

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting

DATE: October 4, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

Father Peter DiTomasso, Pastor	Lauren Phelan
Father Christopher Onyeneke, Parochial Vicar	Rick Wolfgang
Bruce Kocsis, Chair	Roger Butt, K of C
Karen Graff	Mary Heibel, Parish Nurses
Dick Heibel	John Butcher, Chair, Finance Committee & Secretary
Helen Hornbake	
Joli Kocsis	

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

MINUTES: Minutes of the September 5, 2018 meeting were approved.

FINANCE: John Butcher provided the finance report for the month ending August 31, 2018. We have completed the two months of our fiscal year (about 17 %); income is 15.85% of budget and expenses are slightly higher at 16.65%. Sunday and Holy Day offerings for the month averaged \$5,021 per week, exceeding our \$4,900 budget. They are more than last year's \$4,686 average. Overall, operating income is \$1,300 ahead of last fiscal year; operating expenses are down by \$2,500. In July we paid \$1,290 to repair the drains in the ceiling heat-A/C units at church. The council approved the report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stewardship: Dick Heibel reviewed the status of the parish stewardship efforts. He and Joe Ferguson attended a presentation held by our deanery at Corpus Christy Church in Chambersburg. The focus seemed to be time, talent, and treasure. A future session of the Chambersburg group will focus more on developing a strategic vision, something Dick said St. Mary's did not do in an earlier long range plan. A focus on stewardship develops a picture of "what is" rather than what could be.

The deanery session had a few good ideas. Develop a parish demographic so we know our target audience. Provide an orientation for new parishioners. Karen Graff found a holy card with Jesus feeding a hungry woman and proposed that we could give these out after Masses to encourage corporal works of mercy.

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

We could use development funds to provide a nursery during Masses.

Parish Safety/Security: Father Peter asked what has been done to develop a parish safety program and who is doing it. The minutes show that Mary Anne Gardner, who is away, agreed to serve as has Tom Tippet, head of the ushers. Others discussed were Dave Sanders and Bill Jacobs, fire chief. Mary Heibel did not have any information on the effort. Mary Anne had provided Father with information from an active shooter seminar the Parish Nurses attended. Father said the diocese wants us to adapt their plan template to our needs. He said the home school, Sacred Heart Tutorials, needs their own plan because they are not part of the parish. There was some discussion of diocese support for such groups versus parochial schools. Lauren Phelan said none of the students at the home school had gone to Catholic schools before the home school. (When reviewing the minutes,

Christy Weller said her children transferred from St. Francis Xavier and Delone and Becky said the Schubring children attended St. Francis.)

Father said the safety committee needs to begin its work or the Pastoral council will have to undertake the effort. Roger Butt said the diocese plan needs to be made germane to St. Mary's. Father is working on fire drills for both the school and for parishioners. Rick Wolfgang agreed to prepare a fire exit diagram. Once parishioners exit the church, they should congregate on the grass beyond the parking lots (either toward the House of Studies or the rectory).

Church Directory: Father Peter said there have been some complaints from those who ordered photographs that they have not been received. Bruce Kocsis said he will contact the photographer to see if we can get things resolved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Columbarium: One parishioner expressed interest in having her remains placed in a columbarium rather than a grave space. Father talked with the monuments company; we could get a 48 space (2 urns per space) unit installed for \$18,000. John Butcher said the charge would have to be \$750 per space to cover our costs and the diocese perpetual care fund. We may want to have most of the spaces pre-sold before we order the columbarium. The council agreed that we should find out if parishioners would be interested. John Butcher agreed to prepare an announcement for the Sunday bulletin asking people to contact the parish office if they have an interest. Our charge would be far less than the \$4,500 charged at Mount Saint Mary's Cemetery.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Knights of Columbus: Roger Butt reported that the Knights are trying to increase their membership. He and other Knights discussed the pro-life Mass held the third Saturday each month, why it started at St. Rita's, and why it now alternates with St. Mary's. Father Peter noted that St. Mary's has a larger contingent of morning Mass attendees. The Knights held both the district and regional soccer shootout yesterday, October 3rd. Roger congratulated Lauren Phelan who had three children win their class.

The Knights are considering discontinuing their sponsorship of the monthly movie. The license is \$278 and is due for renewal. Father Peter asked why we can't buy movies and show them. Rick Wolfgang said that it's only legal to use purchased movies for personal use. Attendance is down from a high of about 50 to 15 last month. Father Peter said we could get movies free over the computer from formed.org. The Knights will discuss this at their next meeting.

