

Church of the Holy Spirit
Parish Council 9/1917 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Schwartz, Fr. Justin Miller, Dcn. Ray Garbach, Michael Lynch, Bob Quinn, Brian Weaver, Marc Magagnoli, Rebecca Olek, and Bill Keenan

Excused: Mike Schifano, Gabe Pellegrino, Eric Willing, Patrick Vogt, Pat Schichler, Joe Sakmyster, Tony Ferrara, and Shari Magagnoli

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- Meeting began with prayer led by Deacon Ray in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

Chair's Report

- Bill thanked members for their continued service. He noted a more positive and upbeat atmosphere at the parish, evident in the very active Knights of Columbus Council, the founding of the Women's Auxiliary, and the exuberance of this year's youth group.

- He apologized for the short notice given to members for this meeting and said he would follow up with absent members.

- He also encouraged members to submit a photo of themselves for the Parish Council wall display and for placement on the Parish Council link on our parish website.

-It was noted that Pat is the liaison between the Parish Council and the Women's Auxiliary.

-Members introduced themselves to Rebecca who was attending her first meeting.

Pastor's Remarks

- Parish Council dates for the coming year: 10/17/17, 11/21/17, 1/16/18, 2/13/18, 4/24/18, and 5/29/18.

- Fr. Jim noted that the Catholic Ministries Appeal's assessed goal for our parish is \$79,639, which is an increase over last year's goal due Holy Spirit's increased weekly collections this past year.

- In this Year of the Eucharist, we will celebrate the Eucharist every Monday evening for eight weeks, longer if this weekly gathering proves to be popular

among parishioners. Prior to each Mass, Fr. Jim or Fr. Miller will offer a 15-minute teaching component on a different aspect of the Mass. We will hold a debriefing of sorts over snacks in the gathering area after each Mass. Concern was expressed that these Monday evening Masses had not been publicized enough, so staff will attempt to make announcements about them from the pulpit, on lobby TV screens and in upcoming bulletins.

- Fr. Jim and Deacon Ray met with David Powe, a St. Rita parishioner who is a leadership/management consultant, who will help us discover how to develop better communication plans for our parish and how best to discover and use the charisms of each parishioner.
- Soup suppers and Stations of the Cross will be held at Holy Spirit each Friday this coming Lent. We no longer will alternate weeks between Holy Spirit and St. Joe's.
- Cardinal Dolan will be in town this coming Friday to celebrate a Mass on the occasion of our diocese' 150th anniversary.

Rebecca's Report: Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

- 15 or 16 children from Holy Spirit currently are participating in our Family Home Program. The program has grown by a few families since last year.
- We hope to move our faith formation program for young children Fr. St. Joe's back to Holy Spirit next year, but we want to make sure we will have enough children and catechists in order to make the program viable.
- Rebecca has revamped our Confirmation program in order to better reflect what the Diocese requires. We have had a good turnout so far this year with 11 or 12 planning on being confirmed in the spring.
- Our youth ministry is off to an "awesome" start with a well-attended, fun kickoff event on the day of the KofC barbecue picnic. The addition of a Gaga Pit has made pre- and post-meeting times more fun for the students, and the new room in the church hall specially designated for the youth is a definite plus, too.
- Discussion ensued about possibly taking up a collection at one weekend Mass/year in order to help pay for youth group needs. We currently have need for a large screen TV in order to show videos and lessons, and for occasional movie nights for the teens.
- Vacation Bible School went very well. Rebecca already is planning next year's program with the theme of "Going to Babylon" (Daniel in the lion's den, etc.).
- Discussion ensued regarding a parishioner's concern that we have stopped the practice of enrolling First Communion children in the Confraternity of the

Scapular. It was noted that it is not a practice in this Diocese to tie this sacramental, though desirable and beneficial, to the reception of First Communion. Fr. Jim expressed his support for parishioners who choose to wear and propagate the use of the brown scapular, and noted that he wears one himself.

- 10+ children are enrolled in First Communion prep classes. Some have had their classes waived since they are getting their preparation in their Catholic school.
- Rebecca has been encouraging parents of last year's First Communion class to continue in the Home Family Program. Fr. Jim noted that there's always room for all of us to grow as disciples of the Lord Jesus. The Home Family Program can help.

Marc: Stewardship

- Marc noted that instead of having a one-day ministry fair this year, we will shift the focus back to ministry leadership teams wherein we bring to the attention of parishioners one leadership group at a time, beginning with Faith Formation and Youth Ministry in October. In the months that follow, other leadership teams will be highlighted, such as the Worship Team, which includes music, lectors, altar servers, arts & environment, etc. Parishioners will be encouraged to fill out commitment cards for each of these teams beginning with the October 1st weekend. Before each Mass that weekend, Rebecca will give an explanation of these commitment cards and this ministry outreach effort. Fr. Jim noted that our goal is to make each of the teams more vibrant and populated.

- Fr. Jim will put a blurb in next week's bulletin about the four commitment cards parishioners will be receiving.

Aspirations of Council Members for This Year

- Michael Lynch: He has broad hopes for a renewal of individuals in their relationships with God. He noted that lots of good things are taking place at the parish, including the new Men's Group. He also said that it's important for us to revisit our parish's mission each year with an eye toward renewing the parish.

- Bob Quinn: He agreed that great things are happening at the parish and that his wish is to populate the various parish initiatives with people.

- Brian Weaver: Brian agreed with Michael and Bob. He also looks forward to our parish having better communications. He would rather that we over communicate rather than under communicate.

- Rebecca Olek: Rebecca noted that the goal of the staff is to help create a welcoming parish and to make this a year of welcoming at Holy Spirit

Communication

- To help parish communications, it was decided that we would add a blurb in the bulletin that summarizes what took place at the Parish Council meeting and that points readers to our website in order to read minutes from the meeting.

- At our next meeting we look at how we are communicating on the parish level with an eye to making improvements.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17.