**St. Maria Goretti Parish**

**Pastoral Council and Finance Council Joint Meeting**

**Meeting Notes**

**January 8, 2020**

**Pastoral Council Members** Present: Father Chung, Deacon Stephen Vondercrone, Gloria Nguyen, Janna Kerr, Ron Boak, Maria Richardson, Cheryl Ryan, Douglas Smith, Kim Staudt, and Charles Amuso. Members Excused: Deacon Peter Niche, Dave Mazeroski.

**Parish Finance Council Members** Present: Maureen Roynan, Douglas Smith, Geri Salanik, Kim Staudt, Bill Doucet, Nancy Boak, and Bill Hudak. Members excused: George Mick and Steve Steklenski.

Father Chung opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Father Chung welcomed all who were present and thanked them for their work. He reported the following:

1. Christmas Masses were well attended, especially the three on Christmas Eve.
2. Rhoads Garden again donated the Christmas trees used to decorate the church.
3. The Catholic Foundation will be invited to make a presentation to the Finance Committee to inform them about possibility accepting donations from parishioners. Those donations will be earmarked for our parish.
4. Summer Camps will be held at St. Stanislaus campus in 2020.
5. Mater Dei Child Care has a waiting list for infant age level at St. Maria Goretti. Additional classrooms will be made available to permit the program to expand.
6. Forty Hours Devotions will take place on September 20-22, 2020. Father Michael Mullen has agreed to preach.
7. **Committee Reports – Pastoral Council**
   1. **Pastoral Plan Committee** – Janna Kerr, Co-Chair, asked Ron Boak, Chair of the Stewardship Committee to report on the October 16, 2019 Listening Session. Ron reported the following:
      1. 46 parishioners attended the 1 ½ hour session.
      2. Many topics were discussed, but the most significant topic focused on issues and concerns about the apparent lack of belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. A recent study found that 70% of people identifying as Catholic to not belief in the True Presence. A question was posed: How can we educate our parishioners on the reality of Jesus’ true presence in the Eucharist?
      3. Another concern discussed was the low percentage of our registered parishioners who attend Mass regularly or at all. The need and importance for all of us to reach out to those who are not attending to ask them to return to Mass attendance was stressed.
   2. Maria Richardson suggested that the program that we present to youth –Altaration- that teaches about the Mass could also be used with adults.
   3. Kim Staudt reported that Goretti Fest raised more funds in its second year and is anticipated to grow. The renovation of the pews will take place in February a program to raise funds for permanent hymnals will take place in the spring.
   4. Maria Richardson, **Director of Family Faith Formation**, reported the following:

PREP

* + 1. For the Confirmation Retreat on January 11, 2020, there are 70 teenagers preparing for the sacrament, 29 girls and 41 boys.
    2. For First Holy Communion preparation, there 63 children – 33 girls and 30 boys.
    3. The Mid-Term testing for PREP students is scheduled for January 26th and February 3rd.
    4. First Penance is on February 5th
    5. The First Holy Communion Retreat is on February 29th.
    6. Protecting God’s Children classes – “Kid Talk” is on March 2nd.
    7. Confirmation will be celebrated on March 12th, with Bishop Martino, retired bishop of Scranton presiding.
    8. Final Tests for PREP are on April 19th and 20th,
    9. First Holy Communion is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th.
    10. There will be a special blessing for the First Holy Communion Class at 11:30 Mass on April 26th.
    11. The May Procession is scheduled for Monday, May 4th.

Youth Ministry

* + 1. 18 teens completed Alpha Youth prior to Christmas
    2. Altaration from Ascension Press is scheduled from January 21st until March 1st.
    3. Pizza Night Fundraiser – Pizza for Lent – is on February 22nd and 23rd.
    4. Totally Catholic will be presented on March 28th and 29th.
    5. Bowling Night will be on March 31st.
    6. Blessing of all New Graduates will be on May 17th.
    7. Mini Golf night at Freddy Hill is scheduled for May 27th.
    8. The trip to the Franciscan University of Steubenville for the youth workshop is on July 17-19, 2020.

Family Faith

* + 1. The Advent Event included 35 children with 9 teen leaders.
    2. We have a “Walk through Holy Week” scheduled for April 3rd.
    3. The service project this year is with the Mitzvah Circle Foundation of Harleysville on June 3rd.

Church Ministries

* + 1. We are looking for a new leader of the Hospitality Ministry.
    2. We have added a new teenage lector and are looking for more teens to serve.
    3. We have a new Girl Scout troop in the parish.
    4. The First Sunday Doughnut Social is now being sponsored by a different ministry group each month to highlight the work of that ministry – to recruit new members.

1. **Committee Reports- Finance Council** 
   1. Douglas Smith provided a Financial Performance Report to the Council members for the July 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019. He reported that Church Revenue is lower by $7,207 compared to the same period in 2018. The Church Operating Expenses were lower than the previous year by $19.015. The tuition subsidy for students who attend Catholic Schools (Mater Dei, Corpus Christi, St. Jude, and St. Mary) was $10,000 less than last year. The number of students attending has decreased from 141 to 102.
   2. Maureen Roynan reported that our parish provides tuition assistance to 8 families whose children attend Mater Dei School and St. Mary School.
   3. Kim Staudt reported that the parish seeks to invest funds available conservatively. He also reported that a purchase of permanent missals/hymnals through a parishioner sponsorship program is planned. The Parish Raffle is planned for later in the year.
   4. Bill Doucet reported on the planning for upgrades to the Education Center. An upgrade of the electrical service will be completed first, and then air conditioning units will be installed in four classrooms to enable the expansion of the Child Care and Pre School Program. PECO may be willing to extend natural gas service to the parish campus.
   5. Geri Salanik reported that the Pew Refurbishing will be completed in February. The Donor Tree for those who purchased the refurbishing of at least one pew will go up in February. She reported that the new permanent missal/hymnals will be Journeysong, 3rd Edition. Parishioners will be asked to contribute $25 to sponsor one book.
2. The meeting ended with a prayer led by Deacon Vandercrone at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted by Charles Amuso

January 26, 2020