

# PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 18, 2019

**PRESENT:** Baker, Blasko, Bobovnyik, Cuttica, Davies, Emborsky, Gavalier, Gerchak, Humerickhouse, Lorelli, McHenry, Mino, Nemergut, Rucci, Ruse, Sledd, Stille, Wehrlin, Yeager

**ABSENT:** Boyle, Carpenter, Landy-Pearce, Vetterly

## I. OPENING PRAYER

Fr. Leo Wehrlin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. as we recited the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

## II. SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Fr. Leo gave everyone time to read and review the minutes from our last meeting, which was September 23, 2019. Dennis Rucci pointed out that the percentage of students attending our school on vouchers is 55%. No other corrections needed; minutes were accepted and approved.

## III. REPORT ON REPAIRS/CAPITAL WORK AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Dennis Rucci gave a comprehensive report as to the recent progress of the Capital Campaign. We have completed our first year of the campaign. Pledges have hit \$1.34 million mark. So far, \$830,630.01 has been paid to date with \$493,519.78 pledges still to be collected. With 2520 families, 698 made pledges. 296 pledges have been paid in full; there are 402 outstanding pledges. The average pledge is \$1,897.06 to date. We have a new phone system being installed in the rectory and over Christmas Break, the new phone system will be installed in the school. The Church doors will be retrofitted with safety bars (except for the two doors by the bell tower which will be fitted with weather-stripping) by December 1. The vestibule and ceiling will be painted Dec. 18-20. The Parish Center was painted (touch-up) by parishioner, Dave Cook and it looks very nice. We also had the carpet cleaned. We continue to make payments on our old debt to the Diocese of Youngstown. Parish Finance agreed to increase our monthly payments to \$5000/month. Parish Finance also voted to pay \$75,000 on the Roof Loan. Currently, in our Capital Campaign checking account, we have \$213,419.00 and we are trying to save \$2500/month in our savings account as we know the Church roof will need replaced in the near future.

## IV. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

- A. Spiritual Life and Worship** – Dr. Cuttica mentioned that the last Sunday in Ordinary Time is this Sunday, November 24, as we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Thanksgiving Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 28. The season of Advent begins the weekend of Nov. 30/Dec.1, which begins Cycle A according to Matthew. Vespers after 4:00 p.m. Mass followed by ‘Christmas around the World’ will take place again. Nov. 30 will feature a sharing of memories of parishioners’ American Christmas traditions and there will be a sampling of American food. Dec. 7 offers a presentation by

Fr. Simon with Christmas in Slovakia (again, serving typical Slovakian food). Christmas in the Ukraine is the theme for Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. Carol Elias will be our guest speaker to reminisce about Ukrainian traditions and food. Dr. Cuttica pointed out the Dec. 8 falls on a Sunday this year, so it is not technically a Holy Day of Obligation as we celebrate the Immaculate Conception. This feast will be celebrated with a School Mass on Dec. 9 at 8:30 a.m. Church Decoration for Advent will take place on Friday, Nov. 29 starting at 3:00 p.m. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Trees will be put up on Dec. 15 after the noon Mass and decoration and flowers will take place on Sunday, Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. Again, help would be greatly appreciated for these dates as well. Christmas Masses are as follows:

**Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. Renewal Choir  
6:00 p.m. Children's Mass and School Choir  
11:00 p.m. Adult Choir

**Christmas Day**

9:00 a.m. Cantor and Musicians  
10:30 a.m. Cantor and Musicians

**New Year's Masses**

New Year's Eve 6:00 p.m.  
New Year's Day 10:30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday is later this year and is February 26, 2020. The annual Twinning Craft Show was held Nov. 2 and \$2,000 was made to be given to St. Thomas in Uganda. Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders wrote letters to their Ugandan counter-parts and eagerly await their replies. Another fundraiser, "All Things Chocolate" will be held Valentine's Weekend. Dawn Baker asked Dr. Cuttica about the EM/Liturgical schedules. A lengthy discussion ensued. Most are in agreement that serving for the entire month is not ideal. It has been a year since this new policy went into effect. Complaints were made that some folks are actually scheduled for four months in a row while others are barely assigned to serve. The list is currently computer-generated. Fr. Leo asked if the consensus is to return to the old system. YES, was the general response. Fr. Leo asked Deacon Cuttica to follow-up on this. It was pointed out however, that it does require A LOT of work to make the schedule manually. Nothing will be changed until after the first of the year since the current schedule runs through the end of December.

**B. Parish and Family Life** – Christa Blasko announced that the annual Breakfast with Santa is slated for Sunday, Dec. 8 from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. We will not have a Parish Picnic in 2020; it was decided that we have it every other year. Christa mentioned she received several complaints that the Mass was not held outside as originally planned which resulted in a low turn-out for the actual picnic. P&FL typically sponsors 3 or 4 events per year. Christa is hoping for 5 next year. Events and dates will be submitted to Colleen Ross as soon as they are confirmed.

