

## February 2018 Parish Council Minutes

1. Proposal for Earth Day Celebration
  - a. J. Cooney presented a proposal on behalf of the Justice and Peace Committee to hold a parish celebration on Earth Day, April 22, 2018.
    - i. Goals include a celebration of God's Creation, increase awareness of habits that harm the environment, provide ideas for reducing harm to the Earth, and to pray for creation.
    - ii. Celebration would include items for the liturgy and hospitality after the Masses, along with activities for the kids and education on a variety of topics including recycling properly, reducing consumption, etc. The cost of the celebration is anticipated to be minimal.
    - iii. The Council agreed to support the celebration. Additional feedback should be emailed to Father and Mary.
2. Pastor's Report
  - a. Campus Security - Father will be meeting with Chief Splain to discuss campus security. The school is secured with a buzzer and door locks however, the Church needs to be evaluated. Parish members are considered part of law enforcement and may be invited to participate in meetings.
  - b. Employee Handbook – Parish will be creating a new employee handbook. Rosemary has examples of other handbooks from other parishes. Targeting to have it completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. PREP – Survey was distributed to parents and response rate was positive. Parish will initiate a summer prep program and a Monday prep program. The summer session is committed but the Monday session will begin in the fall if there are enough staff and catechists. Parishioners who voiced concern have been invited to meet with Father and Mary.
  - d. Lenten Retreat – Sr. Marie McCoy will hold Retreat tomorrow night and Saturday at 9:30am in the Church. Sister has also been attending Mass at St. John's so she can meet parishioners.
  - e. Confirmation – Archbishop Chaput has decided that Confirmation will be conferred in either 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, at each parish's discretion. St. John's, like almost every Delaware County parish, will move Confirmation to 7<sup>th</sup> grade, beginning in 2020. There will be no Confirmation in 2018-19.
3. Suggestions from Everyone Leads Discussion
  - a. Mustard Seed Fund – Any parishioners who have new ideas can already come to Father and Mary. Need to identify opportunities to

invite people who might not otherwise engage. Focus incentives / suggestions on age groups who are not actively participating. Neil and Pat will form sub-committee to define proposal and will report at a future meeting.

- b. Parishioner Survey – Need to clarify purpose of survey. PREP parents were just surveyed so need to avoid duplication. Perhaps target younger adults and/or people who register but don't participate in parish life. Lynn will report on results of PREP survey that might be relevant to re-engaging families. Father is also interested in understanding why some parents are attending Mass but without their children.
- c. Review of Other Parishes' offerings / ministries – Neil has begun investigating and will report at a future meeting.