

**St. Gregory the Great Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes**  
**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Present:** Margaret Casey, Donna Higgins, Mike Esser, Barb Wilk, Patti Penkalski, Yolande Lasky, Mary Gentile and Barb Freuck.

**Excused:** Fr. Tom Demse, Tom Molinski, Marge Fischer and Randy Green.

**Absent:** Michelle Konkell.

**Guests:** Candidates for discernment, Eileen Lipinski and Jack Kelly.

The council meeting started at 7:05 P.M.

Minutes of the April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting were approved as amended.

**Fr. Tom's Time:** Excused; no report.

**Patti Penkalski Updates:**

Financial report: Right now the amount on the income side is more than the budgeted amount so the year-to-date financial summary is looking good. Choice enrollment numbers for the 2018-19 school budget are lower than anticipated.

The Choice Reserve questions we had have been fully explained by our auditing firm, Reilly, Penner & Benton and we are just fine with our handling of our school finances.

No new Director of Religious Education will be hired for 2018-2019.

The replacement of St. Gregory the Great's playground equipment was discussed. The money for the project (\$48,000) has been raised by Home and School, and the project is now being presented for the council's approval. A vote was taken by council members and the expenditures for the playground were approved by the council.

**Deanery Report:** April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Mike Esser presented the Synod Implementation-Deanery Pastoral Council Meetings Survey. The survey covers Evangelization and the Sunday Mass and now includes the Spirituality of Stewardship. The council went over the survey paperwork and had some discussion about the items on the survey. Mike Esser

will complete the paperwork and make sure that it gets back to the appropriate people on the Deanery level.

The next Deanery meetings will be October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Both meetings will be held at St. Alphonsus at 7:00 P.M.

### **Commission Reports**

**Worship:** Barb Freuck

Cindy Bremeier has invited the 4<sup>th</sup> graders to be trained as altar servers. There is also 1 fifth grader who turned in his form. She is hoping to complete the training this month.

Five (5) students have been trained as funeral servers. Students served their first funeral May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Also, a request was made in the Sunday bulletin, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for help with watering and weeding the outdoor gardens through the growing season after the planting has happened (which is planned for Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 8:00 A.M.)

Also noted in the May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 bulletin was the note from Fr. Tom regarding the decision to begin the search for a new Director of Music Ministry (after discussion with Matt regarding the director position). The doctors have not been able to give Matt a 'return to work' date. Music is central to our worship, and our music ministry program needs strong and consistent leadership.

When Matt's health and availability allow for it in the future, we will hold a parish farewell event for him.

**Formation:** Michelle Konkol absent (Information provided by Cindy Bremeier)  
It has been decided not to hire a new Director of Religious Education for 2018-2019.

- Michelle Zakula will again work with the children preparing for 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation and 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

- Jo Therese Fahres will be responsible for the Lighthouse Sunday School program.
- Cindy Bremeier will prepare the Juniors for Confirmation.

### **Sacrament Prep** (Michelle Zakula)

34 parish children made their 1<sup>st</sup> Communion the weekend of April 21-22, and April 28. Information and registration forms have been sent home with the first graders in the parish school, and with the Lighthouse 1<sup>st</sup> graders.

### **Lighthouse** (Jo Therese Fahres)

Jo Therese is doing a mailing, looking for parish children who are not attending our school. She is trying to contact all the “lost sheep”. Lighthouse information and a registration form have been mailed to those parish children not attending St. Gregory the Great School, or who are not attending the Lighthouse program.

### **Youth**

- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders are being invited to participate in the **Lighthouse program** as part of their formation beginning in the Fall of 2018. They have been mailed registration forms and information which includes the following:
  - Attend **3** Lighthouse Family Events and participate in parish sponsored service projects, in each of grades 9 & 10.
  - Attend at least one of the following in either Grade 9 or Grade 10: Don Bosco Day or Wisconsin Youth Rally.
  - Attend weekend Mass regularly.

11 juniors have completed their preparation for Confirmation which is scheduled for 2 P.M. May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Confirmation preparation was led by Cindy Bremeier. Classes were twice a month from October-March, which included two service opportunities, a session at St. Mary’s in Hales Corners for sponsors and candidates, and a Confirmation retreat, led by Jo Therese Fahres, with the help of several parish adults and Cindy Bremeier.

Confirmation will include 13 students from Our Lady of Lourdes and 11 students from St. Gregory the Great and one joining us from Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. Confirmation will be hosted by St. Greg’s with Bishop Jeffrey Haines as the confirming minister.

## **RCIA**

Currently I have one adult preparing to be Baptized, Confirmed and receive 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

I have recently met with a woman who is very interested in becoming Catholic. She is baptized in another Christian tradition. Her husband has never been baptized, and he also has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic. Inquiry period has not yet begun for this couple.

