

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Present: Fr. Brian Belongia, Mike Quinn, Tom Schampers, Helen Wellens, Tom Pecor, Carol VandenBush

Excused: Mike Calawerts, Jean Laux

Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Mike Quinn called our meeting to order and Fr. Brian led us in opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of our January 21st meeting approved as written.

Fr. Brian Comments: Father informed us that today, and in the future, our meetings will be held in the Rectory instead of Mazzuchelli Hall.

OLD BUSINESS:

Financial Report: Mike Quinn, Finance Chair, shared that our parish finances are in the black with \$46,000 ahead of budget. There is presently no debt and our investments are doing well along with our parish foundation. We do have a loan payment due but monies are available for payment.

Deaf Community: Fr. Brian said there are several Lenten opportunities for our Deaf Community to attend. Also he shared that our 10:45 Mass Deaf Community attendance has increased. The Diocesan support for our Deaf Community is very beneficial.

Buildings & Ground: John Lucas is working with Arrow to continue to enhance and upgrade our sound system. They are presently working on the sound coming from our choir area plus adding a few speakers to create a more surround system. Caution is being used to make sure the materials used are not affecting the aesthetics of St. John's beautiful interior. Also quotes are being made to refurbish our east Rectory portico. We would also like to get quotes to work on the safety of our choir loft. This area could be used for overflow, photographers, and music groups.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Pastoral Council Member Recommendations: It would be good to have a few more members on our Pastoral Council. All present are asked to make requests of parishioners they know would be good contributing members.

Term Renewals: Tom Pecor and Helen Wellens are up for Pastoral Council renewals. Both have agreed to stay on for another term. Carol agreed to run for re-election as Secretary Trustee.

Growing our Parish Membership: A discussion was held on events we could offer that would attract people to join our parish community. Following are some of the ideas that surfaced tonight:

- We could hold an auction or other events people would come to at our parish.
- We could have a party in the park across the street and invite the neighborhood.
- Invite a friend or neighbor to a “St. John’s Day” to “come see our Church”.
- Invite people to a “teaching Mass”. During the liturgy, Fr. Brian would explain the different aspects of the Mass and why we do what we do.

Tom Schampers passed out a sheet listing past activities that St. John’s did with and for Howe School. These activities could be done again in the future to attract families to join our parish.

St. John’s, the Cathedral, and St. Willebrord’s are all in the same diocesan boundaries. Helen has been invited to join a boundaries committee with members of the Cathedral to call people to Christ and support those living within our boundaries. It will be an outreach mission and they will start by working with the Diocese on parenting classes for single parents. This could certainly serve as an avenue to invite people to join our parishes.

One by One Campaign: The Diocese has hired a new organization to run this diocesan campaign. It will now possibly not start until next year and we will have five years instead of three to gather our allotted amount. We will also have a consultant to work with us through this process. Half of the monies collected from our parish will be given to the Diocese for their needs and half will be used for needs in our parish. Soon, we will start thinking of ways to use this money that will encourage our parishioners’ willingness to donate to this campaign.

Lent & Easter at St. John’s: Father shared that the candlesticks that are being refurbished should be done to be used at Easter. Also, he wants to bring back bell ringing at Masses. Another change in our liturgy would be that we wait until the collection is done before having the gifts brought up for consecration. That way, the monetary gifts can be brought up at the same time portraying that we are offering ourselves along with the bread and wine. Stations of the Cross will be offered on Fridays during Lent, every other week at St. John’s and the Cathedral. The first week will be held at the Cathedral. During this service, Bishop Ricken will bless the refurbished Cathedral Stations. On March 6, 20, and April 3, after Stations of the Cross, a soup supper will be served at our parish. Father is not sure yet where the Easter Triduum services will be held. Ash Wednesday will be celebrated at St. John’s at 8:30 AM. He would also like a procession held during Palm Sunday liturgies.

The Need for more Lectors and Servers: All were asked to seek out people they felt would be willing to serve in these capacities during our liturgies.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: Our next meeting will be Monday, March 30 at 6:15 PM (in the rectory). Our upcoming meetings will be held in May, July, Sept., and Nov.