

**St. Gregory the Great Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes**  
**November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Present: Fr. Tom Demse, Mike Esser, Yolande Lasky, Barb Wilk, Randy Green, Margaret Casey, Donna Higgins, Tom Molinski and Barb Freuck.

Absent: Marge Fischer, Mary Gentile, Michelle Konkel and Patti Penkalski.

The meeting started at 7:00 P.M. Minutes of the October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Pastoral Parish Council meeting were approved as presented.

**Fr. Tom's Time:**

The Catholic Herald will be distributed to 10 members of the parish council and staff.

Financials from the festival: Waiting for Palermo to settle up their account.

Vandalism on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Things being replaced. The biggest issue is the Madonna statue. The insurance company wants it repaired but the parish wants it replaced. The parish is currently seeking information and cost prices from security companies right now. Security systems will be evaluated and eventually will be installed on the premises. Areas will be able to be zoned through the security system. The parish is still waiting for the police reports on the vandalism.

Seton Schools contacted St. Gregory the Great School and St. Gregory the Great not going into the cohort at this time.

Matt Lawrenz has had extensive chemo in preparation for the transplant. He will be having the transplant sometime in November.

First Reconciliation is scheduled for the Thursday after Thanksgiving, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.

Fr. Tom reported on the financial report and budget for the year in Patti Penkalski's absence:

The Financial Report Summary for the end of the year (also in October monthly mailing) came out later than expected because the school choice audit had to be finished before the year budget could be finished.

Budget closed out year end after school choice audit was finished.

**Fall Deanery Report:** October 25, 2017

Mike Esser and Yolande Lasky attended representing St. Gregory the Great Parish. Every church in our deanery was represented. Representative from the Archdiocese was also present at the meeting.

The **Caring Parishes Program** will be reaching out to parishes outside of our own area. Fr. Javier Bustos, our vicar, will oversee and help develop the Caring Parishes Program.

The next meeting of the Deanery is scheduled for April 25, 2018.

Immaculate Heart of Mary parish will present a program called Sermon on the Mount at the beginning of Advent.

**Spirituality of Stewardship Conference** was held at the Cousins Center on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. A number of parish council members attended the conference. The presentations were very informative and helpful to the council members.

**Commission Reports:**

**Liturgy and Sacraments:** Barb Freuck

Cindy Bremeier has returned, and is restricted to Light Duty and no lifting over 10 lbs. She is still having therapy each week to strengthen her shoulder muscles. It will be awhile before she returns to full capacity. Because of that situation, the designated Eucharistic minister assigned to each weekend Mass will continue in

their capacity of overseeing each group of Eucharistic ministers, lectors and greeters. All ministers are asked to check in with the designated minister each Sunday in case help is needed.

The Arts & Environment Committee had a meeting on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the Teen Room at 6:00 P.M. to discuss and set up the plans for the upcoming fall and Advent season. Because Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is also the last Sunday of Advent, it will take a little extra planning to prepare the church for Christmas Eve services and the following day, Christmas Day. The Arts & Environment Committee will prepare the church slowly during the month of December in preparation for Christmas. The committee will start on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 to set up for Advent and do most of the decorating for Christmas on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Trees and wreaths will be put up but not lit until Christmas Eve. Some of the parishioners have asked about the little houses that are usually on the ledges in church; the committee will be bringing the little houses back this year.

The Arts & Environment Committee is always looking for more helping hands—no one is ever turned away if they are interested in being on the committee. Personal invitations are always a good way to invite someone to join the committee. The same thing holds true for the Eucharistic ministers, greeters and lectors. If you know someone that you think might be interested in joining any of these ministries, please feel free to ask the parishioner directly or let Cindy Bremeier know about the person so that she can make contact with them.

**Formation:** Michelle Konkel

No report.

**Justice and Charity:** Mary Gentile

**St. Vincent de Paul:** The pantry continues to be open every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. In September, they assisted 71 households, including 196 total family members with 362 bags of food, 9 bus passes, \$1719 in rental and utilities assistance, \$66 of vouchers for the SVDP store for clothing and furniture, and an additional \$279 in other emergency assistance.

