

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Time: 7:33 pm

Location: Parish Library C 103

Attending: Father Pat, Kelly Boyle (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair), Walter Gawlak (Education Commission), Cris Revaz (Community Growth), Jim Barrett (Youth Commission), John Piescik, Maria Maldonado, Kurt Dieterle, Darcie Girmus (School Liaison), Jim Hathaway (PTPO Liaison), Eduardo Sevilla (Recording Secretary)

Guests: Jerry Belt, Bern Dietrich, and Tim Grants

Prayer: Kelly Boyle for Karen Asta

Formation: John Piescik

Finance: Kelly Boyle for Fran Smith

- Successfully paying off the mortgage
- Income greater than expected
- \$120,000 additional income
- \$400,000 in reserves at the end of the year
- Expenses amount to \$225,000 a month
- Therefore the reserves cover less than two months expenses
- The goal is to operate the parish while raising the reserves to a six months coverage
- Income levels optimally will cover expenses plus \$30,000 to add to the reserves
- Capital improvements will come through new appeals

Minutes: Review of June Minutes

Moved to accept, seconded, and approved.

## School Update: Darcie Girmus

- Enrollment is fantastic
- The preschool is at capacity
- There are many new faces this year
- Applications for next year are starting
- Some faculty changes, with teachers moving with the school and new teachers joining the ranks
- The laptop computers have been replaced over the summer
- All technology has been replaced in last three years with the exception of the Active Boards and those are in dire need of replacement
- The testing boards are working thereby allowing testing after school hours
- Learning Management System in middle school is being brought online
- The auction is upcoming on April 21<sup>st</sup>

## PTPO Update: Jim Hathaway

- The new parent coffee allows for immediate feedback and answers to questions. This is really good for parents new to the school.
- Plans are underway to repeat the coffee once a month
- Budget: over the summer
  - \$26,00 spent on school items
    - Desks. Fifty have been done with fifty remaining
    - Gym needed its own floor cleaner
    - Laptop computers replaced
- Auction
  - Bring ideas
  - Funding issues
- Signage – this is an eagle scout project underway

## Commission Reports: (Major Highlights)

- Community Service: Kelly Boyle for Helen Cascio
  - Thanksgiving clothing drive needs a new leader or it might not operate
  - Upcoming blood drive: Please give
- Religious Education: Walter Gawlak
  - New program for grades 1-6
  - New program for grades 7-8
  - Young people are doing things and are not just talking heads
  - Training with teams and discussions to relate with kids
  - The Tuesday class has been dropped due to lack of interest. Students in class have been moved to other sections.
  - Five new families to evangelization program. Ana Lisa Pinon offered the concept of “buddy families” to help in the process and all of the new families were interested
  - Lord Teach Me To Pray (LTMTTP) is continuing; coming with a men’s section possible being added this fall
- Community Growth: Cris Revaz
  - Care for Our Common Home
    - Parish opportunities on planned bathrooms and other energy efficiencies
    - Relation with Fifth Fuel: They are offering a complementary walk through to see obvious energy savings
  - Fall Festival: Bikes for the World
  - Newcomers Luncheon Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1 pm
  - Peace and Justice Committee
    - Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>: Backpacks with food for needy children; with mosque and synagogue (2-4:30 at Alexandria)

- Oct 26<sup>th</sup>: Presentation on prison life, including prisoner mistreatment. What we can do to help by visiting, support, and other actions. Virtual meeting here, 7-9 pm)
  - Remembrance
    - Meeting this weekend for annual remembrance mass planning (Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - Praying College Moms flyers for St Timothy's meeting
- Worship: Kelly Boyle for Bill Inch
  - Low on lectors for the 10 AM mass
  - Ushers are working to reconstruct the bylaws
  - Eucharistic Ministers have a lot of volunteers
  - Altar Servers have a new online sign up system
- Youth: Jim Barrett
  - Basketball kickoff under consideration
  - Taking ideas from youth ministers
  - Youth Mass begins on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Joint activity at O'Connell
  - High School Kickoff party with 20 students
  - Junior High School kickoff is coming up

