



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Parish Council

January 12, 2022

Members Present:

Father Danny Cogut	Jerry Ferguson	
President Al Scalera		Kerry Verner
Vice-Pres Max Stephenson	Jeff Krajnik	
Sec Susan Moore		

1. Father opened the meeting with the Synod Prayer to the Holy Spirit.
“We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.”
2. Minutes from the last meeting were approved. Father reported that at the Priests Council, Bishop Knestout stated that our current COVID guidelines would remain in place; any extra precautions would be left to the local parishes.
3. OLD BUSINESS. Father quickly reviewed and updated open items:
 - a. We are still awaiting the necessary repair part for the solar lights in the parking lot. We may need to relook at this as, even when the solar lights were working, it was dark at the end of the parking lot presenting a safety issue.
 - b. OLPH received a couple of quotes in December for the livestreaming camera system. However, there have been some new developments that will take priority over this effort. The funds designated for this project will remain in place. Future donations for this project will be considered as we get closer to being able to implement it.
 - c. The Sunday 1pm Mass will continue to be reviewed as to whether it is an extension of St Gerard’s or a new ministry for OLPH. Father will discuss this with St Gerard’s Parish Council tomorrow evening. If, due to space limitations, St Gerard’s needed three Spanish Masses, it would make four weekend Masses there not including any weddings, funerals, or quinceañeras.

4. NEW BUSINESS. Father presented items for council consideration:

- a. The new developments Father mentioned in the livestreaming camera system discussion are two issues with the heating system. The first and most immediate is the replacement of a part in the heating system for the kitchen, hallway, restroom, and rear side of the office. The church has received a quote of \$5,700-\$5,900 for the part and installation. The other heating issue is with the main heating unit for the commons and part of the church which may need to be replaced within the next year. This is a more expensive repair expected to be about \$12,000-\$14,000. A concern with this repair is access to the heating unit. Jeff and Jerry thought that there was a removeable panel that provides attic access. Father stated that we are probably at the limit of our Living Our Mission funding and that the Knights have offered to help support this project through the Lenten Fish Fry. We can also inform the parish and ask for support through the Capital Improvement envelopes. Keeping it within Capital Improvements will allow the church to use the funds for either project. Father preferred to seek funding for a specific project only if that project is a highly impacting, top priority project that would be completed within the fiscal year.
- b. Father reported that the parish is now caught up on the books as of the end of November. Our receipts were \$191,091.25 with expenses at \$230,187.65 leaving us with a deficit of \$35,090.30. Jan is working to get the financial information into the bulletin.
- c. Mass attendance is still down from pre-pandemic numbers. Al and Jerry reported that pre-pandemic, Saturday Mass attendance was usually about 150-160 people; attendance at that same Mass is now 100-110. While online giving is up, the total donations are down. Father mentioned that he is working on providing granularity to the online giving so that Capital Improvements, Christmas and Easter flowers, the Haiti Mission support and other specific collections can also be made online to match envelopes received by parishioners.
- d. Father discussed the December 27th meeting on the Synod and provided information received from the Diocese on the synod process and the questions parishes are being asked to address, which will be included with the minutes. Feedback from all parishes is due to the Diocese by Mar 28, 2022. Father proposed one large session with members of the Finance and Parish Councils and the Staff. He has asked Deacon John Beach to be the Facilitator for the meeting. After some discussion on how best to incorporate suggestions and comments from the entire parish, it was decided to hold the meeting following a Sunday Mass from 12:00 – 2:00 with lunch provided and open the meeting to all parishioners with those who want to participate responding by a specific date so we would have an idea of the number of participants for lunch. We will also research on the possibility of people commenting anonymously on the church website or Facebook. The dates of Feb 20th or 27th were proposed.

5. Father closed the meeting with a prayer. Our next meeting is **Wednesday, Feb 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Family Life Center.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Moore
Secretary