

Church of the Holy Spirit
Parish Council 10/11/16 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Schwartz, Shari Magagnoli, Eric Willing, Marc Magagnoli, Brian Weaver, Mike Shifano, Joe Sakmyster, Cathy Brill, Michael Lynch, Tony Ferrara and Bill Keenan

Excused: Patrick Vogt, Dcn. Ray Garbach, Bob Quinn, Fr. Justin Miller, Lisa Manella, Pat Schichler and Gabe Pellegrino

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Meeting began with Benediction in the church.

Michael asked about Stewardship Fair planning and was told that all six ministry teams have been informed and will host display tables. Five hundred Stewardship Directories will be put in pews and will be available at the Fair. Display tables will remain in place for the parish picnic/Stewardship Sunday weekend, November 5 and 6.

Pastor's Remarks

Fr. Jim talked about the uplifting tributes paid to Bill's father at his funeral yesterday. Bill thanked everyone for their prayers for his father and the Keenan family.

Fr. Jim mentioned that our CMA goal is \$74,428 and that so far parishioners have pledged \$21,060. He invited all council members to make their pledge soon. He also thanked council members for sharing their talents and for being great stewardship role models.

Develop Increased Communication Within the Parish

It was suggested that we develop a cadence to our town hall meetings so that we can promote them and so that parishioners can plan for them. It was agreed that having them twice/year would be best.

Fr. Jim reported that 13-15 families are participating in the monthly Home Family Program.

Fr. Jim also reported that nine of our youngsters are participating in St. Joe's religious ed program. Reports from them so far have been positive. Fr. Jim said that later in the year we will evaluate how it went and explore all options for next year, always with a goal of doing what's best for our youth's spiritual development. We also want to make sure we preserve the integrity of our own parish. Brian reminded us that it will be best if we come up with faith formation planning dates several months ahead of time so that parents are in the loop and will

know important dates well in advance. For classes in the fall, we should announce key dates in the spring.

Fr. Jim noted that one challenge we face at Holy Spirit is being able to increase charitable donations (stewardship of treasure) which leads to more staff and services. We currently are operating in the black, though 53% of our parish's income is for staff salaries.

Prioritize Hoped-for Accomplishments from September Meeting

We selected these three items, in priority order, to discuss at this and upcoming meetings:

- 1 - Greater outreach to bring in more parishioners
- 2 - Improve the parish center
- 3 - Finding ways of bringing families together, planning more family activities

Discussion about bringing in more parishioners:

- Possibly reactivate the Fishers Committee that previously went door to door inviting people to Holy Spirit.
- Send "Welcome back!" letters to lapsed parishioners, perhaps 25 at a time. Cathy cautioned the council that we tried this previously with minimal results (not a high yield exercise).
- Mail postcards to lapsed parishioners inviting them to events, such as videotaped Catholicism talks by Bishop Robert Barron. Tony also suggested having an event featuring a psychologist (he knows of one) who could talk about suicide prevention.
- Put event notifications on bulletin boards prior to voting days.
- See if we can encourage members of the youth group to play music/sing at a Mass on occasion in order to have a more youthful presence at our liturgies. Bill will talk with youth about this.

Parish Worship Goals

Michael reported that the Worship Team recently developed short- and long-term goals:

Short-term Goal:

- Somehow acknowledge the end of the Year of Mercy; mention something about the Year of Mercy at weekend Masses from now until Advent.

Long-term Goals:

- Music – Find a way to have a greater variety of music and greater participation of parishioners in liturgies.
- Uniformity – Develop greater uniformity across lectors regarding procedures and practices.
- Hospitality – Find more ways to make people feel welcome at our parish.
- Team Membership – Find new members for the Worship Team, and find someone to spearhead the parish's art and decorations efforts.

- Adoration – Promote adoration and orientation to the Blessed Sacrament. Include a consistent section in the bulletin that features teachings about the Blessed Sacrament.

Cathy noted that it is important that we create an atmosphere of hospitality (“ministry of the pew”) as a way of improving our worship. It would be helpful for priests to announce a special “welcome” to visitors at weekend Masses. Also, we could have a parish info table at our coffee hours that includes a sign-up sheet for various committees and activities.

Also, Tony recommended that parish council members wear name tags.

Action Items Review:

- Develop a parish Facebook presence. Fr. Miller? Lisa? Marc?
- Communicate in the neighborhood regarding Bishop Barron video events – Cathy.
- Decide dates for two town hall meetings – Fr. Jim. *Post meeting note: Our next town hall meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 29th.*
- Prepare for Stewardship Weekend events – All.
- Try to develop a youth music group for occasional Masses – Bill.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, November 8, 2016, 7:15 pm (prayer in the church first, then meet in the rectory)