I have had one inquiry about becoming Catholic through the website. I have tried a couple times to contact this individual; so far, no reply.

## **Adult Formation/Evangelization**

### **Adult Confirmation**

3 young adults prepared for Confirmation with Cindy Bremeier from February 1-March 22, 2018. Two of them were confirmed at the 10 A.M. Mass on April 29, 2018. The third was ill, and her confirmation will be rescheduled in the near future.

### **Justice and Charity: Mary Gentile**

St. Vincent DePaul:

- The SVDP food pantry continues to be open every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 10:00 A.M. – Noon.
- This month, they served 60 households, providing 335 bags of food, 3 ALDI gift cards, 2 M cards, and \$107 in vouchers for the SVDP store. 18 families received a basket of food for Easter dinner.
- \$2000 in donations was received through stewardship, direct donations and the cylinders at the parish exits.
- One member of the parish volunteers at the thrift store to earn a \$50 credit for our conference each month.

St. Ben's Meal Program

- Meals are prepared at St. Greg's and served at St. Ben's on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Bakery can be dropped off from 2-3:15 P.M. at St. Greg's.

## In Reach/Out Reach

- In Reach/Out Reach collected hygiene items for homeless Milwaukee veterans after Masses last weekend (May 5<sup>th</sup> & May 6<sup>th</sup>). There was a tremendous response by the parishioners.
- St. Greg's, led by Barb Brooks, will staff The Gathering meal site at 724 S. Layton Blvd. on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018. A sign-up sheet is posted outside the Hospitality Room.

**Finance:** Marge Casey and Tom Molinski (excused)  
Nothing additional to add to Patti Penkalski's report.

**Pastoral Care:** Barb Wilk

**Ministries to the Sick & Homebound:** Ministries to the sick in a local hospital are acknowledged if the parish receives notification.

A "Call to Serve our Homebound" request was placed in the church bulletin to ask for additional volunteers to bring Christ in the Eucharist to our growing homebound population. We did gain one additional Eucharistic minister. Still desperately in need of more.

Funeral Support:

Pre-planning of funerals has increased. Michelle is receiving nearly weekly requests to preplan parishioners' funeral Masses. Parishioners are reassured to know that their wishes are on paper and filed in our parish office.

At this time, nothing additional to report on Elder Care and Sunshine Club. Pastoral Care groups continue as usual.

**Hospitality and Community Life:** Randy Green (Excused)

Hospitality Sunday was hit with that wonderful snowstorm, so attendance was unusually low. But those who were there had a wonderful time as always!

Committees will be contacted soon to calendar their events for next year (Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, etc.) Please be patient, we are close to calendaring parish events!

**School:** Yolande Lasky

School Commission Meeting notes-April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

Upcoming Events—

- Spring Social – April 30, 2018 Ice Cream and Classroom Exhibits
- Spring Concert – May 9, 2018

Principal's Report

- March financials reviewed. A question regarding the budgeted amount for the line of Allocated Property and Management will be referred to Patti Penkalski.

New Business

- The Exemplary Team for the category of Catholic Identity and Mission made their visit on April 11, 2018. Notification of the status of their findings will be in June, 2018.

Old Business

- The school's Elevator Speech was reviewed and updated.

Open Discussion

- Parents will be invited to attend the May School Commission Meeting in order to generate an interest in new membership for the next school year.
- The Commission will complete a self-review in May and address their point of discussion at the June meeting.

**Stewardship:** Mike Esser

The Stewardship Committee will reconvene in August. Patti will speak with Fr. Tom regarding initiatives for the 2018-19 fiscal year. The Stewardship Commission is hoping to have their meetings on Sunday after the 10:00 A.M. but nothing is set at this time.

Discernment took place at the pastoral parish council meeting next with Deacon Jim Banach leading the discernment process. At the end of the discernment candidates Eileen Lipinski and Jack Kelly accepted positions. As a result, Jack Kelly

with be the liaison person to the **Hospitality and Community Life** Commission, Eileen Lipinski will be the liaison person to the **Justice and Charity** Commission, and Mary Gentile will be the liaison person to the **Formation** Commission.

**Closing Notes:**

Next Pastoral Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7 P.M. in the Great Room.

Closing Prayer for the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting – Yolande Lasky.

The next Hospitality Sunday will be May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with Pastoral Care & Justice and Charity liaison people assisting the Hospitality committee.

Closing Prayer – Mike Esser

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Barb Freuck, Secretary

5-11-2018 St. Greg's Pastoral Council Minutes (Meeting 5-8-2018)