

St. Gregory the Great
Pastoral Parish Council Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019

Present: Mike Esser, Marge Fischer, Mary Gentile, Donna Higgins, Jack Kelly, Yolande Lasky, Eileen Lipinski, Tom Molinski, Patti Penkalski, Barb Wilk

Excused: Fr. Tom Demse, Lauran Vetuschi, Margaret

Deacon Jim Banach: Attended for discernment process.

Discerning Parish Members: Kim Kitzke, Joey Kovnesky, Jeff Senn

The council meeting started at 7:00 p.m. with prayer led by Barb Wilk.

Minutes of the April 9, 2019, meeting were reviewed. One correction was made to the Justice and Charity report therein. The St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, rather than Sunday, as stated in the draft of the minutes presented. Minutes were then approved.

Dates to note:

- May 18/19 4 pm and 10 am Masses will include celebrations of First Eucharist for our parish and school children.
- A farewell reception for Father Tom will be held on June 9, after 8:00 and 10:00 Masses.
- We will hold a welcome celebration for Fr. Todd Budde on June 22/23 after all three Masses.

Patti Penkalski Updates:

In addition to the April financial statement sent ahead of the meeting, Patti presented the 2019-20 budget that had just been approved by the Finance committee prior to our meeting.

In addition to the explanations that Patti included in the "notes" section of the document (see attached), the following explanations for changes were given:

- The income offset in the fundraising line item results from the new inclusion of the festival costs on the expense side.
- The school budget is based on a projected enrollment of 240 students. There are currently 242 students enrolled in this year. About 90 % of our students are enrolled in the Parental Choice program.

In order to preserve time for discernment for the potential new members of Pastoral Council, in lieu of the presentation of reports, the following reports were sent to all members ahead of time for review.

Finance: Tom Molinski/Margaret Davis

Nothing to report/was provided. ***See below for additions to this report made at the meeting.***

Liturgy/Worship: Lauran Vetuschi

Mrs. Bremerier will be going into the fourth grade classrooms and speaking to the students about acolyte training and to raise interest.

Formation: Mary Gentile

The parish has hired Lety Gutierrez-Kenny as Director of Religious Education. She comes from St. Roman and St. Charles Borromeo. She has 13 years of experience in youth ministry.

Religious Education

Lighthouse Program Update:

In late March and early April, participants did many things to prepare for Holy Week. There was a retreat that was very well attended. In it they did projects to emphasize that this week is the holiest of the 52 of the year. They had a potluck meal. While it was optional, they still had 40 children and their families participate.

Sacrament Preparation

First Communion:

First Communion classes are complete and we will have 42 children whom we will welcome to the Table of the Lord May 18/19 weekend. It has been a glorious year of learning and growing together! The parents were incredibly attentive to helping their children in class and completing the activities together.

Youth Confirmation:

Youth Confirmation is May 22. Formation for them is complete, letters to the archbishop written and turned in!

RCIA:

Britney was Baptized, Confirmed and received 1st Communion April 20.

Her 4 children will be baptized May 9th at the 8:30 school Mass.

Cindy B. has been meeting with a woman who will be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church on May 26th.

2 adults (Baptized Catholic) also will begin preparation this Wednesday for Confirmation and Communion (which could happen sometime later this summer).

Justice and Charity: Eileen Lipinski

The In Reach/Out Reach group is currently working on their outreach projects for next year. They are hoping to do one project a month and not overlap projects.

We do not have numbers for the Rice Bowl project yet; however, the school children raised a record-breaking amount with for their feeding farm in each classroom. The students bought animals and food for the animals (virtual) in order to raise money for developing countries to buy REAL animals to create sustainable living.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society celebrated Ozanam Sunday on April 28, coming together for the 10:00 mass, then meeting for fellowship, reflection and planning afterwards. They continue to assist area households with needs ranging from food to bus passes to monetary assistance for bills. The Society received \$2,000 from the parish through various offerings.

Pastoral Care: Barb Wilk

Bereavement:

The Widows' Group met on April 25th in conjunction with Our Lady of Lourdes.

Ministries to the Sick and Homebound:

Home visits and outreach to the homebound continue as usual.

All other ministries continue as usual.

Hospitality and Community Life: Jack Kelly

Community Life will be reducing the number of times it volunteers to work at the Gathering meal site due to lack of volunteers signing up to help serve. The remaining dates are September 23 and December 7.

School: Yolande Lasky

The April meeting had been cancelled. Nothing to report.

Stewardship: Mike Esser

Nothing to report.

Our quick review of these reports, Tom Molinski and Donna Higgins, having just attended the Finance Council meeting, were able to add the following items to the Finance report:

- The Athletic Association will be taking over the annual Rummage Sale, which had been given up by the Christian Women's Association after last year's event. This will provide need funding for Athletics.
- A Check was sent to our investment company to replenish and reinstate the school endowment fund.

May 1st Deanery Meeting Report:

Before beginning discernment process, Yolande Lasky and Mike Esser gave a report on the Deanery meeting that they attended on May 1, 2019:

Pastoral and Finance commission's norms are being revised based on input given by trustees and pastoral commission members at the Parish Council Congress in February.

A handout with information on Parish Security and Crisis Planning was passed along to Patti Penkalski. It is a template that all parishes are expected to use to create a plan. The information was put together with input from Catholic Mutual Insurance who will continue to be a good resource in this planning.

Parish reports were given. Some interesting pieces included the use of an app, "Flocknotes" to reach out to families that are not attending Sunday Mass. Also, many parishes are considering using the Knights of Columbus as a more regular resource, especially for finding volunteers.

Discernment process

Deacon Jim Banach began the discernment process for the 3 potential candidate that attended. Jim asked that next year we should hold discernment one month earlier in order to give the discerning attendees an opportunity to reflect after the meeting before making a decision. We needed to fill two spots.

Jeff Senn and Joey Kovnesky have agreed to join council for three-year terms.

Closing

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be held on June 11 at 7pm in the Great Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Gentile, Vice-chairperson