

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Minutes of Pastoral Council Meeting

DATE: September 5, 2018

ATTENDANCE:

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

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

MINUTES: Minutes of the August 1, 2018 meeting were approved. Helen Hornbake should have been in the attendees list.

FINANCE: John Butcher provided the finance report for the month ending July 31, 2018. We have completed the first month of our new fiscal year. Sunday and Holy Day offerings for the month averaged \$5,091 per week, exceeding our \$4,900 budget. They are less than last year's \$5,161 average. Overall, operating income is about the same as last fiscal year. Operating expenses are down \$1,800. In July we paid \$2,279 for a mower for the cemetery and \$1,324 school property tax.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stewardship: Dick Heibel reviewed the status of the parish stewardship efforts. He noted that many volunteers were recruited after Masses to help with the Men's Club's spaghetti dinner. Also, the club will be donating 10 percent of its profits to the Gettysburg soup kitchen or the Fairfield food pantry. Dick provided a handout on stewardship which summarized the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Father Peter approved Dick's proposal that the handout be converted to a poster for display in the church.

Father Peter said Father Rodrigues, Head of our Deanery, sent information on workshops to be held at Corpus Christi Church in Chambersburg on September 25 & 26, October 20, and November 17. About bringing people into the church, a process we have already started. He would like someone from the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee to attend the program.

Joe Ferguson and Karen Graff attended Rebuilt, a conference presented by the Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland; Dick said they are looking at the applicability of what they learned to St. Mary's. Dick noted that Bishop Gainer addressed the men's retreat held at Mount Saint Mary's. The Bishop discussed a successful mega church (not Catholic) in the west. Their success relied on presentation, whereas, our goal is participation in the church; we have to learn to bring people in.

Parish Safety/Security: Father Peter provided the diocese guidelines for a parish emergency management plan and an emergency response reference guide. He asked the council members to look them over so that we can discuss them. Dick Heibel said his review indicates that some things don't really apply to our parish He believes our ushers should review the guidelines. Mary Anne Gardner suggested forming a small committee on which she volunteered to serve. She will ask Dave Sanders, who works on such issues for the county. Father suggested our local fire chief, Bill Jacobs, who is a parishioner and Tom Tippet, who heads the ushers.

Justine Gibbon said the State Police provide a free active shooter program. Father said he is aware of some police officers who carry guns while at church which is within diocese guidelines. Others carry guns, although it is against diocese policy.

Church Directory: Father Peter said the photographer is trying to get pictures of the parish groups.

Elect Council Chair: Bruce Kocsis agreed to serve as chair for the remaining year he serves on the council.

Council Vacancy: Father Peter welcomed Lauren Phelan who has agreed to serve on the council.

Picnic: Father Peter said about 235 people have registered for the picnic. He needs help with setup and cleanup. The weather forecast does not look very favorable.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Knights of Columbus: Bruce Kocsis reported the following upcoming events. September 15th, pro-life Mass at St. Mary's; 16th first degree; 22nd movie night; 25th soccer shoot out; October 10th Blue Mass at St. Mary's; 14th first degree, and 20th pro-life Mass and movie night.

Men's Club: Bill Emory reported that the men will not have a food stand at Pippinfest this year. Dick Heibel commented that the club's spaghetti dinner was an example of stewardship in practice (discussed earlier). The club plans to donate 10 percent of their profits to the Fairfield Food Pantry, or the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen. The men will help setup for the church picnic at 11:00 am.

Buildings and Grounds: Dick Heibel reported on bids for sealing cracks in the church parking lot and repaving the rectory driveway. Repaving may wait because blacktop plants will be closing for the winter.

Dick said Gene Goetz and John Strahler looked at the leaning flag pole; it is supported by sand in a heavy duty plastic pipe. The men plan to straighten it and pound sand into the void.

Parish Nurses: Mary Anne Gardner said 336 people are registered for the multiphasic blood program being held Wednesday, September 12th from 6:00 to 9:00 am. There's increased turnout for Blood pressure checks since the return of Sunday donut socials.

Religious Education: Father Peter said Religious education classes will begin Sunday, September 9th. Only 10 or 11 students are now registered, but Joan Ritter expects more.

Facebook: Justine Gibbon said she publicized the Men's Club's spaghetti dinner on Facebook. She has nothing else to report.

Ruth's Harvest: Karen Graff reported that we have had no activity since our last meeting. She has \$40 left from collections last year to buy food to contribute with our next collection. Our next collection will be this weekend and then usually every second weekend of the month through spring. St. Mary's first date of packing backpacks is October 31st and then about once a month for the rest of the school year.

Pastor's Comments: Father Peter said he looks forward to the picnic.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: The meeting adjourned at 8: pm with everyone saying the Hail Mary. The next council meeting will be held on October 3, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Butcher, Secretary