The Knights plan to put-up the Keep Christ in Christmas sign at the cemetery. They are also planning their Thanksgiving food basket collection. There was discussion, but no decision on providing food for the hurricane disaster victims in the Carolinas. Karen Graff said we will also have the Christmas giving tree. The Knights will sell Christmas cards.

Men's Club: John Butcher said the men agreed to pay for the crack sealing in the parking lot and contribute \$2,000 toward a new ice machine. The men also plan to hold their Christmas tree sale. Father Peter asked whether the men plan a pancake breakfast; none is on the schedule this year due to all the other activities.

Dick Heibel commented on the club's donation of 10 percent of their spaghetti dinner profits to the Gettysburg soup kitchen. He said the men may want to consider doing the same for their tree sales. This prompted a discussion of contributions to the poor and needy.

Buildings and Grounds: Father Peter said the contractor was sealing parking lot cracks today. He found one crack was so deep it did not have ground under the pavement; we need to find out if a sink hole might develop. Rick Wolfgang agreed to help find an appropriate engineer to investigate the matter.

Parish Nurses: Mary Heibel reported that the Multiphasic Blood Screening was held Wednesday, September 12, 6-9 am in the Parish Hall. The unofficial count was 272 participants. We are scheduled to host the screening again next September.

One Parish Nurse attended the Adams County RN meeting last month. Four Parish Nurses attended the Parish Nurse Network meeting in Hagerstown on September 20. Detective Sargent John Murray, Hagerstown Police Department presented a program on Active Shooter Preparation and Training for Congregations. Handouts from FEMA and other organizations will help as we develop an emergency management plan for our Parish.

Charmaine and Tom Malik have offered to facilitate a bereavement ceremony for our parish. Both were involved with Compassionate Friends in Gettysburg, which is no longer active. Various dates and formats of presentation were discussed by the council. The council agreed to invite Charmaine to its November meeting.

Religious Education: Joan Ritter submitted the following report which was presented at the meeting. Classes opened on Sunday, Sept. 9th. We have: 5 Students in Kindergarten – Teacher Bruce and Jolene Kocsis; 7 Students in 1st Grade – Teacher Lisa Small; 6 Students in 2nd Grade – Teacher Tina Baker; 6 Students in 3rd Grade – Teacher Jody Shuey; 4 Students in 4th Grade – Teachers, Joan and Lloyd Ritter; 3 Students in 5th Grade – Teacher Gina Pecher; 2 Students in 6th Grade – Teacher Amy Baker; 2 Students in 7th Grade – Teacher Amy Baker, and 2 Students in 8th Grade – Will be attending St. Andrew's Church in Waynesboro for Confirmation. Karen Graff is working with 1 student for RCIC. We have substitute teachers: Kristen Vlcej, Bobbi Jo Shuey, Paula Costantini, and Candy Wagner.

The Women of Life and Love Conference will be held Oct. 20 at Bishop McDevitt High School.

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.

Undie Sunday - October 20-21

Funerals – No funeral lunches in September.

Pippenfest Bake Sale - We had a nice variety of baked goods and made around \$550.00.

Soup Kitchen – St. Mary's did not provide meals in September, St. Rita's did. 54 meals were served in August.

Other – PCCW will host the October donut social. PCCW gave \$300.00 to help underwrite the bus for the Nov 3rd trip to The National Shrine,

At our September meeting we voted to donate \$250.00 to The Red Cross

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

New Evangelization: Bruce Kocsis said roles for a December play will be handed out in November.

Ruth's Harvest: Karen Graff reported that our first collection of the year was September 8-9 and we collected 384 servings of food. We have \$40 left from collections last year. Karen plans to buy food in November and forego the normal collection because it falls on the same weekend as the Knights' Thanksgiving food drive.

Three parishioners packed backpacks on September 27th and we are scheduled to pack again on October 31st. We are currently serving 38 students.

Pastor's Comments: Father Peter said we have a priest from Catholic Outreach at Mass on October 21st. There will be a Fatima statue in the parish on November 13-14. There will be a service, talk and rosary. A novena to Our Lady of Fatima will take place October 7-November 13. There will be a procession from the church to the chapel with a Knights color guard. A color guard will participate at the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday, October 7th, which is the Blue Mass.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm with everyone saying the Glory be to The Father. The next council meeting will be held on November 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Butcher, Secretary