\$446 was spent to replenish the shelves in the food pantry. \$2050 was collected through the poor boxes and other contributions. One St. Greg's member volunteers at the store each month to earn \$50 credit for our conference.

The annual November food drive is happening. Food is being collected at all Masses. Financial contributions are also encouraged. Every Monday in November, they will be needing extra volunteers at 9:00 A.M. to help shelve the food collected.

InReach/OutReach: IROR is working in conjunction with the SVDP Society to help with the November food drive.

We will serve our next meal at the Gathering on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. The sign-up sheet is hanging outside of the Hospitality Center for volunteers. ALL are welcome!!

Family to Family will again be our Christmas outreach project. We provide gift cards to parish and school families so that they can buy gifts for their children and meet the needs of their family during the holiday season. This outreach will begin to be announced next weekend, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and will run through December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

IROR will provide "Winter Wonderland" themed bags to our homebound parishioners to bring them cheer. This project was made possible by an overage of funds from last year's bake sale to support the Easter bags for the homebound project.

St. Ben's Meal Program: Our group continues to prepare and serve a meal every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Bakery donations are accepted from 2- 3:30 P.M. on the day of the meal or can be brought to the parish office during that day.

**Finance**: Margaret Casey and Tom Molinski

Nothing additional to be added to the financial report at this time.

**Pastoral Care:** Barb Wilk

Pastoral Care Ministries are moving forward as usual.

**Hospitality and Community Life:** Randy Green

Staff member, Jane Hanley will start in January as head of Hospitality and Community Life.

The parish will have a crisis plan in place soon.

**School Commission:** Yolande Lasky

Notes from the School Commission Meeting of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017:

Notes from Father Tom:

1. The Financial reports have been delayed pending the recent completion of the Choice Audit. Monthly numbers and the end of the year report will be available at the November meeting.
2. Children are attentive and participating in the weekly Liturgies.
3. First Reconciliation will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and is led by Michelle Zakula.
4. It is anticipated that a maintenance staff member will be available during the school day during Mark Kurzynski's medical leave.

Notes from Amy:

1. The cleaning service could be improved with better communication and increased access to cleaning supplies
2. The Technology Service is working effectively.
3. It would be useful to have a 'theater style cord' along the first floor entrance to the school when a funeral is held. The insurance company will be contacted to determine if this is according to building code.
4. School information and data on the Improvement Plans will be provided at an upcoming Pastoral Council meeting.
5. The Long Range Goals of the Annual Report were reviewed.

6. The Long Range goals related to Literacy, Catholic Identity and Academic Rigor, remain in place. It is the second year of the plan. The goals were distributed to the Pastoral Council last year.
7. Teachers are writing an 'Effectiveness Goal'. Many are focusing on 'Student Engagement in the Classroom' and 'Teaching with a Growth Mindset'.
8. There is a goal being written for Level 3 of Sustaining The Mission. It will focus on Social Justice.
9. Continuing to look for Physical Education and Spanish teachers.
10. Students in grades 7 and 8 will receive CPR training year.
11. Principals from future Seton Schools were invited to a meeting to discuss perceptions related to the Seton Program. In general, feedback was negative. The Zizzo Group has been hired to seek avenues to improve the perceptions of the program.
12. Commission members will collect budget questions and forward them to Patti Penkalski, prior to her attending a Commission meeting.
13. A question was raised asking if the new signage will include information in braille.
14. The number of the students who attend St. Greg's under the Choice Program is 77%.

**Stewardship:** Mike Esser

Reported on attending the Conference at the Cousin Center on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for the Spirituality of Leadership Conference. Good ideas were shared by all of the attendees at the conference. St. Greg's was well represented at the conference.

Closing Notes

Next meeting will be January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Great Room  
Closing Prayer for January – Barb Wilk

Closing Prayer – Barb Freuck

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Barb Freuck, Secretary

12-18-2017 St. Greg's Pastoral Council Minutes (Meeting 11-14-2017)