

St. Gregory the Great Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2017

PRESENT: Barb Wilk, Donna Higgins, Marge Casey, Mike Esser, Randy Green, Fr. Tom Demse, Marge Fischer, Yolande Lasky, Patti Penkalski and Barb Freuck.

ABSENT: Tom Molinski, Michelle Konkel and Tricia Boyle.

Meeting started at 7:10 P.M. with Stewardship Prayer.

Minutes of the March 14th, 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

Fr. Tom's Time:

Staffing issues: Cindy Bremeier is progressing however an MRI has detected that she has muscle tears and that will delay her coming back until at least July.

First Communion will take place at St. Greg's on Saturday, May 6th and Sunday, May 7th. Confirmation will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes on Sunday, May 21st. Graduation will take place in June with the school personnel handling the details.

Chris O'Loughlin has accepted a fulltime position at St. Matthew's Church starting in July. Matt will interview possible candidates if it is decided to continue the Praise Mass as it is now. If we don't find the right kind of musician people, people will not attend the Mass. In recent months, the numbers have been falling in regards to attendance at Praise Mass on Sunday evening. We will have to take a look at the music costs vs. the number of people coming for this Mass to decide the feasibility of continuing this Mass.

Fr. Tom sent out welcome letters to people joining St. Greg's since last year (roughly 21 families).

Hospitality Sunday: Staff members have been available to sign-up new members at monthly hospitality. Now it will be done through a postcard that will be available in the Hospitality Center and in the kiosks. A staff member will get in touch with the person after getting back the postcard.

Matt Lawrenz has requested going to 4 days a week down from 5 days a week.

Administrative Updates: Patti Penkalski

Presented the March financials. The Finance commission members presented the Proposed Budget 2017-2018. There are not too many changes. Patti also talked about the Bookends Program.

Deanery Meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017 at St. Alphonsus Parish. Mike Esser and Yolande Lasky will attend as representative for St. Greg's. They will report on our joint collaborative meeting with Our Lady of Lourdes parish council members (February 26th & 27th, 2017) and our joint mission program during Lent with Our Lady of Lourdes congregation (March 8th-10th, 2017). They will also mention that Confirmation is also a collaborative venture this year (May 21st, 2017). They will also report on the signage issues that our parish is currently working on including having the signs being bi-lingual.

Parishes are being asked to bring questions that can be relayed to the Archbishop for clarification and we are asking for clarification between the last rites vs. the anointing of the sick.

Commission Reports

Worship: Barb Freuck

Not too much to report this month.

Everything went pretty well in the preparation for Holy Week at St. Gregory's. The interior of the church looked quite nice on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. We have done a mix of fresh flowers along with an array of artificial flowers to complement the Easter season this year. The real flowers will be removed as they cease to flourish throughout the Easter season. With the weekend of First Communion coming up the first weekend of May, the altar will be adorned with mums as the need arises. It will all depend on how well the real Easter flowers hold up. Our current decorations will remain through June 4th, 2017 which is Pentecost Sunday.

Hopefully, the Arts & Environment committee will have a meeting with Cindy Bremeier when she returns to active employment following her therapy.

Meanwhile, the committee has set up Saturday, May 27th, 2017 for the planting around the parish grounds. It will start at 8:00 A.M. Everyone is welcome to come and help out. The more hands the faster the planting gets finished. Any questions, please feel free to contact Barb Freuck, (414) 321-7745 or email her at bafreuck@sbcglobal.net. The committee will appreciate any help from parishioners.

The Eucharistic ministers, acolytes and lectors did a fine job throughout the Holy Week activities in church. We were fortunate enough to have Kathy Luty act as our fearless leader in Cindy Bremeier's absence. Thank you so much, Kathy, for everything you did for the ministers here at St. Greg's. You are indeed a blessing to our parish.

As Cindy Bremeier continues her recovery through therapy, our commission continues to keep in contact with Cindy through email and telephone so as not to miss any steps as we prepare for the months ahead until Cindy returns.

Formation: No report.

Human Concerns: Barb Wilk

The Easter Sunshine Bags were filled and distributed. There were 51 Sunshine Bags made up for shut-in and homebound parishioners. The bags were filled with lip balm, word search books, playing cards, snacks, prayer book, etc. When the Eucharistic ministers delivered the Sunshine Bags the homebound parishioners were truly excited about receiving the bags. Many of them said that the bags gave them the feeling of being part of the congregation even though they could not physically be present at the church services. This activity certainly was an example of the good news that we are always looking to find where our parish contributes to the well-being of our whole congregation.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Continues to have the food pantry open 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month from 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon. There is still a need for members to join the SVDP organization here at St. Greg's.

St. Ben's Meal Program continues every fourth Wednesday by preparing a meal for the people at St. Ben's. Our parishioners continue to contribute time, money

and food and desserts for this monthly meal. Thanks to all the parishioners who continue to give to this program.

Finance: Marge Casey

As stated earlier, the proposed Financial Budget for 2017-2018 was presented to the parish council this evening.

Pastoral Care: No report.

Community: Randy Green

Nothing to report this month.

School: Yolande Lasky

School Commission Action Items:

- A final draft of the by-laws was reviewed/finalized and it is expected that the by-laws will be adopted at the April School Commission Meeting.
- A review of the Governance Standards (5 and 6) for the Accreditation Visit was begun. It is anticipated that an additional meeting will be held to respond to the accreditation requirements, as outlined in the document.

Principal's Report:

- School enrollment for the 2017-18 school year continues to increase. Enrollment in K4 and K5 will be restricted to 24 student per each level. Grades 1-8 will permit an enrollment of 30 students per grade level.
- The requirements for the Bookends Program becoming a stated certified program are under review and establishing this program will be considered for the 2017-18 school year.
- Letters of Intent have been distributed at this time, and the responses indicate that all staff members are returning to their positions. The Letters of Intent are a nonbinding document. Contracts will be offered to all staff members on April 12, 2017.
- Students are currently taking the state Forward Exam. This year's results will be published with the state Student Report Card Results for all students will be published.

The April Meeting has been changed to 6:00 P.M. on April 25, 2017.

Stewardship: Mike Esser

The next Stewardship meeting is scheduled for May 9th, 2017.

There will be a new Ministry Handbook prepared for July 1st, 2017. There is a Ministry Fair every other year. The Fair is usually held at the Hospitality Sunday in fall.

Names have been given for nomination to fill the one parish council spot. The discernment will happen at the June 13th, 2017 meeting.

Closing Notes:

- May Prayer – Michelle Konkel
- Hospitality Sunday – May 21st, 2017 Pastoral Care Commission
- Next Pastoral Parish Council Meeting – May 16th, 2017 at 7 P.M. in the Great Room

Closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Barb Freuck, Secretary
5-3-2017 St. Greg's Parish Council Minutes (Meeting 4-25-2017)