

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
St. Agnes † St. Paul of the Cross † St. Rose

Date: January 9, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: *St. Paul of the Cross*

Chairperson: Daniel Cochrane

Prayer: Steve Worboys, John Connelly

ATTENDANCE: Father Michael Fowler, Daniel Cochrane, John Connelly, Ryne Raffaele, Sean Terboss, Brian Gregory, Steve Worboys

TRUSTEES: Chuck Hulsey, Josh Belokur

GUEST: Bonnie Deprez

Opening Remarks: It was clarified that the role of the Pastoral Council and Finance Council support Fr. Mike with equal authority. Staff operates as a separate entity with separate responsibilities to Fr. Mike.

December Minutes Review: Guest for January is Bonnie Deprez, not Elizabeth Jensen

Report on Cluster operations:

Bonnie Deprez

- The goal is to balance building maintenance and repair with funding available. With an aging infrastructure this will continue to be a topic for our cluster parishioners to address.

General Discussion:

Bonnie Deprez

• **Fire Dept.** A Safety walkthrough was completed at all churches & Buildings in our cluster. The respective fire departments toured our facilities so they are now aware of the many buildings we have. Overall, the comments received were very good.

• **Parishioner Safety:** We cannot lock the doors during mass. The Livingston County Sheriff said they can work with us about what to do during emergency situations and how to address them. **(Note: A meeting to discuss Security will be conducted by the Livingston County Sheriff Dept. Jan 15th at St. Agnes Church from 6:00 PM to 8:30.)**

• **Confessionals:** It was noted that the Buffalo Diocese is moving away from private confessionals due to the sexual abuse concerns. This will involve cost to renovate and remove the face-to-face confessionals. The goal is to have a privacy screen between the priest and person confessing. Fr. Mike wasn't aware of this issue in our Diocese, he said there are no plans to pursue this issue until we hear differently from the diocese.

• **Outside steps in All Churches (specifically St. Paul and St. Agnes):** We have a quote to fix St. Agnes' steps. We are also looking at "patches" with a rubberized surface to stop water from ingressing. This would save the time and money of removing the current steps and rebuilding them. Bonnie and the Maintenance staff investigating.

* **St. Agnes**

- **Masonry work:** Very little actual masonry work has been completed on St. Agnes Church structure due to weather constraints.

- **A wheelchair lift** will be installed at the former St. Agnes' rectory. The roof at the rectory needs to be observed. The soffit support beams were cut too short and could pose a structural issue in the near future.

- August 17, 2019 the Bishop will attend the Saturday Mass at St. Agnes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the St. Agnes Parrish.
- St. Agnes School needs masonry work in various places. The Diocese will be asked for financial support from the building fund to help defray the cost.

* **St. Rose**

- Josh will check the light on the rose window to see if it is working.

* **St. Paul of the Cross**

- Operations is looking into a proposal for a *3-stop* lift for St. Paul. The stops would be Main worship level, Parking lot side entrance and Basement level. The Diocese's Building Fund will hopefully provide a portion of the costs for this project. We would also need to upgrade our bathrooms to be handicap accessible if the lift is installed.

● **Pastoral Update**

Fr. Mike

* The bell tower solicitation at St. Agnes has raised about one half of its goal. It was suggested we look at other types of funding (e.g., local businesses).

* Regarding the CMA: St. Rose has exceeded their goal. St. Paul is close to goal, and St. Agnes is at 66%. Fr. Mike will be sending out a letter to those who contributed last year, but have not yet contributed this year.

● **Old Business:**

Mary Mulligan is joining Pastoral Council representing St. Rose, and **Bob Alexander** is representing St. Agnes. The last position at St. Rose should be announced by Fr. Mike.

Mass Statistics:

Ryne Raffaele

Historical data suggests that the cumulative attendance of all masses in our cluster is 450 people who regularly attend our worship sites.

- Attendance at all Churches in our cluster spikes at Easter and Christmas.
- Data also suggests that attendance for the past 6 months is trending upward. One *contributor* to increased attendance is the Community Faith program. The Parish that hosts the Community Faith experiences an uptick in attendance for that Sunday event.

- It was also noted that the number of families went up by **4**. Fr. Mike noted that when *cleaning up the books* (i.e., removing parishioners who are no longer part of our Parish) several families were removed from the rolls. The *cleaning of the books* was based on non-delivery mail returned from the post office during the increased offering appeal. Therefore to have an increase of 4 families was a significant achievement.
- *Data as of 8/25/18* reflects there are approximately 991 total families registered in our Parish Cluster. We are averaging 450 parishioners each weekend at the masses.

New Business

- * **The men's retreat** is Feb. 22-24 (it's not on Super Bowl weekend). We need to communicate this to the men in the Parish so they can plan ahead. This can be done via the bulletin and the website.
- * **Operations**: It was further emphasized that if we hear of operational issues in any of the Churches we need to pass that information on to Bonnie Deprez, Operations Manager.
- * **Pastoral Council Photo**: We need to take a new picture of the current Pastoral Council members. Perhaps at the next meeting?
- * **Lunch for Volunteers**: In the past the cluster provided a recognition lunch for those volunteers who support the funeral ministry etc. Should we consider recognizing our musicians this year as well? Will discuss at our next Pastoral Council meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday February 13th, 5:30 pm at St. Rose

Thank you to John Connelly for snacks, Steven Worboys for prayer, and Brian Gregory for recording minutes at our meeting.