

**St. Joseph Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting**

January 28, 2020

6:00 PM

Youth/Conference Room

DeVries House

Bowling Green, KY 42101

Minutes

Present: Pastor Ryan Harpole, Deacon Larry Conrad, Seminarian Chris Kight, Melissa Baysinger, Chris Desmarais, Chris Durbin, Francisco Flores, Roxana Ford, Rodney Schwartz, and Ben Warrell

Absent: Sojo Ngoy

Deacon Larry opened the meeting with a prayer.

Financial Review

The financial report for the second quarter, which was approved by the Finance Council, was reviewed. It was noted regular offerings were down, while the Restoration/Building Fund increased considerably compared with last year.

Fr. Ryan announced, in addition to her position of Parish Life Coordinator, Kathleen Baumgarten will begin assisting with the campaign finances and communications for ten hours a week.

In an effort to achieve transparency around the campaign, the totals pledged and received will be published in the bulletin each month.

Fr. Ryan shared that we were recently blessed to receive a very large contribution from a donor who wished to remain anonymous.

One of the rental houses is currently vacant and will require extensive work to make it habitable. The group agreed that demolition was the best option. The remaining rental house is still occupied. When the leases expire, a determination will be made about its future.

Renew

An update on the work of the restoration was presented. Exterior work is beginning. The side entry will be remodeled, rather than completely redone. The floors in the sanctuary will be made of porcelain and marble, while the church and the choir loft will have prefinished wood. Fr. Ryan proposed installing the old Communion rail which is currently in storage. The group agreed it would be aesthetically and historically appropriate. An escape ladder from the choir loft was suggested. The Parish Hall floor will be made of stamped concrete, and the work is being donated by parishioners. The kitchen will be completely remodeled.

The Building Committee met with Scott, Murphy, and Daniel, contractors and EOA Architects; and, colors were chosen, as well as bathroom fixtures. A final decision on roofing materials will be determined when the numbers for cost are available.

Discussion of other future work on campus was held; these will be explored in the future depending on our financial capabilities.

Fr. Ryan and Bayne Million appeared on WBKO-TV AM Kentucky on November 27, 2019, to promote community awareness of the restoration project.

A part time person is being sought to manage and improve the church website and increase our social networking.

Parish Life

RCIA has 12 participants. An option to open the classes up to other parishioners was discussed.

Fr. Ryan announced he has started a Young Couples group which has been well received.

John Villareal is now leading the Homebound Ministry.

The Disciples Response Fund Appeal took place December 7-8, 2019, as planned.

Liturgy

A Holy Hour service will take place each Sunday during Lent.

Confessions will be available on Wednesdays in March from 6:30 to 7:30 PM.

A Communal Penance service will be held March 29th with several priests present.

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday during Lent.

Lenten Days of Reflection will be held March 11, 18 and 25 at noon. Henri Nouwen's book "The Prodigal Son" will be the topic of discussion. Fr. Ryan, Deacon Larry, and Chris Kight will each lead a session. A light lunch will be provided.

The Holy Week schedule will remain the same as before with the addition of two Masses on Holy Thursday, one in English and one in Spanish.

Positive feedback for the new Worship Aids was provided.

Events

There will be a Fish Fry each Friday evening in Lent following the Stations of the Cross.

The Stained Glass series will continue in 2020.

The Valentine's dinner and dance has been cancelled.

El Mazatlan restaurants continue to donate 10% of revenue from St. Joseph patrons each Saturday, lunch and dinner.

The Youth Group will sell St. Joseph hoodies and quarter zips after the Masses on February 8 and 9. They will also conduct a bake sale at each Lenten Fish Fry. The group will attend a retreat at Gasper River February 1-2, as well as Youth 2000 in Owensboro the first weekend in March.

Other Business

Rodney Schwartz reported on the activities of Catholic School Week, which include a bingo, pancake breakfast and Bluegrass concert. The school hopes to expand the pre-school program, and a separate new playground is being developed for this group. An additional Open House will be held this year.

Melissa Baysinger stated the Choir will be accompanied by a cello at Good Friday services and by a trumpet, guitar, and flute at the Easter Sunday Masses.

Roxana Ford will no longer be able to attend Council meetings due to work requirements. Fr. Ryan will begin a search for her replacement. The group wished her well and thanked her for her service.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM with a closing prayer by the group.

Next Meeting Dates:

Parish Council will meet on February 24, 2020, at 6:00 PM