

St Ann Pastoral Council Minutes

September 16, 2018

Pastoral Council members met after the 10:00 Mass on March 18, 2018. Those in attendance were President Janine Girzadas, Phil Farese, Nancy Kolasa, Bob Cattani, Mike Opat, Geoff Wendt, Scott Stolarz, Jim Oates & Father John. Members who were absent include Marylou Marshall, John Goldman, Phil Hargarten and Youth Representative Kaylee Oates. **Addition of the name of Diane Estep as absent is a correction from October 21, 2018 meeting.**

President Janine Girzadas called the meeting to order at 11:30. Father John led the Council with a prayer.

The minutes from March 18, 2018 & April 17, 2018 were reviewed. Phil Farese motioned to approve the minutes and Bob Cattani seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Janine asked for Commission reports from the Liaisons.

Christian Education and Formation: No report but it was noted CCD classes started on September 9th. Father noted Confirmation date has been set for May 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm. There will be a time change for the Saturday evening Mass normally held at 6:00 pm. Father will make sure several announcements and reminders will be made.

Parish Life Commission: Nancy Kolasa reported a Welcome Back to CCD Mass will be held on September 23rd during the 10:00 Mass. It is an effort to recognize and encourage our CCD students and their families. Parish Life Commission is working with Cindy Hargarten, Religious Education Director and Marsha Jerome, Music Director hoping to encourage the CCD students to participate in the Mass as readers, servers and in the choir.

Janine reviewed with members the Pancake Breakfast income and expense report as presented by Parish Life. The net profit for 2018 was \$3,762.32. Net profit was a little down from 2017. Nancy reported the breakfast was a success overall.

Parish Life Commission submitted their budget to the Pastoral Council for review. Janine reviewed the budget with members. Nancy stated several members donate some expenses such as the Easter eggs and expenses for Graduate Sunday. The largest expense for the Church is the food and non-food related items for Pancake Breakfast. Jim Oates motioned to approve the Parish Life budget. Phil Farese seconded the motion.

Father John mentioned it would be nice if the expenses such as a cake or treats for First Communion and Confirmation were allocated in a budget. Geoff Wendt offered to take care of the expense of a cake for First Communion and Janine offered to do the same for Confirmation.

Peace and Social Justice Commission: No report but it was noted the Commission is always actively collecting items for the Sojourner Truth House and for the Westchester Food Pantry. Members of the Parish are always generous to these programs.

Stewardship & Administration: Phil Farese reported he is working on a proposal to include a community response to our prayer of intention book. It would work something like this; if someone submits a family or friend name in the prayer of intention book, a follow up card will be sent to the family stating they will pray for the family member. This will be an interaction between the person in need, their family and our community. Cards will be made available near the prayer of intention book. Phil is currently working on the details and will update members at the next meeting.

Mike Opat pointed out many of the updates that have been made around the Church. The new Church sign, parking lot lights, grading of the parking lot, new parking stubs/curbs. Mike Opat, EIA (Elder Improvement Association), Mark Graff and Father John have been hard at work all summer.

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Father John noted the Porter County Highway department has been contacted about a tree that is hanging too far over into the roadway. The response by the County was excellent. They stated that NIPSCO will need to trim the tree around the power lines before the county can remove the tree. They will return to remove the tree as soon as NIPSCO has done their part. Father John will contact NIPSCO as soon as possible.

The house or business located near the west end of Golfwood Road was discussed. Much of the debris and wood they own causes problems for travel on Golfwood Rd. Vehicles are often blocking the road. Members discussed solutions and it was decided to contact Porter County with complaints.

Spirituality and Worship Commission: No report. Geoff will contact the Commission to receive information.

Scrip: Janine reviewed the annual scrip report provided by Sharon Ambrosic. The net profit between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 was \$5,032.78. Members are very appreciative of the hard work completed by Sharon and her volunteers.

Old Business:

Janine reported the check in the amount of \$6521.84 from the St Ann's Society was mailed to the Diocese on May 14, 2018. The check was to be applied toward our CSA goal. We are awaiting word from the Diocese.

Synod 2017: Janine reported the next step for Synod 2017 will be to inform the Parish of our "plan of action." In July the Synod team met with the Bishop and members of St Patrick's team to discuss our plan of action which was previously submitted to the Diocese on April 1, 2018. Father John stated he likes the idea of a brochure insert for the bulletin. He will contact Janine at a later date with some information about the brochure. More information will follow in the upcoming months. Synod Planning Team members include: Phil Farese, Janine Girzadas, Phil Hargarten, Jim Oates, Sister Melanie, Cindy Hargarten (CCD Director) and Father John.

New Business:

Father John discussed the improvements and updates to the parking lot. He also stated a couple of neighboring property owners have been using the parking lot for their own purposes and are creating problems for the parking lot. One of the trailers they are using is dragging the gravel out of place and creating additional work for staff members. He discussed the possibility of a locked gate at the southwest entrance to the Church parking lot. The Golfwood Road access cannot be blocked with a gate as it is a public road. Members discussed various options.

Father John reported the Bishop will be spending the day with St Ann's on April 6, 2019. Father said the Bishop would like to meet with members of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Commissions, Synod Team and of course Father John. More information will follow in the upcoming months.

Janine reviewed the Pastoral Council meeting dates. The following dates have been set. October 21, 2018, November 18, 2018, December 16, 2018, January 27, 2019, March 17, 2019, April 6, 2019, May 19, 2019. A couple of adjustments were made due to various scheduling conflicts.

Also under new business, the treat coordinator position was discussed. Bob Cattani stated he has been volunteering as treat coordinator since September 1st and will continue as treat coordinator until October 28, 2018. A search has been underway for a replacement coordinator for quite some time and Bob has graciously stepped in on a temporary basis to keep the program going. Two other parishioners have volunteered to fill in when they are available but the problem is the treat coordinator needs to also order supplies, monitor the inventory and be there in the event one of the two other volunteers are not available to serve.

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Members discussed at length various ideas and options. One option was to discontinue the program if no one steps forward to be the head coordinator because without someone monitoring and ordering supplies plus filling in when needed, the program will fail. Father John asked for a little more time to contact a couple of parishioners he hopes may consider taking over the position. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

On another topic, Jim Oates said he is proposing working with Knights of Columbus membership in Chesterton and perhaps holding a social event at St Ann's with part of the proceeds going to St Ann's. He will provide additional information at a later meeting.

Having no further business, Phil Farese motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bob Cattani seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 1:00. Father John closed the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nancy Kolasa.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

October 21, 2018 & November 18, 2018