

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes – May 12, 2015

Present: Father Ed, Debbie Traini, Bill Wuest, Liesl Wuest, Mary Anne Boylan, Bill Boylan, Julia White, Chuck Zech, Jean Mulcahy, Susan Hackett, Mary Chollet Lordan, and Mark Vacha

Absent: Terry Lynch, Dom D'Angelo

Opening Prayer

Julia White led us through praying The Examen. The council reflected individually through the five steps of: (1) Gratitude; (2) Petition; (3) Review; (4) Forgiveness; and (5) Renewal

Minutes: Approved unanimously. (And the group confirmed that meeting minutes, once approved, are posted on the parish website)

Announcements

- **The Parish Council:** This was the last meeting for several council members including Julia White, Jean Mulcahy, Dominic D'Aneglo and Bill and Mary Anne Boylan. These positions will be filled with new members including two parish staff and three parishioners. Father Ed is in the process of finalizing the conversations with staff and parishioners and expects to announce the new members who will join Parish Council for 2015-2016 at the June 2nd meeting.
- **The Convent:** Father Ed shared that he has met with both architects and construction companies regarding moving forward with renovations of the Convent. Initial inspections that include structural assessments, asbestos and termites have not indicated any major concerns. As such, Father Ed intends to move forward with a feasibility study which will provide much more information regarding options for the space, expenses, time frame, etc.... It is Father Ed's vision that the Convent will serve as a Parish Center and will be the heartbeat of the community – a place where ministries and other groups can gather and parish staff will have appropriate work space to support the parish. Father Ed hopes to finalize plans this summer so that we can move forward with the feasibility study, including fundraising options to support the project. The council discussed whether it makes sense to also use this time to look at the church and consider making any changes to make it a more welcoming space with a physical layout that would encourage people to stay, gather and socialize after Mass. The council was reminded that such discussions did take place when the church was renovated several years ago and it was determined that the budget would not accommodate such renovations. Father Ed did share that he is speaking with the same

companies now that were involved in the church renovation. The group agreed that this history and their involvement in past conversations could prove very helpful as final decisions are made regarding the future physical plant for the entire parish property.

- **Finance Committee:** Mark Vacha provided a brief status of the parish finances. The parish is currently running a modest surplus. There have been no significant changes in the status of the parish's financial position. (*Mark will provide a financial update as a standing agenda item)
- **Parish Council Self-Evaluation:** Chuck Zech will send an electronic, anonymous survey for council members to share their candid feedback about the progress we have made, the issues that we still need to address, and ideas for improving our work as a council.

Ministry Update

- **Ministry Sunday Debrief:** The council confirmed that Ministry Sunday would now be an annual event each spring (rather than fall). Overall feedback was very positive about the April, 2015 event including:
 - The layout of the room including the ministry information on the table tops (vs. posters). These ministry overviews will be saved and used for future events
 - The children's table with coloring and drawing in the middle of the room
 - The scouts helping out with set up
 - The Youth Group helping to collect and show a tangible service project as people entered the gym
 - The music being piped from the outside speakers
- **Ministry Objectives Status Report:** Father Ed sent an email reminder to all of the ministry leaders about the May 31st deadline to submit 3 objectives for their respective ministries. Father shared that the Prayer Shawl ministry had submitted their objectives and that he was inspired by their work. Just that one ministry has grown significantly (from 8 to 20something) including men, woman and children. Parish House Hostesses also communicated that this process has encouraged them to change their name so that it will encourage men to participate.
- **PPC 3 Objectives:** Chuck confirmed that just as the other ministries have been asked to commit to 3 objectives, so should Parish Council. Group very quickly discussed that one objective could be around doing a better job communicating with the parish about our work. As such, a photo was taken with the council members whose terms have expired with the intention to post it on the Parish Facebook page. Possibly finalizing our 3 objectives could be a June 2nd agenda item.

- **Ministry Leader FAQs:** Mary shared that the parish website will be updated to include a list of frequently asked questions and answers to support ministry leaders. FAQs will include how to schedule a meeting room, opportunities to communicate information about a ministry event, fundraising, etc...

Recognition of PPC Council members

- Father Ed presented PPC members finishing their terms with a copy of Jesus by James Martin. We recognized the significant contributions of the members and thanked them for their contributions. Cake and conversation concluded the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hackett