

Ss. Isidore & Maria Torribia Parish

# Pastoral Council 12/15/19

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**15 December 2019 / 6:00 PM / St. Joseph's Hall**

## ATTENDEES

**Council:** Art Jones, Theresa White, Kevin Gahagan, Stephen Flint, Josh Apenowich, Joe Machuga, Michel Degrosso

**Staff:** Father Pat, Deacon Dave LaFortune, Deacon Doug Farwell, Peter Olausson

**Excused:** Anna Bauer, Roger Parluski, Robert Wylie

## AGENDA

**Opening prayer** - Father Pat offered the opening prayer

**Agenda approval** - this agenda was emailed to the council members. Motion to approve by Josh Apenowich, seconded by Joe Machuga. Motion PASSED.

**November 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes Approval** - the November 17, 2019 meeting minutes were emailed to the council members. Motion by Michel Degrosso to approve, seconded by Theresa White. Motion PASSED.

**Council Guest Comments** - no guests present or comments received

**Pastor's Remarks** - Father Pat discussed a letter mailed to parishioners, including those no longer attending Mass regularly, which invited them to attend the upcoming Christmas Mass. many positive comments were received about the letter. The Christmas Mass schedule was posted in the bulletin as well and extra bulletins plan to be printed for the a Christmas Mass. Retired priest, Father Lou Brown, has graciously agreed to preside at the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Catherine's. His service is very much appreciated by the council.

**Business Manager's Report** - Peter Olausson distributed and reviewed the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures from 11/1/2019 - 11/30/2019.

- Regular collections were down slightly due to only 3 collections in November, but in general, collections and per attendee contributions are

up. It is too early to say, but revenue for the second quarter looks good to meet budget. To date, actual is about \$4300 short and expect to make the budget with December collections barring any unforeseen severe weather that would reduce attendance at regular Masses.

- The parish has received more donations from people who normally do not give, but were generous in supporting the Parish to help address the financial challenges faced earlier in the year. Art Jones asked if we are communicating with these new donors to encourage them to become more active. Peter commented that donations in excess of \$300 receive a thank you letter. Some donors prefer to maintain their privacy or no longer live in the area, so it may not be appropriate to further contact them.
- Expenses are close to budget. This is helped by actual spending on Purchase of Services below budget since Mike Ryan is only spending one day per week on maintenance instead of the two days budgeted. At some point, this may need to be addressed if maintenance needs build.
- The Catholic Ministries Appeal is going well so far, about 20% of goal and on par with last year. Still early to tell.
- Deacon Doug Farwell commented that it would be good for the Parish to be prepared to show how we are controlling expenses and raising revenue, as well as outreach efforts, in advance of the upcoming Presbyteral meeting on January 7th, 2020. Art suggested to include the advertisements made in the Addison Post and signs placed in front of the Church. Peter agreed to prepare a document by 2nd or 3rd of January.

### **Old business**

- **Council Officers** - it was announced that Arthur Jones will continue as Chairman, while Kevin Gahagan, a new member of the council, will serve as Secretary, taking over this function from Art. Father Pat expressed his welcome and appreciation to the new members and to the rest of their council for work in service to the Parish.
- **Planning Committee Update** - the next planning committee meeting will be part of the Joint Parish Council meeting on January 8th at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph's Hall.
- **Liturgical Committee Update** - Father Pat has a list of new members agreeing to participate in the Liturgical Committee and will contact them to schedule the first meeting after the new year.

- **Emergency Planning Update** – Father Pat contacted the Steuben Sheriff’s office to discuss emergency planning, but has not received a reply. Discussion will be delayed to the January 19, 2020 Pastoral Council meeting.
- **Christmas Baskets – St. Catherine’s and St. Stanislaus** – Theresa White reviewed the successful completion of the Christmas Baskets program which provided 140 food baskets for families in need. Father Pat thanked Theresa, Julie Lawson, and Debbie Flint at the 9 am Mass for their efforts in leading the many volunteers who staffed the program this year. The distribution of baskets was held at St. Catherine’s on December 14th and the layout worked very well. Volunteers helped prepare baskets the night before with great help from Mark Woodhouse and Jerry Grace to transport goods and materials from collection sites. The Christmas basket distribution was combined with the Act-N-Do toy giveaway, and this time, parents were able to select toys which worked out very well.
- Deacon Doug commented how this is a strong traditional of social ministry for the Parish. Father Pat asked if Steve Flint and Theresa would prepare a write up for the bulletin and commented how this tradition gives hope to people in need, a theme reflected in Deacon Doug’s homily this week.

### **New Business**

- **Joint Parish Councils Meeting** – Father Pat confirmed the date and time of January 8th, 2020 at 6:30pm in St. Joseph’s Hall
- **Presbyteral Council Meeting** – Father Pat, Art Jones, Theresa White, Mark Houck, and Suzanne Krebs will attend the Presbyteral Council meeting on January 7th, noon at the Diocese of Rochester.
- **Act-N-Do Toy Giveaway** – Steve Flint explained that the toy giveaway sprung out of the Thanksgiving meal deliveries that he and his wife organized along with the owners of a Fran’s Landing to provide over 600 meals to area families in need. Debbie Flint now coordinates it and was combined with the Christmas basket distribution this year which worked very well.
- St. Stanislaus continuing tree with red envelopes for helping needy families in the area

- **Other new business**

- **Christmas Carol Sing-Along** - Peter Olausson mentioned that Pat Kane graciously offered his band to lead a Christmas Sing-Along on December 21st, 7-9 pm at St. Catherine's. It was advertised in this week's bulletin and is open to the community. Refreshments will be provided. Peter will add an announcement to the Facebook page this week.

**Deacons' Remarks** - Deacons Doug Farwell and David LaFortune reiterated the importance and value of the toy and food giveaways and expressed appreciation to the leaders and all the volunteers who participated.

**Faith Formation** - Father Pat updated faith formation activities

- Classes are ongoing at St. Catherine's led by Julie Lawson
- St. Joseph's families are collecting glass jars for a Christmas a craft as announced in this week's bulletin
- First penance preparation is being planned for Feb 1st at St. Joseph's. Announcements are forthcoming.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Peter will prepare financial summary and list of outreach activities in preparation for Presbyteral Council
2. Theresa and Steve will prepare write-up of Christmas Basket and Toy Giveaway for bulletin.
3. Peter will update Facebook page with Christmas a Carol event.

**Next Meeting** - Next meeting is scheduled for January 19th, 6pm at St Joseph's Hall.

**Closing Prayer** - Deacon Doug offered a closing prayer to end the meeting.