

**St Maria Goretti
Parish Council Meeting
March 21, 2017**

Present: Msgr. Fr. Burke, Father Tafadzwa, Kathy Gzybowski, Linda Eckstein, Tom Gulley, Frank Peregrine, Patricia Frazak, Ken Brown, Dick Martin, Julie Rae, Peter Worman, Mary Jean Patterson, Tom Tierney, & Lynn Thompson.

Excused: Tim Endres, Jeff Peterson, Rocky Wesling, Kevin Streeter, Joe Rausch, & Jerome Buhman

Opening Prayer: Tom Gulley led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes: We tabled the review of the February 2017 meeting minutes.

Administrative and Finances: Father Mike reported that we are currently in the budget process. We do the best to use our resources the best we can. Tom Tierney reported that the budget will be presented to finance committee on April 5th. After that, the budget will be presented to the parish council at the May 2017 meeting. Overall, parish giving is leveling off, but stable. Based on this, the finance committee is being conservative in the budgeting process. Tom reported that Tim, Monica and Ruth have been instrumental in helping with the budget process.

Vision of Hope: Father Mike reported that we are in the process of the diocesan appeal campaign. Father Mike asked for council member feedback of this process. Many felt that it was a difficult time of year to have this campaign as it is the Lenten season. Some wondered if this process could occur over one weekend. Many on the council felt that Father Mike did a good job presenting the information. The video was well done and informative. It helps when you recognize the services that this campaign helps. It is important to emphasize the priorities of this campaign. Father Mike reported that we have two ordinations this year. Father Mike asked if council members had concerns or questions. Ken asked if equipment is shared between the schools and parish. Father Mike reported that Terri Kysely is in charge of equipment and requests should go through her.

Book Discussion- It was agreed that Joe's presence to complete the discussion of the last chapter of "Forming Intentional Disciples" is important. Therefore, this discussion is deferred to the May meeting. Should we recommend this book to others to read? We will talk about this at the May meeting. Kathy asked members to think about whether we should continue the book discussion at future meetings.

Commission reports:

Worship and prayer- Linda Eckstein reported that the Lenten books were very popular this year. Do we need to have a budget for this? There will be 150 of each booklets for advent next year (A total of 300 booklets verses 200 booklets). A donor is donating these prayer books to parishioners. Books for Easter will be available on Palm Sunday weekend. There are 100 books available to parishioners for the Easter Season. The new parishioner-welcoming event will happen on Sunday May 7th at 12:00 noon. Sr. Denise is having cards printed advertising Lenten prayer and this will be on the tables during future fish fries. We have had a few more people volunteer for help with our liturgies, which is helpful. This occurred when Mary had set up tables in the gathering space. Do we need to ask parishioners more frequently?

Social Justice and Outreach- Frank Peregrine reported that he is the sole member to this commission. We have many ministries that fall under this commission and we are trying to get this commission rejuvenated. He will check with the leaders of these groups to see how the council can help.

Stewardship and Development – Julie Rae reported that the commission is getting ready for the new parishioner event that will be in May. We have had over 100 families join our parish in the last year. The commission will be sending out invitations by mail and email and will call these families with a personal invitation. All commissions will have tables and information at the event about their commission. Each commission will give a short speech about their commission. This event is social to help new members know other people in the parish and to provide information about the parish and commissions.

Education and Faith Formation- Tom Gulley reported that they did not meet tonight. Joe and the EFF commission members will be setting up special prayer stations honoring Mary in the Parish Hall beginning on Thursday, May 4 and continuing through Sunday, May 7.

Parish Life- Ken reported that they joined the stewardship commission tonight regarding the new parishioner event to help plan for the event. He reported that they are reviewing the response to the recent Trivia night. He reported that they would need a new chair for this event next year.

Vocations- Kathy discussed that Kevin Streeter attended a recent Quo Vadis meeting and they are reviewing information presented at this meeting. He reported that many in this group are retired and that we need people of all ages to be involved with this group. The commission discussed the Traveling Chalice program and Fr Tafadzwa is going to involve the school in this program. They also discussed plans for future Eucharistic Adoration. The commission is also going to talk with Martha about updates that need to be made to the web site.

Parochial Vicar Update- Father Tafadzwa was grateful for all the help in the last couple months. He has learned a lot about parish life and service.

Pastor Update- Father Mike discussed that the council year ends in June. Several member's commission terms will expire and several members only have a one-year appointment. He asked all members to consider staying in their positions and to get back to him or Kathy G about their thoughts regarding this commitment. He asked members to pray about it. Father Mike reported that the parish is very generous and supportive. He reported that the fish fries are doing well.

Closing Prayer- Father Mike closed the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting is May 23, 2017.

Submitted by,

Linda Eckstein
Parish Council Secretary