

Church of the Holy Spirit
Parish Council 10/17/17 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Schwartz, Fr. Justin Miller, Dcn. Ray Garbach, Michael Lynch Bob Quinn, Brian Weaver, Mike Schifano, Marc Magagnoli, Rebecca Olek, Joanne Andreski, Pat Schichler, Gabe Pellegrino, Shari Magagnoli, Joe Sakmyster, David Powe and Bill Keenan

Excused: Patrick Vogt, Tony Ferrera

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- Meeting began with prayer led by Fr. Jim in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Chair's Report

- Bill welcomed visitors David Powe and Joanne Andreski to the meeting.
- Bill thanked Marc and Rebecca for creating a Parish Council bulletin board in the gathering area. Members photos soon will be posted on it.

Pastor's Remarks

- Fr. Jim gave a CMA update: 135 donors gave \$29,370, which is 36% of our goal of \$79,368. He encouraged Council Members to give if they haven't yet done so.
- Fr. Jim offered his own welcome to David Powe and explained that David came to the meeting as an observer. He will play a consulting role for our parish, helping us improve our communications with each other and helping to enliven our leadership teams. He also will assist us as we develop a Holy Spirit Executive Council to support Fr. Jim, the work of the Parish Council and our leadership teams. Fr. Jim noted that the Executive Council will consist of Deacon Ray, Bill Keenan, Cathy Brill, Rebecca Olek and himself. More about that team and its mission will be communicated in the near future.

Parish Retreat

- Joe Sakmyster reported that this year's men's and women's retreats at the Notre Dame Retreat House were very rewarding and enriching spiritual experiences. The retreat theme was prayer. Unfortunately, only six women and two men from Holy Spirit attended the retreat. He wondered if he needed to do a better job of promoting the retreats. Joanne noted that our parish picnic

conflicted with this year's retreat weekend. Joe noted that we are locked into the retreat dates assigned to Holy Spirit each year, but parishioners are free to join other parishes on their retreat weekends if they can't make it to Holy Spirit's retreat weekends. The retreat house has 50 bedrooms and can accommodate 50-60 retreatants. Members agreed that it might be easier to move the date of our parish picnics than move the date of our retreat weekends. Fr. Jim encouraged Parish Council members to participate in next year's retreat and to invite others to do so also.

Parish "Visioning" Session

We began this session by reviewing our current parish mission: *"We are a welcoming community with a mission to be Christ to everyone through our baptismal promise: to love God, love neighbor, and make disciples."* It was noted that it would be helpful to add the word "Catholic" after the word "welcoming." Bill then led attendees in an exercise to identify descriptors/values that currently are central to our parish life, or that we desire to become central to our parish life. The goal of this exercise was simply to identify the things that are important to us as a parish family so that during future sessions we can flesh out activities and guidelines for parish living that reflect these values. Brian noted that it is important that our discussions should result in concrete actions.

During the brainstorming session, members offered the following values/descriptors for our parish. Each member was then given four votes that could be used to select up to four items that resonated most strongly with him/her. Note: The number following each statement/item below represents the number of votes it received.

- Being a blessing for various groups
- Being welcoming (start a Catholic Welcome Wagon for new neighbors) – 3
- Catholic -3
- Family centered – 3
- Bringing generations together – 1
- Prayer/adoration – 3
- Reverence – 2
- Progressive
- Pastoral – care for parishioners – 1
- Divine Mercy & Fatima – 1

- Outreach to elderly – 1
- Communicative – all on the same page – 3
- Identity in our parish name (Holy Spirit) and focus on gifts of the Holy Spirit – 7
- Lifelong learning – 3
- Christ centered – 2
- Traditional – 1
- Reconciliation (emphasis on the Sacrament)
- Merciful – 2
- 5-year plan – 4
- Accommodating
- Dynamic: out-reaching, evangelizing – 2
- Joyful – 2
- Stewards – giving via our charisms – 4
- Social events – 1
- Social outreach
- Resourceful – maintaining a list of volunteers & services that can help parishioners – 3
- Action oriented - 2

Discussion on this brainstorming session will take place at a future meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.