

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting

DATE: November 7, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Father Peter DiTomasso, Pastor
Father Christopher Onyeneke, Parochial Vicar
Bruce Kocsis, Chair
Justine Gibbon
Karen Graff
Dick Heibel
Joli Kocsis
Lauren Phelan

Rick Wolfgang
Bill Emory, Men's Club
Mary Anne Gardner, Parish Nurses
Charmaine Malik
Tom Malik
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: John Butcher noted a couple of corrections to the draft minutes of the October 4, 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 September 30, 2018. He also provided a copy of the quarterly finance report which is available on our website. We have completed the first three months of our fiscal year (25 %). Income is 27% of budget and expenses are 24%. A big contributor to our favorable income at this time is a \$13,087 insurance refund we received for damage at the cemetery. We will be spending this for repairs. Sacred Heart Tutorials also paid \$2,000 in rent.

Sunday and Holy Day offerings for the month averaged \$4,806 per week, slightly less than our \$4,900 budget. They are more than last year's \$4,714 average. Overall, operating income is about the same as last fiscal year; operating expenses are down by \$3,400. We paid \$420 for two students attending St. Francis School, the first of ten payments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stewardship: Dick Heibel provided a handout with details on tithing through a required minimum distribution from an IRA, thereby excluding the distribution from taxable income. This was discussed at a deanery program he attended in Chambersburg. He also commented on the many projects done by organizations at St. Mary's and how they embody stewardship through the sharing of time, talent, and treasure: the Men's Club sharing profits, the Nurses Multiphasic program, Ruth's Harvest, and the Knights' Thanksgiving food drive. He would like to have a sign/poster at the church which promotes these activities.

The diocese will be setting-up a "Theology on Tap" group in Chambersburg. This targets young (21 to 35) Catholic adults.

Parish Safety/Security: Father Peter said the safety and security committee has been formed and will be getting together. Rick Wolfgang said he is halfway through developing a floorplan exit diagram for the church.

Church Directory: Father Peter said photographs have been distributed. He believes the photographer is awaiting the completion of organization photographs. Mary Anne Gardner suggested that the groups be allowed to proof the group pictures and provide a caption with names. Father Peter said he hasn't seen any draft; Holly Wolfgang said she will talk with the photographer.

Columbarium: Father Peter said John Butcher put a notice in the bulletin requesting that parishioners let Becky know of their interest in a columbarium. The notice will be in St. Rita's bulletin this weekend. We have 10 people interested so far. Father said we can pay for the columbarium in three installments. We discussed the cost of the niches (each holds two urns). The information Father gave to John indicates that a 32 niche unit would cost \$29,877, or \$933 each. We have to charge an equal amount to cover diocese perpetual care. John estimates the total charge per niche at \$2,000. Two grave spaces would cost \$1,000. Additional grave charges include a casket, vault, headstone, and opening the grave. Additional columbarium charges include cremation, the urn, opening and engraving the niche. The total cost is probably less for the columbarium. However, two cremains can be buried in a single grave space at a lesser charge. Father Peter said St Joseph the Worker parish added benches on either side of their columbarium for loved ones to visit. He said we will not allow the exchange of sold grave spaces for a columbarium niche.

NEW BUSINESS:

Remember With Love: Charmaine Malik spoke about an upcoming bereavement program we are planning. A special ceremony, remembering and honoring our deceased loved ones during this holiday season, will be held on Sunday, December 9th at 2:00PM. This "Remember With Love" ceremony, held in community area of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Fairfield, Pa., includes readings, music, candle lighting and reading the names of our loved ones. All names submitted will be placed on a tree of butterflies. There will be refreshments after the ceremony.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Knights of Columbus: Bruce Kocsis said the Knights distributed bags for their Thanksgiving food drive; the food should be returned this weekend for sorting so it can be distributed the following weekend. They cancelled their sponsorship of Saturday evening movies due to a lack of participation. They will provide Thanksgiving dinner for the residents of Comfort Care Nursing Home.

Men's Club: Bill Emory reported that the Men's Club paid \$2,000 toward the \$3,700 cost of our new ice machine. The club also paid \$932 for sealing cracks in the parking lot. Bill said the men approved a schedule of upcoming activities, the first of which is a pancake breakfast on Sunday, November 11th, Veterans Day. Veterans eat free. Dick Heibel said he recruited several volunteers to help with the work.

The men will be selling Christmas trees again this year; the stand will not open on Wednesdays due to slow sales. The first tree pickup is Wednesday, November 21st. The men need help with that work as well as tree sales. Dick Heibel said he will talk after Masses requesting volunteers to help with the work. Justine Gibbon asked the time people are needed for tree pickup; it's 9:00 am.

Bill mentioned that Father wanted mulch around the front of the church. The club purchased the mulch and John Strahler did the work with the assistance of Thomas Schubring.

Buildings and Grounds: Rick Wolfgang said he talked with an engineer and the contractor who said a parking lot crack had a void beneath it. He reviewed various options for further investigation, some of which would be costly. His recommendation is to monitor the crack. Dick Heibel said the curbs around the parking lot islands are beginning to crack due to tree roots. The trees are required in accordance with plans approved by the township. He will talk with the company that does our tree work about restricting/cutting the roots.

Parish Nurses: Mary Anne Gardner reported that one nurse attended the county RN meeting and heard a speaker from the South Central Community Action Program. One nurse also attended the Parish Nurse Networking meeting in Hagerstown on October 18th. The program was "Dementia from the Perspective of an

Audiologist and Cardiologist.” Two parish nurses attended a four hour program in Hagerstown titled “Loneliness and Social Isolation: Screening and Intervention-Critical for Older Adults.”

The Nurses sponsored the November Donut Social and offered blood pressure checks last Saturday and Sunday.

Religious Education: Joan Ritter submitted the following report: On Sunday, November 18th at 9:00 am there is a meeting for second graders and their Parents.

Bruce Kocsis said there is an Advent play, Into the Inn. Joan reported that permission slips will go home with students this weekend. She hopes to get all our students to participate. This weekend Bruce and Dennis Ranney are attending a play at another parish in preparation for mentoring the students in the play.

PCCW: Mary Anne Gardner read Peggy Leister’s 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. Two shawls were given at the November Anointing of the Sick. **Funerals** – One funeral lunch for about 80 people.

Soup Kitchen – 34 guests were served on Oct 11th and 35 were served lasagna on Oct 26th.

Other – We hosted the October donut social, we bought 20 dozen donuts and had 6 dozen left over.

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

Ruth’s Harvest: Karen Graff said we collected 372 servings of food from the October collection. Our next collection is December 8-9; we don’t have a collection in November because of the Knights’ Thanksgiving food drive. We have \$68 in monetary donations from last year and this year.

Seven parishioners packed backpacks on October 31, and we’re scheduled to pack five more times this schoolyear, the next is November 29. We’re currently serving 44 students. We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve on the board of directors next year.

Facebook/Website: Nothing new to report.

Pastor’s Comments: Father Peter said the statue of Our Lady of Fatima is coming to St. Rita’s on Tuesday, Nov. 13th, and St. Mary’s Wednesday, Nov. 14th. There will be a prayer service each evening at 7:00pm. There will be a Holy Hour-Adoration, Rosary, talk and Benediction.

Thirty-seven people went by bus to the November 3rd, 2018 Pilgrimage to Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Father said everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

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 December 5, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Butcher, Secretary