

Ss. Isidore & Maria Torribia Parish

Pastoral Council 1/19/20

19 January 2020 / 6:00 PM / St. Joseph's Hall

ATTENDEES

Council: Art Jones, Theresa White, Kevin Gahagan, Stephen Flint, Josh Apenowich, Joe Machuga, Anna Bauer, Robert Wylie

Staff: Father Pat, Deacon Dave LaFortune, Deacon Doug Farwell

Guests: Ed Borkowski

Excused: Roger Parluski, Peter Olausson, Michel Degrosso

AGENDA

Opening prayer - Father Pat offered the opening prayer

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

December 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes Approval - the December 15, 2019 meeting minutes were emailed to the council members. Motion by Stephen Flint to approve, seconded by Theresa White. Motion PASSED.

Council Guest Comments - Ed Borkowski shared three suggestions with the council as follows:

- 1) Communication about the financial situation, Peter's distributions, the letter from Bishop Matano, and parishioners comments has all been helpful. Going forward, he asked that the council communication about efforts to improve the financial situation, and specifically, efforts looking at ways to reduce costs in a similar way that Deacon Doug delivered at the recent community meeting.
- 2) Ed suggested to specifically add prayers of intention concerning increasing church attendance and for the financial solvency of the Parish.

- 3) Given the many recent events of violence in places of worship around the country, Ed suggested we develop a plan for security.

Father Pat commented that these were all good suggestions and welcomed. He requested that Ed write a draft of the proposed intercession.

Concerning a safety plan, Fr. Pat shared that the council is in the process of developing a safety plan working with the Steuben County Sheriff's Department. Presently, Dale a Hall is in contact with the Sheriff's office and waiting to hear back on a time to schedule site visits and walkthroughs to develop a plan. Ed suggested to contact Jim Allard, the Sheriff, directly and it was agreed to pass that suggestion to a Dale.

Theresa asked if police protection was a possibility. Father Pat commented that from previous interactions, this was only in the case of a specific threat, but otherwise, there is not sufficient resources to offer police protection on an ongoing basis.

Pastor's Remarks – Father Pat discussed the outcome of the Joint Meeting of the Finance, Pastoral, and Planning Committees and the recent Presbyteral Council meeting on January 7th, 2020. He was please with the meeting and a report prepared by Karen Rinefierd was sent to the Bishop and printed in the bulletin. Father Pat expressed appreciation and the strong impression made by Bishop Matano's support at the Presbyteral Council and the general support and positive comments from the priests attending. It was recommended and approved that the Parish receive an extension to October 2020 to implement the plan to meet financial obligations. The Parish sent five representatives which helped convey the seriousness of our efforts. The need for all three church buildings was defended well given the geographic spread of the Parish. The Council noted that 60% of new applicants to the priesthood come from the Southern Tier and one priest was so moved by the presentation that he offered to contribute \$250 per month for the next year, a very generous expression of support.

Father Pat then discussed the great need to increase mass attendance and consider outreach efforts to reinforce the importance of attending Mass. As an example, he discussed young families having many competing activities which creates challenges for faith formation coordinators. He send notes to faith formation families to connect with them and invite them to open themselves to attending Mass more regularly. Father Pat emphasized appreciation of the

dignity and beauty of the Mass as the underlying reason that missing Mass is considered a sin.

Deacon Doug the importance of Mass attendance and suggested to take small opportunities to teach catechism from the pulpit for adult faith formation, explaining the beauty and purpose of elements of the Mass.

Next, Father Pat discussed the Mass schedule for Lent which will be published in the bulletin.

Feb 26th – Ash Wednesday, 9am, St. Catherine's, 5pm, St. Stanislaus, 6:30pm, St. Joseph's.

April 9th, 5pm, St. Joseph's and 7pm, St. Catherine's – Washing of the feet

April 10th, Good Friday, 12 noon, St. Stanislaus, 4pm, St. Catherine's, each preceded by Praying the Rosary and Stations 30 minutes prior to the Mass.

