evaluate our facility. Roger Butt said he will look for the material on this issue that he presented at the January, 2017 council meeting.

Fundraising: Father Peter said St. Rita's has created a fundraising committee. They need to raise \$50,000 for work on their parking lot. Some of the projects St. Rita's discussed include fish fries, chicken barbecues, and selling a parish windbreaker. Roger Butt said St. Mary's PCCW and Men's Club have traditionally served that function. Fr. Peter said St. Mary's Men's Club may die out in the next ten or fifteen years. The council discussed a variety of fundraisers. Nobody volunteered to head a fundraising committee and the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Knights of Columbus: Rick Wolfgang said the Knights will have their baby bottle collection during May; the bottles will be distributed on May 5th and 6th and collected the remainder of the month. Funds are designated for the Catocin Pregnancy Center. Father asked about providing an ultrasound machine for the center. Dick Heibel and Roger Butt said the Knights had planned to do so but cannot because it is in Maryland and we are in Pennsylvania, however, an Emmitsburg doctor provides the service. Mother's Day flowers will be distributed on May 11th and 12th. The pro-life Mass will be at St. Mary's on May 19th. Also on that day, the movie, Miracles from Heaven will be shown after the 5:00 pm Mass. The golf tournament will be June 11th and the chicken barbecue on July 22nd. A trip to the Hagerstown Suns will take place the end of July or early August; this is subject to adjustment based on the team schedule. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the bulletin.

Father asked the status of the Knights' plan to provide two mowers and a gazebo for the parish. Roger Butt said he put in a request for the Home Depot grant. He identified the specific items we desired. Rick Wolfgang said this went through the Knights' insurance agent; they have not heard back. They were led to believe that we have an excellent opportunity for the grant.

Men's Club: Bill Emory reported that the Men's Club purchased \$360 worth of beer for Father Mike's fiftieth anniversary party; much of it was not used and the club offered beer for St. Rita's Forty Hours dinner. The men have \$18,000 in savings and checking. Bill will check with a Pippinfest Committee member to determine whether vendors will be near their food stand or if a better location might be available. The men look forward to the Knights' Hagerstown Suns outing. The men host the donut social Sunday, May 6th.

Buildings and Grounds: Dick Heibel asked about the need for major roof repairs. Father said repairs were made and nothing was said about needing replacement. Comments made indicate minor damage might be expected with 60 mph winds we have on the property. Father Peter said one of our flag poles is leaning; the pole was installed by a now defunct Rouzerville landscaper.

New Evangelization: Bruce Kocsis said the Family Fully Alive Program material will be in the bulletin this weekend. The theme will be in the following bulletin. Planning for family week in September is underway.

Parish Nurses: Mary Anne Gardner presented the Parish Nurses report. Father Peter, Father Christopher and three Parish Nurses attended the Parish Nurse/Clergy Luncheon on April 12 in Hagerstown. Two Parish Nurses attended a seminar in Hagerstown on “The Pharmacy in Your Kitchen” on April 19. Two Parish Nurses attended the Adams County RN meeting on April 18. We sponsored the Donut Social Sunday, April 8th. Blood pressure checks will be offered this weekend, Saturday in the classroom and Sunday during the Donut Social.

The Multiphasic Blood Draw will be held September 12th from 6:00 to 9:00 am a change from the previous 6:00 to 8:00 am schedule due to fewer locations where the program will be held.

PCCW: Father said the PCCW along with St. Rita’s ladies will sponsor a bus trip to Washington, DC on November 3rd for a Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The St. Rita’s Women’s Society is sponsoring a bus pilgrimage to St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Harrisburg on May 30th for the 150th anniversary year of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Father Peter said he will celebrate Mass there at noon.

Religious Education: Father Peter said First Holy Eucharist will be Sunday, May 6, 2018 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. There will also be the May crowning of Mary.

Facebook and Website: Justine Gibbon and Holly Wolfgang said they have nothing new to report.

Ruth’s Harvest: Karen Graff reported in April we collected 367 servings of food. That was our last collection of the year. We had \$50 in financial donations so Karen used it to purchase 56 more servings of food. Becky now has \$40 more. St. Mary’s volunteers packed backpacks on April 5 and we pack again for the last time this school year, this Thursday, May 3. We’re currently serving 41 students.

Pastor’s Comments: Father was happy with the potluck dinner success. The next will be Saturday, June 9th with a speaker from the Hermits and in August, Lay Missionaries will be featured.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm with everyone saying the Our Father. The next council meeting will be held on August 1, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Butcher, Secretary