

***Parish Pastoral Council Minutes  
Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY  
October 26, 2016 at 6:45 pm  
(originally scheduled for October 20, 2016 at 6:45 pm)***

***In Attendance:*** Cathy Bellisario, Nick Bruno, Deacon Bill Dringus, Kevin Haggerty, Mike Kosar, Fr. Joe O'Brien, Frank Putallaz, and Steve Wiech. ***Present:*** Eddie Trevino  
***Absent:*** Cathy Bruno, Rick Hannmann, Matt Heitker, Karen LaFrank.

***Opening Prayer:*** By Fr. Joe O'Brien. Meeting began at 6:50 pm.

***Review of Minutes:*** While the September minutes were being reviewed, a discussion about offertory income took place. Frank Putallaz inquired as to the total offertory including the capital campaign. It was noted that the offertory was down. Several Council members asked if the offertory was down because number of parish families donating has decreased or the number of parishioners using envelopes has diminished or if people are giving more to the capital campaign and that has diminished the level of offertory giving.

Council members asked if the Finance Committee can study this situation. What records can be checked through reviewing PDS?

Deacon Bill moved to accept the minutes, Cathy Bellisario seconded the motion, which was passed.

***Old Business***

***New Business***

***Finance report: Parish Budget***

Fr. Joe reported that the budget had been received by the diocese and that First Quarter results for the Church would be reviewed first by the Finance Committee. Financial results for the September (First Quarter) and for October will be available for review in November.

***Holy Spirit Building Project***

The replacement of the church's old furnace is in the final stages. In early November, several stained glass windows will be removed and repaired.

The repairs will take about two months, likely returning in mid to late January.

A meeting with the architect will be scheduled for early November to review options for our Parish Center. Approximately \$100,000 more was spent on the church than initially planned. There is about \$280,000-\$300,000 left to spend on the Parish Center.

Fr. Joe wanted to thank Paul Weidman for his work to keep the church warm for weekend worship while the heating system was being replaced.

### ***School report***

Mike Kosar reported on last Friday's Race for Education. The fundraiser's goal was \$20,000. Mike is pleased with the initial returns of \$11,000. He believes the school will exceed the goal. Funds will be used to install a new sound system in the gym.

The new playground was completed with a mulch safety surface, consisting of shredded tires, which was installed by Dave Dame and Paul Weidman. New LED lights were installed throughout the school, which were obtained through a grant from National Grid. This will lower the school's energy costs.

Enrollment remains at 216. Also, the school presented Fr. Joe with cards to mark his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a priest.

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### ***LIFT report***

Laura Countryman provided a written report summarizing the October LIFT gatherings. She provided some LIFT materials for Council members, including placemats and an e-kit for each Council member.

Cathy Bellisario reported that evening gatherings were a challenge for her family, making it difficult for her family to attend LIFT regularly. There was discussion around the decisions to schedule LIFT on Monday and Sunday evenings. 'What are good days and times for LIFT?' The ideas would be brought back to the LIFT team for consideration when they give thought to plans for the next year's gatherings.

### ***Youth Report***

A Youth Ministry information night was held in September with ten youth and several parents in attendance. The first Spirit Night was attended by four youth. Based on follow-up conversations the youth had a great time and want to have another gathering. The next gathering is scheduled for November 5 after the 4pm Mass. The invitation will be put out to “grades 6-12” rather than “teens” in hopes of attracting more middle school youth

### ***Adding to our Council membership***

Cathy Bellisario suggested having some younger members, including youth, serve on the council. There was discussion of having more members and drawing from all parts of the parish for potential members. Fr. Joe invited members to share the names of potential members with him.

### ***Member Items:***

Kevin Haggerty suggested that we may not need to meet monthly, asking if we had enough pressing matters before the Council to maintain a monthly schedule. Frank Putallaz recommended that it would be good to meet in November, after some more financial statements are ready to be reviewed by the Council members. We can revisit our meeting needs and consider our needs for the next few months.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17th at 6:45 pm.

### ***Closing Prayer***

Fr. Joe led the closing prayer at 8:00pm