

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY
May 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm

In Attendance: Amy Boel, Nick Bruno, Kevin Haggerty, Ellen Murphy, Fr Joe O'Brien, Frank Putallaz and Steve Wiech.

Present: Eddie Trevino. ***Absent:*** Cathy Bellisario, Cathy Bruno, Deacon Bill Dringus, Rick Hannmann, and Matt Heitker.

Opening Prayer – Fr. Joe opened with prayer at 7:05pm

Review of Minutes – The April minutes were corrected and accepted.

Old Business – none

New Business

Parish Pastoral Council direction and Council By-Laws

After the April Parish Pastoral Council meeting, Nick Bruno, Karen LaFrank and Fr. Joe O'Brien met to review comments from Council members and incorporate changes into the draft By-Laws. A new draft was forwarded to the Council members for review at the May meeting.

Several points on language, intent and interpretation were discussed. There was discussion on youth representation on the Council. Wording was proposed to permit a high school student to participate rather than restricting participation by age. A youth member would have a one year term, subject to renewal.

There was discussion on the need to define the Council's meeting night in the By-Laws; that language was struck. There was a conversation on language describing how a member is removed; the discussion centered on whether to make the language more specific.

Fr. Joe O'Brien expressed a desire to implement our officer structure so he wouldn't have to preside a meetings and could have a different role. Discussion centered on the President and Vice President roles. The Secretary position was eliminated from our officer structure; the minute-taking and notifying membership role would be delegated.

Fr. Joe O'Brien asked Nick Bruno to modify the By-Laws to include the changed discussed at the May Council meeting. The new draft would be shared with members prior to the June meeting.

Parish Pastoral Council survey: summary and results

The Council had discussed Survey results during the March and April meetings. Several members brought up the importance of sharing information with parishioners on survey results and certain items where action could be taken.

Amy Boel suggested it would be good to tell parishioners about items on which we cannot take action for financial, architectural or community reasons. Kevin Haggerty suggested that a newsletter featuring this information be sent to all parishioners. Preparing a bulletin insert was discussed as a way to send out information quickly to parishioners who had responded to the survey - at a weekend Mass. Ellen Murphy and Amy Boel offered to help with editing an insert which we committed to distribute before the end of June.

Parish and School Financial Report

Fr. Joe O'Brien announced that Tracy Basila will be leaving her parish finance position at the end of June or early July. Changes in her spouse's work will require her to rearrange her availability to serve our parish and several local Catholic schools. Tracy was aware of a candidate that we may wish to consider. Fr. Joe had spoken with the Finance Committee earlier in the week and they recommend interviewing this candidate.

The church reports a deficit of \$14,300 at the end of April which is largely driven by the decline in weekly offertory. The school reports a deficit of \$7,200 at the end of April.

Fr. O'Brien reported that our Bishop's Appeal goal for 2017/18 is \$57,633 which is down from last year's \$65,300 total. Commitment Weekend for the Bishop's Appeal will be April 29/30th.

Holy Spirit Building Plan

Kevin Haggerty reported that the town's Planning Board representative had not yet met with Paul Mays. Some Council members encouraged Fr. Joe O'Brien to make a contact with the town to advance the process. Fr. Joe said he would call the Town Supervisor. A member suggested another contact, a parishioner who used to be part of the Planning Board process. Fr. Joe will follow up.

As it was 8:45pm, the School and LIFT reports were tabled until our next meeting. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 15th at 6:45 pm.

Closing Prayer at 8:50 pm.