April 11th, Easter Vigil, St. Stanislaus, 7:30 pm, morning prayer 9am at St. Joseph's.

April 12th – Easter Sunday, 9am, St. Joseph's, 11am, St. Catherine's with Stations of the Cross 15 minutes prior to each Mass.

Stations will be observed at 6:30 pm every Friday evening at St. Joseph's.

Lastly, Fr. Pat requestedprayers for Roger Peruski as he continues to struggle with his illness.

Business Manager's Report – In Peter Olausson's absence, Art explained that the Parish dropped below the \$5000 minimum collection, and the need to get more regular attendance. The issue will be discussed at the Planning Committee on Thursday.

Old business

- **Planning Committee Update** – outcomes from the Planning Committee and Presbyteral Council meetings are discussed above.
- **Liturgical Committee Update** – Father Pat discussed with Rich Marflak about helping to organize the Liturgical Committee. He and Deacon Dave will work together to arrange a first meeting on Monday Jan. 27th at 6:30pm.

- **Emergency Planning Update** – As noted above, Dale Hall is still trying to schedule with the Sheriff's Dept. to begin planning and site visits to share with parishioners.
- **Christmas Baskets** – Theresa reported 140 food baskets for families were distributed with great support from many volunteers as noted in the previous Pastoral Council meeting. Anna reported that St. Stanislaus faith formation families raised \$763 in donations to the Food Pantry from their Christmas Tree and filled 30 stockings for children in need.

New Business

- **Finance Committee Fundraising** – two ideas for fundraising were discussed. It was agreed to support both of these fundraisers. Bob Wylie will inform the Finance Committee to organize them.
 - Krispy Kreme Doughnuts – it was agreed to offer glazed doughnuts only. Bob Wylie has offered to pick them up from the Clark's Summit location where prices are slightly lower than The Erie store
 - Flower sale – Peter has suggested to sell Easter lilies or flowers for Mother's Day.
 - Father Pat also reminded that the Irish Dinner planning is proceeding and will meet on Sunday, January 26, after the 9am Mass at St. Catherine's.

Deacons' Remarks – Deacon Doug Farwell suggested we consider inviting Bishop Matano to visit the Parish. Fr. Pat suggested the Sts. Feast Day as a possibility. Most likely he could only visit one of the three churches. Deacon Doug also recommended we consider updating the Tabernacles in St. Stanislaus and St. Joseph's to make them more prominent and larger. He identified two Tabernacles from the Diocese that could be obtained at no cost, though they may need refurbishing. He sent pictures by email for the Council to review and will gather more information on refurbishment costs to share with the Council at the next meeting. If agreed, it may be possible to have them installed before Easter Sunday.

Deacon Dave LaFortune added that the Diocesan Chrism Mass will be held Tuesday April 7th, at 7pm in the Rochester Sacred Heart Cathedral and would like to encourage Parish Council members to attend.

Deacon Dave has agreed to help Rich Marflak with the formation of a Liturgical Committee.

Lastly, he asked that everyone take some action to encourage someone they know to come to Mass. Since most of us know someone who has stopped attending for various reasons, we should let them know they are missed and invite them to return. If in doubt how to approach them, say a prayer and give it a shot.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ed Borkowski will provide draft wording to Fr. Pat for Mass intentions concerning the solvency of the Parish and mass attendance.
2. Deacon Doug will investigate potential costs for Tabernacle refurbishment and make a formal proposal.
3. Bob Wylie will inform the Finance Committee to proceed with doughnut and flower fundraiser planning.
4. Fr. Pat will consider an invitation for Bishop Matano on the Sts. Feast Day for the Parish Sts.
5. Fr. Pat will follow up with Dale Hall about the Emergency planning activity with the Sheriff's Dept and suggest to call Jim Allard directly.

Next Meeting - Next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd, 6pm at St Joseph's Hall.

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