

Church of the Holy Spirit
Parish Council 1/10/17 Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Fr. Jim Schwartz, Dcn. Ray Garbach, Eric Willing, Mike Schifano, Michael Lynch, Marc Magagnoli, Shari Magagnoli, Joe Sakmyster, Brian Weaver and Bill Keenan

Excused: Patrick Vogt, Brian Weaver, Tony Ferrara, Bob Quinn, Fr. Justin Miller, Lisa Manella, and Pat Schichler.

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

Pastor's Remarks

Fr. Jim noted that Holy Spirit is blessed in having a committed staff, all of whom plan to continue to serve the parish in the New Year. He mentioned that, even though he soon turns 75, he has asked Bishop Matano to allow him to continue to serve as pastor of both St. Joe's and Holy Spirit, and Bishop Matano has agreed to honor his request.

Fr. Jim announced that Holy Spirit has begun advertising on the Diocesan website for a Director of Faith Formation, a 20-hours-per-week position that he hopes will expand eventually to include more hours. This person will be responsible for K-6th grade faith formation (including the Family Faith program and Vacation Bible School) and adult faith formation. It will not include youth ministry nor Confirmation preparation.

New Business:

- Finance Committee Report: Brian noted that total collections are down this year. An analysis shows that per-person giving is down, but this possibly could have something to do several of our older parishioner passing away which makes younger parishioners (non-donors) a larger percentage of the parish's population. Brian mentioned that we should remind parishioners that we are able to host

events, increase staff, repair our buildings, etc., only because of donations we receive from parishioners.

Deacon Ray noted that we should make parishioners aware of the option of contributing to Holy Spirit through automatic bank account withdrawals. Mike suggested that we put something about this in our bulletins on a regular basis and to give parishioners updates regarding donations on a regular basis. He also suggested that we put this information on the screen in the gathering area. He said that people will contribute if they know where their money is going and that more money is needed.

Fr. Jim noted that we reached our Catholic Ministries Appeal pledge goal by January 1.

- Parish Mission: Fr. Jim noted that Fr. Miguel Rodriguez will give our parish retreat on the topic of The New Evangelization during weekend Masses on March 18 and 19, and in the evenings on March 19, 20 and 21. His Sunday talks will focus on children and families; Monday's talk will be on prayer (various ways for each of us to develop our prayer lives); and Tuesday's talk will show how prayer leads to stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Fr. Rodriguez will be bringing seminarians with him.

- Lenten Soup Suppers: We will collaborate with St. Joe's in hosting soup suppers during Lent. Suppers will be at Holy Spirit on March 17 and 31, and they will be at St. Joe's on March 22 and April 6.

Open Forum:

- Habitat for Humanity: Mike noted that we would be opening a new house this year; groundbreaking took place in November. Clothing donated to our St. Pauli's Textile shed helps support our efforts. St. Pauly's is back to giving us four cents per pound of donated clothing (their per-pound reimbursement had been much lower in recent months).

- St. Joseph's House of Hospitality: Eric noted that Holy Spirit volunteers would be cooking and serving a meal on the third Sunday of January. New volunteers are welcome.

- Mary's Place: Shari noted that Mary's Place sent us a thank you letter for the many sheets that we donated to their ministry. The letter will appear in this week's bulletin.

- Overhead Projections in the Church: Michael noted that he developed a sample presentation of a reflection that can be shown on the pull-down screen in the church before weekend Masses. The target date for showing the first of these brief (three or four minutes) presentations will be the first weekend in Lent. Discussion ensued as to whether these reflective presentations will provide spiritual help to some people while being a source of consternation to others. Michael noted that these presentations could be used to help show ways in which Holy Spirit parishioners are practicing stewardship of their time, talent and treasure. Mike suggested we announce ahead of time that we will be showing these slides in Lent. Marc asked that a meeting be called to decide how to prepare content for the various presentations.

- Current Pope/Cardinals Tension: Mike wondered whether we at Holy Spirit should be addressing the current rift being played out in the public arena between Pope Francis and four Cardinals regarding the Pope's *Amoris Laetitia* apostolic exhortation following the Synod on the New Evangelization. Mike noted that there is much confusion among the laity because of this rift since it seems as though the Pope is endorsing a position on the reception of Holy Communion for divorced and remarried Catholic that contradicts Church teaching. Fr. Jim noted that the Pope is simply trying to help the Church be more open to ways in which we can extend God's mercy to others. Marc suggested that we consider forming a discussion group on this or other Church teaching topics.

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

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, February 14, 2017, 7:15 pm