

**St Maria Goretti
Parish Council Meeting
May 23, 2017**

Present: Msgr. Fr. Burke, Father Tafadzwa, Kathy Gzybowski, Jeff Peterson, Linda Eckstein, Tom Gulley, Frank Peregrine, Patricia Frazak, Ken Brown, Dick Martin, Jerome Buhman, Julie Rae, Peter Worman, Mary Jean Patterson, Kevin Streeter, Rocky Wesling, Tom Tierney, & John McClure

Excused: Tim Endres

Opening Prayer: Kathy Grzybowski led the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes: The council approved the March 2017 meeting minutes.

Finance Council: John McClure presented the budget to the council. This year our revenue is down a little from what was budgeted. For the next year, it is anticipated that we will have a few less students, but overall our enrollment is good. We are planning a 2% salary increase for the teachers and staff. Tuition is stable and meeting the needs of our budget. The school is financially doing well. John reported that the budget is very realistic. Members asked with the changes in the parish staff whether we should revise the budget. Do we need to be more conservative? John reported that the school enrollment is important to our parish. All questions were answered and a motion was made to approve the budget. The budget passed with all members in favor. Tom Tierney talked about the Saving for the Future Fund. Good stewardship determines that we should formalize that position for savings. The finance council developed a resolution regarding this. We need reserves for capital expenditures and for operating reserves. The finance council passed this resolution. The goal is to have \$800,000 for the capital reserve fund and 15% of annual budget for operating expenses.

Administrative: Father Mike talked about changes to the parish staff with all the retirements. Transparency is important during these transitions. Father Rob is going to be here for a year as a parochial administrator. Contracts will need to be completed by the diocese since Father Rob will not be the Pastor. Msgr. Bartylla will do this part of the administration from the Diocese. There will be changes in our parish administration. Tim Endres and Sr. Marge are retiring. Joe Rausch has informed us that he is leaving his position. We are in the process of replacing these positions. We need to keep hope alive and keep our parish strong. Change is also good. This brings about new ideas and creativity. Father Mike asked that we maintain our stability. Julie Rae's position as trustee is up for election this year. Kathy Grzybowski is leaving the parish council this year. She has been on the council for over 9 years and has been an excellent leader for the council. We will need a new President and Jeff Peterson has agreed to do this. Linda Eckstein stated she would stay on the council if someone else could be the secretary. Jeff Peterson recommended that the council meet over the summer due to these transitions.

Vision of Hope: In this time of change, we need to focus on the positives of our parish and focus on how we can be a better parish. The parishioners are what makes a strong parish. We need to keep our core foundation of the liturgy and support each other. We need to keep Father Mike's legacy in our parish of a supportive parish. It will be different without Father Mike here. Father Mike reported that he would be happy if we continue to be a strong parish. He also wants members to know that he is happy. The parish auction raised money for a statue of the holy family.

Commission reports:

Worship and prayer- Linda Eckstein reported that the group discussed the new parish orientation. They felt that there were more commission members there than new parishioners. The prayer booklets have been popular and this next year we will have more books available (300 booklets). A donor is donating these prayer books to parishioners

Social Justice and Outreach- Frank reported that we need more people to help with Luke House. We need to get more people to volunteer. It is a Thursday morning project once a month and is a half a day commitment. He also

reported that St Vincent De Paul is always looking for volunteers. Various ministries are on auto piolet. With Sr. Marge retiring, we will need more support for pastoral care.

Stewardship and Development –The group reviewed feedback on the new parishioner-welcoming event. Many on the council see the need for the format to be changed. The group of new parishioners was smaller than in previous years. We need the event to have a more social aspect. The group talked about how to increase membership for the Stewardship and Development commission. We will be recruiting members. The commission discussed the fall pledge drive. This will be important to our parish budget planning process.

Education and Faith Formation- Tom discussed that the group needs to refocus with Joe resigning. The priority in the next year is continue the ideas that Joe has put in place. Many asked if Father Mike has someone in mind to replace Joe.

Parish Life- This commission also discussed the new member luncheon and that it was a lot of work for a small attendance. Do we go back to an annual event? They discussed ideas for a simpler event. Fund raising is important to our parish. Social events are hard to support. We need to continue to recruit new volunteers. We need new people to show up. Draw from the school and youth to help.

Vocations- The Quo Vadis meeting is on June 10. The vocation group had a table in the church foyer about the World Day of Prayer. The commission discussed the Traveling Chalice program and Fr Tafadzwa is going to involve the school in this program.

Parochial Vicar Update- Father Tafadzwa talked about how we can support Father Mike's legacy. We need to keep our faith strong and invoke the Holy Spirit with all the changes in the parish. We need to do what we can to support each other.

Pastor Update- Father Mike reported that Father Pat Norris will be at the masses next weekend. We need to have a reception for Sr. Marge, Tim Endres and Joe Rausch. Father Mike thanked everyone for his or her work on the Parish council.

Closing Prayer- Father Mike closed the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting is June 20, 2017.

Submitted by,

Linda Eckstein
Parish Council Secretary