



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Parish Council

February 10, 2021

Members Present: Father Ken Shuping, Jerry Ferguson, Wendy Gilraine, Jeff Krajnik, Susan Moore, Al Scalera, Robin Underwood, and Paul Wyar. In absentia: Max Stephenson and Kerry Verner.

1. Father opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes from the last meeting were approved. Paul provided an update on the solar panel/lights for the parking lot. The Knights donated \$499 and that is all they are able to donate. That leaves \$500 unfunded. It was suggested that we go to parishioners for donations. Susan suggested that perhaps the Women's Club might be able to help; she will contact them.
2. Father updated council on the process that the Liturgical Committee came up with for the dispensing of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Deacon John has obtained medical grade Q-tips that will be used to place the ashes on foreheads at Masses.
3. Procedures have been altered for the Stations of the Cross during Lent and the Blessing of Palms to comply with COVID requirements. During the Stations, we will have two readers at opposite sides of the altar, one usher, and one to carry the cross. The church will need volunteers to help clean after the stations. On Good Friday, the plan is to have the stations moved outside to the Stations of the Cross pathway, weather permitting. The Blessing of the Palms will be Saturday, March 27th with a drive through and at Mass.
4. Father signed the agreement with Sound & Stage for the new Social Hall acoustics panels for \$11,000. The updates to the Social Hall are a higher need at this time; the Social Hall is being used for religious education, meetings, and so much more now due to COVID. While the camera need still exists, we do have a workaround in place. Currently the parish has a deficit. However, the forgiveness of the Federal PPP loan and the consideration of those funds as income will be a big help.
5. The Annual Diocesan Appeal is beginning. Richmond will not be sending out pledge cards. Emails have been sent out to last year's donors and the office will have some pledge cards available. There will be no cards distributed during/after Masses. Parishioners can mail in donations, use E-Giving, or deposit envelopes in the second collection box in the commons. Security of the second collection box was addressed. Father stated that the box is periodically emptied and it has not presented a security concern. The second collection box is also used during the Spanish Mass on Sundays for donations to OLPH; there is a separate basket on the table for attendees to drop donations for St Gerard's. Some discussion was held on the difference between the Living Our Mission and the Annual Diocesan Appeal; Father clarified that the funds are totally separate – the Living Our Mission is the addresses such things as major capital improvements and the Annual Appeal is for recurring annual expenses like electric, gas, and water. Our parish received Living Our Mission funds that

went to build the pavilion, and renovations for the bathroom for the Family Life Center. Council members mentioned that an announcement after Mass distinguishing these might be appropriate. Susan volunteered to draw up an announcement for Father's review and read it at Mass on Sat, Feb 20th; Paul will read on Sun, Feb 21st.

6. The Spanish Mass continues to go well. This stimulated discussion on methods, avenues, social media, and networks to best reach the Hispanic community. Robin volunteered to contact Denise Beltran, the Segura Program Coordinator at Roanoke Catholic for advice/suggestions. Father also mentioned that a new Hispanic family had moved to Salem and was attending at OLPH.
7. The council discussed the upcoming volunteer effort with Habitat for Humanity's Apostle Build. There are 22 churches in the area that are participating in the Apostle Build. Habitat will be painting 22 studs – each stud a different color. Susan will pick up the stud and have it available before/after Mass on Sat/Sun March 6th and 7th. Parishioners can sign their name, a sentiment, or whatever on the stud. The stud will also be available one weekday for those not attending Mass in person and on Friday, March 12th during the Fish Fry drive-through timeframe. There will be a donation basket at each time of the stud signing. Susan will coordinate use of the pavilion with Vicki. Once signing has been completed, Susan will return the stud to Habitat. The stud will be placed on the wall of the home being built. The church has volunteered to provide work crews on Wed, Apr 14th and Sat, Jun 26th. Only 10 people per day are permitted at this time; response from the parish has been good - we currently have 17 volunteers signed up. At 9 am on Apr 15, the volunteer crews will have an opportunity for photos in front of their stud in the wall. A donation basket will be in place when the stud is available for signing.
8. The Knights of Columbus will hold three Fish Fry Fridays this year – March 5, 12, and 19th. However, this year, it will be carry-out dinners only and processed through a drive-through arrangement.
9. Father closed the meeting with a prayer. The next "meeting" is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm.**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Moore
Secretary