#### Old Business:

- Evangelization Committee
  - Supporting current membership and not just serving as a welcoming group to newcomers and returnees
  - Jerry Belt
    - Convocation of Catholic Bishops meeting in Orlando
      - Only 22% of self identified Catholics attend mass on Sundays
      - Only 14% of our parish attend mass each Sunday

- St Mark has 10,000 registered parishioners; 8500 do not come to mass on most weekends
- Reach out not just to those who are not Catholic but to those who see themselves as Catholics but do not come
- Proposal
  - Period of Awareness
    - To find out what Evangelization truly is
    - Form a panel of experts including one from Arlington Diocese; one from Catholic Bishops staff, and Bill Dalgetty (Christians in Commerce)
    - Hold a major session during the Parish Retreat in 2018
    - Create a series of articles (written by team) to appear in all platforms by Lent 2018 to prepare everyone for the upcoming mission
    - Formal committee set up to move forward
      - Process development
      - Research and discuss what its all about, what our needs are; solve long term problems as short term is addressed by the committee
  - No monetary costs foreseen; only time and talent
  - Attendance at St Mark 5 years ago was 2500 a week. It is now 1500 a week. The average loss of 200 parishioners a year for the last five years
  - Imagine the amount of contributions that would be
- Procedure: If recommended, first objective would be the determination of whom to talk to and where to go:
  - How many of the registered parishioners are still in the area
  - How many are millennials
  - How do we do contact those parishioners

- Research is required
- Question: have any of the adjacent parishes done a similar analysis?
  - It has not been determined at this point of time.
- An exploratory committee needs to be set up to find out what we don't know what we don't know
- This is a terrific goal, but for it to have a meaningful impact, the scales of the numbers need to be determined. Why are the people registering but not coming? Is this part of a larger (national) trend, something unique to our area, or just our parish. This is potentially a starting point.
- Community growth: can the existing groups testify why they do what they do and help inspire others? Speaking of groups speaking on what they do, the Raise your hand! at the end of mass helps spread the word to those going to the parish.
- **The staff will be consulted about the process.**

#### New Business:

- Fall Festival (September 24<sup>th</sup>)
  - Weather looks good
  - All going according to plan
  - Brats and Beer from Knights of Columbus
  - Looking for help on tickets sales
- Candidates for Council
  - Four members will be done this November
  - Tim Grants observed the council
- Donut Sunday with Council Members
  - October Sunday to introduce themselves to parishioners
  - Candidates to be meet and greet during donuts?
  - Is there anything planned for the 5:30 pm Saturday mass?
  - Election weekends are November 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>

## Eyes and Ears:

- Parishioners want to start group that uses the Dynamic Catholic text
  - Approach proper commission (Religious Education is probably the best fit; possibly Worship?)
  - Advance information to parishioner
- Several parishioners have noted that there have been numerous intentions about environmental causes with some political overtones. This struck them as out of balance with other moral issues, such as pro-life causes. Why the drumbeat on one issue when, for example, the pro-life committee is under the impression there is a limit of one pro-life announcement each month imposed by staff.
- What is the cause of the growing surplus in the budget?
  - Faith direct is allowing for more consistent contributions
  - The staff has been extremely frugal with the budgets

## Father Pat's Comment

- The church is effectively living paycheck to paycheck
- The number giving is at its lowest, but those that are giving are giving large amounts
- The diocese is serious on wanting reserves to be at the year level, and we are at a little over one month
- We are doing good things, enjoy, but we can be doing better
- Consider potential candidates to run for office
- Stewardship Sunday fundraising
  - Organ
  - Parking Lot

Closing Prayer: Father Pat

Meeting ends: 9:02 pm

Next Meeting: October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

