

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY
November 17, 2016 at 6:45 pm

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

Opening Prayer: By Fr. Joe O'Brien. Meeting began at 6:45 pm.

Review of Minutes: We lack quorum, so there was no official review of the minutes. The members reviewed them informally. Fr. O'Brien stated that he would approach the members by email and ask them to review the October minutes in advance of our next meeting.

New Business

Lacking quorum, we decided to proceed with informal discussions/reviews of our topics for the evening.

Finance Report

The October church report was reviewed (showing a net surplus of \$973). Through the end of October, the offertory was about \$600 ahead of last October. Basically, the numbers tracked well with last October's totals. The conversation returned to the discussion we had at the October 26th on the trend in offertory giving.

Matt Heitker gave a summary of the preliminary discussion at the Finance Committee meeting on November 10th. The Finance Committee will review our parish offertory at the request of the Pastoral Council. The committee began to discuss what information would be helpful and what would be available. Some information on offertory and attendance would be available for their December meeting.

In addition to attendance/number of envelopes used and the effect of the Capital Campaign, Council members asked if the demographics of the parish are changing and wondered if that would be a factor.

Mike Kosar had received the school's financial report for October on November 15th and had been unable to meet with his Finance Committee before the School Board meeting on the 15th or our meeting on the 17th. He was unable to be with the Council today (illness), but he will have a report for us at our next meeting.

Holy Spirit Building Project

Kevin Haggerty was unable to attend tonight's meeting but he did send a written report of the Facilities Planning Committee meeting with our architect on November 9th. The committee decided not to proceed with an elevator or new steel beams on the Parish Center lower level (which would have enabled us to remove columns). There was discussion on the demolition of the garage and a replacement elsewhere on our property. Garage replacement was not part of the original scope of work and would involve an additional expense. The architect will have a detailed proposal available for us in late December.

The two complete stained glass windows and two ventilators were removed by Chapman Stained Glass (of Albany) for repair and refurbishing. The windows are expected to return in mid-late January.

School report

Mike Kosar, unable to attend because of illness, emailed his report school report for Council members.

The Catholic Schools Office Safety Coordinator reviewed the application of rubber mulch in the early childhood swing set in our playground and determined the material is safe to use. After discussions with the East Greenbush CSD, Holy Spirit School has secured the use of a full-time nurse for the remainder of this academic year.

Holy Spirit has engaged in a job search for a Spanish teacher; our Spanish teacher resigned unexpectedly for personal reasons. Enrollment is unchanged at 217 students.

LIFT report

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

Scheduling Parish Pastoral Council meetings

Continuing with the discussion from the October meeting, the members had a discussion regarding the need to meet monthly. In discussion, the members questioned whether November reports would be available for a December meeting date which would occur earlier in the month because of the Christmas holiday. There was also a high level of interest in what would come of the architect's mid-late December proposal and the Facilities Planning Committee assessment of that report.

As we lacked a quorum, the Council members asked me to consider that we not meet in December but gather for our scheduled meeting on January 26th. We can revisit our meeting needs and our schedule at the January meeting.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26th at 6:45 pm.

Closing Prayer

Fr. Joe led the closing prayer at 7:40 pm.