

Church of the Holy Spirit
Parish Council 11/8/16 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Schwartz, Dcn. Ray Garbach, Gabe Pellegrino, Joe Sakmyster, Cathy Brill, Michael Lynch, Tony Ferrara, Bob Quinn, Fr. Justin Miller and Bill Keenan

Excused: Patrick Vogt, Shari Magagnoli, Eric Willing, Marc Magagnoli, Brian Weaver, Mike Schifano, Lisa Manella, and Pat Schichler.

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Meeting began with Benediction and a Gospel reflection by Fr. Jim in the church.

Members discussed the relatively low turnout at the parish picnic (approximately 100 attendees) and Ministries Fair weekend (very few parishioners participated). It was noted that those who came to the picnic seemed to enjoy themselves. Kudos were given to Cathy, parish staff and other volunteers who organized the picnic. Next year we will consider holding the parish picnic in August or September; Cathy will discuss this with the Knights of Columbus to see which month works best for them since they take over the coordination of the picnic.

Pastor's Remarks

Fr. Jim noted that we currently have 188 CMA donors with \$38,470 pledged. Our goal is \$74,478. We are doing better percentagewise than most parishes, though we need to keep the momentum going. He also noted that 83 people (out of 610 families) handed in stewardship commitment cards. Last year 98 people handed in cards. Our challenge as a parish council is to encourage more parishioners to become active participants. Shari will send out a reminder mailing to non-respondents as well as a "thank you" communication to those who did respond. Also, she will give team leaders information from the cards based on which ministry category the respondents selected.

It was noted that we may want to revise the stewardship commitment cards next year to clarify how a family (as opposed to an individual) should fill out the form and to show that parishioners are being asked to indicate ministries they're currently involved in and those in which they would like to become involved. Fr. Miller noted that it would be helpful to include all family members' names on the outer envelope of the steward commitment card mailing so as to emphasize that stewardship involves every parishioner, not just parents.

Cathy reported that 25 people had indicated an interest in participating on the Community Building Team, yet none responded to her email inviting them to a meeting, and only three showed up.

Fr. Jim noted that our Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus are gung ho and doing great work. One of their upcoming activities will be to re-do the outdoor Christmas crèche. Their mission includes service to the parish as well as many other worthwhile objectives. Michael noted their success in recruiting members and getting them involved in the life of the parish. He asked for input as to how we can learn from their success so that we can do a better job of recruiting and motivating parishioners to serve on ministry teams.

Review of Last Month's Action Items:

- Communication:
 - o Gabe will develop a parish Facebook account with a target date of having it operational by December 8. Cathy Kamp at St. Joe's can provide help if needed
 - o Cathy has organized a weekly adult faith formation series beginning the second week of January wherein Bishop Barron's "Catholicism" videos will be viewed and discussed. Some flyers have already been posted in the parish, and soon flyers will be posted in public places as well. Also, invitation emails will be sent to the Webster parishes faith discussion group. There will be no charge for participating in the series, but participants should register ahead of time. Sessions will be held on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Vinnie and Deacon Ray will help lead this series.
 - o Fr. Jim announced that the next Town Hall meeting will be held on *November 29* and that notices will be put in the bulletins starting next weekend. The meeting will include not only financial updates but also discussions about how to elicit greater parish involvement. Fr. Miller suggested that each parish council member bring a snack so as to make the participants feel welcomed.
- Ministries Fair – Gabe noted that this year's low participation in this event may have had something to do with conflicting events on that day. Fr. Jim suggested holding next year's event in the gathering area in order to catch more parishioners before they head to their cars. Cathy suggested that we develop a short video to kick off the fair that includes many voices telling why they are involved in various ministries. We could show this video before or at the end of each weekend Mass. Fr. Jim suggested a possibility of spreading out the Ministries Fair over several weeks with one or two teams being highlighted each week.
- Bill noted that no progress has been made toward recruiting youth to develop a youth music group for occasional Masses. He set a goal of the end of January for developing a group. Gabe offered to help pull together music and identify potential musicians. It was suggested that the youth music group's first Mass should be announced in ahead of time.

Revisit Other Recommendations from Last Month:

- All agreed that all of the parish doors (on both the upper and lower levels) should be open for weekend Masses. We will keep an allen wrench near the doorways to make it easier to open and lock the doors. The council also agreed that we should prop open the doors during nice weather so as to give a more open, welcoming feel to the parish.
- Bill will coordinate purchasing a video monitor in the gathering area that can display upcoming events, photos, etc. We should consider also adding a screen across from the downstairs entrance. (Post-meeting note: Eric has agreed to shop for a monitor(s) that will meet our needs.) Fr. Jim also noted his desire to make the gathering area more attractive and inviting, less cluttered and junky. He has scheduled a meeting with a few parishioners who have agreed to help with this effort.
- Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of using the screen in the church to make parishioners more aware of upcoming events. Even though announcements would be silent, some felt that this would not be well-received since it could be perceived as a distraction to prayer. Others felt that it might be worth trying, and that spiritual reflections could be included along with the announcement messages. Cathy, Fr. Miller and Michael will discuss this and come back to the council with a recommendation.

New Business:

- The council discussed needed parish center improvements, including repairing the roof and removing or modifying the movable walls. Fr. Jim said that the Operations Team needs to prioritize this and keep it on the front burner. He also said that he will contact Patrick to see how the bid process is going for removing the movable walls and providing some other sort of dividers.
- Since we currently don't have any family Advent activities planned, Tony suggested we consider hosting a "Stations of the Crib" event like we had in the past. This included having families gather in the parish center to stop and sing at six or seven stations, and then conducting some sort of Advent craft activity (e.g. logs with evergreens and candles). Fr. Miller and Bill will talk further with Tony about this and will ask the youth group if they could lead this activity. Jean Mooney from St. Joes may have some Advent activity ideas she can share with us. A possible date for this event is December 11 after both Masses. (Post-meeting update: December 18 may work better).
- Fr. Jim announced that he has arranged to have Fr. Michel Rodriguez lead our parish retreat on March 18-21 using the theme of "The New Evangelization."
- There are tentative plans for the youth group to go caroling with the choir at Hill Haven on December 19.

Agenda Items Until the Next Meeting:

- Develop greater procedural uniformity among lectors
- Add an adoration/Blessed Sacrament blurb in each bulletin
- Hospitality – set up a parish info table during coffee hour
- Get parish council name tags made

The parish council then reviewed assigned tasks generated from this meeting.

Fr. Jim closed the meeting by leading us with a prayer.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, January 10, 2017, 7:15 pm