

St Maria Goretti
Parish Council Meeting
September 27, 2016

Present: Msgr. Fr. Burke, Father Tafadzwa, Tim Endres, Kathy Grzybowski, Linda Eckstein, Peter Worman, Kevin Streeter, Mary Jean Patterson, Tom Gulley, Frank Peregrine, Patricia Frazak, Joe Rausch, & Tom Tierney

Excused: Jeff Peterson, Julie Rae, Rocky Wesling, Ken Brown, Dick Martin, Jerome Buhman, John McClure

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was led by Kathy Grzybowski.

Administrative and Finances: Tim talked about the renovation project at the school. We had three new hires and no designated space for them. Vogel Construction helped with this project. They developed 2 new areas in the school space to renovate. Space was made to accommodate our learning resource team, guidance counselor, IT office teacher work room, band lesson room, maintenance office and tutor/youth ministry rooms. The cost of the school project was \$113,000 dollars with a portion of the money coming from the scrip program. Tim also noted that the bell in the bell tower broke. A new system is ordered. We are 4% ahead of budget. Our offertory collections are down but this fluctuates. We have a new problem with the sound system. The speaker on the left side of the altar has broken. New parts are ordered to repair this speaker. Tom reported that the finance committee is continuing to focus and project for future needs.

Approval of the Minutes: The June 2016 council meeting minutes were approved.

Vision of Hope: Father Mike welcomed all members to the council year. We need to continue to meet the needs of all parishioners. We have seen a large number of Spanish speaking members and the diocese is working to meet their needs. We need to make sure that we are meeting the needs in our religious education and youth ministry programs. We are discussing reorganizing our new parishioner orientation. The monthly program does not seem to be meeting the needs and is very time intensive. The event held last April was successful and it was suggested that we have this event twice a year. New members would come to a luncheon after the 11:00 mass and key members of the parish and commission would be present to answer questions. This serves two purposes: helping members connect with other people as well as informing members about the parish and how they can help our parish family. We have decided to hold this event in April and October. Members of the council are in favor of this. Father Mike reported that we need to keep members who are moving into assisted living connected to the parish. This a big transition time in their lives. Members wondered if there was a way to video tape parts of the mass. Members miss our community. Can we video tape special moments in our parish, like First Communion, the Christmas program, etc.? We will need to look into this. Joe Rausch is working with the young adults and trying to connect them more in the parish. How do we engage their participation? Father Mike reported that Father Carlos has contacted him and is interested in having the Basilica in Letourneau, Italy be a sister parish to St Maria Goretti. Father Mike will keep us informed. Several parish members have asked how we can help out refugees. This is a very delicate issue and with many legal implications. There are many organizations independent of the church that help refugees. We need to be wise and prudent about this issue. Father Mike found out that there will be an open house at our local police and fire station on McKenna boulevard. This is open to the public. Kathy wondered if members were interested in continuing the book discussions from the previous year. The consensus of the group is to finish the book this year. Members felt the discussions were valuable to our meetings.

Commission reports:

Worship and prayer- Linda Eckstein reported that the commission will be handing out prayer booklets for Advent. Two donors have supplied these books for the parish. We will hand these out on the weekend of November 19th and 20th. We discussed the goal that we need to have more volunteers help with the mass. We need to involve our young adults. Sr. Denise reported that we need more lectors, commentators and Eucharistic ministers. Sr. Denise brought up the concept of a "spiritual break". This a concept when we reduce parish events so that members can focus on their faith.

Social Justice and Outreach- Frank Peregrine reported that the commission is not very active as there is a lot on auto pilot. We do not want to get complacent. Social justice is continuing and active in the parish. We need to keep these connections. We need to revitalize this commission. We need reports from the various activities. Looking for leadership for the community. Father Mike suggested that Frank talk to the Bruni's to identify key leaders in these programs.

Stewardship and Development – Tim reported that the commission discussed the future pledge campaign. The group also discussed the new member welcoming reception and that we should have this event in April and October. We plan to start this in April of 2017.

Education and Faith Formation- Tom Gulley reported that they are looking at projects for the next year. They reviewed ideas Joe Rausch presented for the development of Advent stations. The team will review to identify 8-10 stations. They welcomed a member from the Young Adults group (Gina Neuville) to the commission to bring awareness of their activities and service projects. A different member will attend throughout the year. Discussed meeting on different night and select other night to accomplish goals. We need to expand the awareness of the young adults in the parish. Father Mike is very supportive of this young adult group. How can we meet their needs?

Parish Life- Mary Jean Patterson reported on commission activities, Upcoming event includes Taste of Goretto on October 23 from 10 am-1 pm. Terri has a committee taking care of this event. The commission has become a reporting commission. They talked about how to get new volunteers for the commission. Nice to have young membership and involvement. They brainstormed future ideas and are considering a "tail gate party" during a sports event to help build community. How do we get people involved in events? They are considering a survey to help figure out what people want or to get feedback.

Vocations- Kevin Streetar reported that they discussed the Malkizadec project. This is occurring throughout the diocese. This is a 7-month program for vocations and they are trying to get 2-4 young men from each parish. The group is also looking at vocations for women. The group is considering a program to invite young women and their mom's to visit a convent. This would include prayer, dinner and discussion.

Parochial Vicar Update- Father Tafazwda did not have anything to report today. He is doing well and appreciates all the support.

Pastor Update- Father Mike reported that we need vocations here from our parish. We need to help identify people who are leaders for our future both men and women. Joe Rausch echoed this idea. This is important to our faith. Joe brought up the "Beloved" retreat" for our parish in November 11-13 in Rockford at the Bishop Lane Retreat Center. Come laugh, pray, walk, talk, listen and rest in God. How do we evangelize? What are we about? What is our mission as a parish? How do we encounter Jesus in a new and different way? Many parishioners in the parish have participated in this and have been enriched in ways that are far understood.

Closing Prayer- Father Mike closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting is in October 18, 2016.

Submitted by,

Linda Eckstein

Parish Council Secretary