**C. Social Concerns** – Cornelia Sledd mentioned that the fourth and final Red Cross Blood Drive was held today, November 18, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Turnout was low as another church was also sponsoring a blood drive today. Only 16 pints of blood was

collected. Blood Drive Dates tentatively scheduled for next year are: January 27, March 23, May 20, August 17 and November 30. Cornelia will run the next Social Concerns meeting on January 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

**D. Evangelization/Adult Formation** – Marianne Yeager reported on her ministry. Our Fall Church & Chili Series was a success! It began on October 10, 2019 and featured “Rediscover the Saints”. The turnout was not as many as in past series but there were roughly 45 people in attendance each evening. This Thursday, we continue our Movie Nights. The feature film is “Hacksaw Ridge”. In December, we will feature “The Greatest Showman” and in January, “McClintock” Our Little Book Program will continue during Advent (Dynamic Catholic Book Program). With the enthusiastic support of Fr. Leo, we began a pilot program of the Marian Consecration, FORMED The Catholic Faith. On Demand. Access can be through ROKU, Amazon fire TV, Apple TV, Android, and iOS. Sign up is easy. Go to FORMED.org; Click Sign-up; Select “I belong to a Parish or Organization”; Find our parish by name, zip code or parish code (we are the only parish in 44511); Enter your email...and you’re in! There is no cost for us; St. Christine covered the cost. There is something for everyone with over 4,000 titles to choose from!

**E. Education and Formation** – Mr. Walter Carpenter was not in attendance for tonight’s meeting so there was not a report for the school. Colleen Boyle also was not in attendance but did provide a handout to update Council on Religious Education events. First Reconciliation was held on Nov. 11 for 56 second-graders. Confirmation Retreat (for 64 eighth-graders) was held yesterday. The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on March 29, 2020 and First Holy Communion will be celebrated the weekend of April 25/26, 2020. Rite of Welcome is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 8 at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. There were 400 tags on the Giving Tree. Unwrapped gifts need to be returned by 11/24/19 with Caritas being held 12/7/19. The new Diocesan Training (Child Protection) called VIRTUS was completed by many. Unfortunately, no one was grandfathered in. As of 4/4/20, everyone who will have direct contact with our children must have completed this training. Fr. Leo asked that we all keep the McClelland family in our prayers with the recent passing of our teacher, Stacey. Angela Stille mentioned that the Spaghetti Benefit is still being held on Sunday, December 1, 2019.

**F. Youth Ministry** –Kathy Nemergut reported on Ignite saying that they hosted their second annual Public Square Rosary Rall on October 12, joining people all across the nation to pray for our world at the same time. Parishioners of all ages were present. They also had a Scavenger Hunt and Bonfire on Oct. 20 for the high school students. The Ignite Gathering in October was on friendships God places in our lives and the importance of keeping our relationship with God first. They have been ending each session in service by helping Colleen prepare a meal for the Dorothy Day House. Our Celebrate Team of 15 dedicated high school seniors is now in the Faith Sharing phase of the formation process. They have Discernment scheduled for Sunday, December 8 from 2:30 – 6:00 p.m. in the Church. Please pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance to be present with all. Our young adults (Ablaze) has been meeting every week. In addition to their regular sharing of faith, they also have fellowship nights when they see a movie together,

have game nights, share a meal, etc. This month they also got together to prepare a full meal for Hospice House. Seven adults from St. Christine Celebrate, Ignite and Ablaze attended the Ministry Day that was hosted by the Diocese on October 19 at St. Thomas Aquinas. Everyone from Ignite, Celebrate and Ablaze has been invited to attend a Phantoms Hockey game together on Friday, December 6 at 7:00p.m. in the Covelli Center. Tickets have been generously donated by Kelly Warren & Associates. Kelly is a parishioner and one of our Celebrate advisors.

**G. Parish Administration and Finance** – Dennis Rucci reported on the Parish finances. He mentioned that Sunday Collections are still down (by \$13,999). Parish Finance recently met with Jeff Ryznar (parishioner and member of the School Board) to discuss promoting our school. Jeff's company 898 Marketing will be instrumental in making this happen. Finance committee agreed to pay the \$10K needed for starting this up. Jeff's company will not be making any money on this, he is donating all of their time and effort. The money will be taken from the Festival account. We also borrowed \$45K from the festival account to cover expenses that come from the General Account. We receive money from the Voucher Program at the school twice a year. \$25K of the \$45K has already been paid back. The school will further utilize Drund by sending out electronic flyers for inform school families of upcoming events (like the Fish Fry dinners). This will be used in addition to the "Purple Folders" which go out to school families every Tuesday. Speaking of the Fish Frys, there will be two major changes this year. Dinners will conclude by 7:00 p.m. so folks can attend Stations of the Cross and we will not hold a dinner on Good Friday this year. Dennis was approached by the school saying they are in dire need of new lunch tables. This would be a good use of proceeds from the dinners. Dennis also gave a shout out to the Holy Name Society. Once again, they come to the rescue of the Church. Every seven days, the candle above the tabernacle needs lit. A local company will soon be installing a lowering device that is operated by a key. No longer will we need to fuss with a ladder, etc. HNS is paying for this to be installed. God Bless them!

## **V. OLD & NEW BUSINESS**

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business: Deacon Martin Davies is heading up a Vocation Committee. This will be another opportunity for prayer. He is looking for some younger people to join the committee to get fresh ideas. We desperately need to pray for religious life and vocations. Although we have several deacons here, three of them are 70 years of age or older. We need to attract young people to deaconate life. There is a 4-year formation period. Deacon Martin will work with his committee to come up with a mission statement. Fr. Leo said we will pray for an increase in vocations once a month at the end of every Mass by simply reciting the powerful "Our Father".

## **VI. CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting concluded with praying "Our Father".

Adjournment was at 7:35 p.m.

Next Meeting – Monday, January 27, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Gina McHenry