

## Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting November 19, 2019

Present Fr, Cyrus, Pastor Joe Malattera, Sarah Corneck, Dominik Kulis, Gracemary Avitabile, Anthony Buono, Thomas Devine, Juany Fumai, Mori Han-Lemus, Michelle Harding, Michelle Hopson, John LoRusso, William Macnamara, Frank Matto, Catherine Romano  
Absent Thomas Bonaventura, Michael O'Loughlin representing the finance council is Daniel Kiely

Fr, Cyrus and the members, prayed the prayer that was used before every session of the Second Vatican Council.

The ministry reports from the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 parish council meeting, were accepted by Michele Harding and seconded by Tony Buono.

Since this was the first meeting of the new Pastoral Council, Joe Malattera asked the members to introduced themselves.

The Ministry reports for this meeting were presented and noted. The ministries will continue to serve the parish, each in their own special way. **Noted**, Ronnie Estony stepped down as chair of the Senior Luncheon due to health issues.

Fr. Cyrus spoke of his leadership role, in planning, organizing, imitating, coordinating, and reviewing the mission and activities within the parish. He also spoke on how they will relate to the five pastoral pillars. The five pillars of: **hospitality, prayer, formation, generosity and evangelization**. He also spoke about how the parish will implement the results of the Diocesan Synod for our parish. Specifically, in the areas of: **community, parish life and evangelization**. **The council will also, help to implement the needs of the parish through exploring stewardship, time, talent and treasure to foster unity within the parish.**

Fr. Cyrus explained to the members of the Council, that their role(s) are to assist him with his pastoral plans; which are intended to promote the common good of the parish and help foster "a sense of community". Especially, when it comes to planning/promoting parish activities recommended by the bishop.

Father Cyrus also gave the council his vision for the parish: **"We must all commit ourselves, to be a guiding light of the Catholic family; which is recognized as a large, welcoming, generous, and effective faith community. This is inspired by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the grace given to us by the celebration of the Sacraments. We will use our gifts of time, talent and treasure; to provide the services and ministries necessary to promote Catholic faith in our parish. By our commitment to educate the young, meet the spiritual and material needs of all of God's children, and to glorify the Father, Son, and Holy**

**Spirit. This is all done, by living our Christian example set forth by Jesus; via the intercessions of our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary."**

**Dan Kiely** gave an update of the parish's finances. **Dan stated: "the parish is in good shape financially. There were capital expenditures (i.e.; maintenance of the school and church buildings that are under discussion by the finance council currently. Sidewalk repairs were successfully completed and within budget. This was the first project, that paid by the capital campaign. A new landing in the upper entrance of the school along with landscaping, to make it more appealing has also been accomplished."**

We are in the process of obtaining bids, to replace the windows and the main lobby entrance doors of the school, per our discussion with our tenants (Landmark and Pumpkin).

**The Catholic Appeal – Goal is \$165,750. We are currently at approximately \$130,000. We are currently \$35,000 short. During the Capital Campaign, we received one installment check of \$74,902 and are waiting to hear from the CEO for the second check.**

Discussion(s) and suggestion(s) from all members of the pastoral council occurred. There were many ideas, on how to improve giving to the church. Ideas, such as to update the online giving, exploring different ways of sacrificial giving, and improving the online registration for our religious education program. We also need to look at how the **"younger generation"**, uses **IT** to give.

All four buildings within the parish are now wireless. There is a Smart Board in the Youth Room that is being used by three religious education classes on a weekly basis. Security cameras have also been installed throughout the school and Roncalli House.

**John LoRusso, Tony Buono, and architect Joe Chetta**, have designed and implemented a **Fire Escape Plan**, for the entire school building(s) and the religious education program. Each room has a **Fire Escape Plan**, laminated in each classroom wall. Fire drills, will be implemented soon, along with an "intruder policy", which the Westport Police Department will take the lead; in training and conducting in the very near future.

**Bill Macnamara** spoke of the wonderful service the Knights of Columbus are doing, within the parish. They have applied for a name change. The new name is: **3688 Westport Church of the Assumption Knights of Columbus**. Two signs with the new name, will be posted on the church. They are also in the process of recruiting new members for the Knights of Columbus. Young men are being sought out and hopefully be recruited to join.

**Sarah Corneck, Dominik Kulis, and Michele Harding** of Assumption's youth group, spoke about the upcoming summer mission trip to Steubenville, Ohio. They have done fundraising and will be taking ten youth group members. Sarah and Dominik attended last years mission trip and are excited to go to Ohio. Michelle is looking for a few adult male chaperones. Please see her if interested.

**Fr. Cyrus spoke about Misa Gallo which will take place from December 16 to the 23.**

Michelle Hopson spoke on how we can grow and share challenges, how to market the parish and implement programs such as: **“Walking with Purpose”**.

**Cathy Romano spoke on upcoming events:**

**December 4 the youth ministry will decorate the rectory Christmas Tree, and decorate cookies.**

**December 7 & 8, is our Annual Christmas Fair**

**December 11, Christmas Dinner for our seniors.**

**December 13, staff and volunteer Christmas dinner party will be held in the school gym.**

**December 15, after the Sunday 5pm mass we will bless the creche, light the tree, and sing carols. An open house at the Rectory will follow.**

**December 17, is our parish Advent Penance Service, at 7PM**

**December 23, the church will be decorated for Christmas**

We closed with prayer

Next meeting January 28, 7pm McGrath Hall

Respectively submitted,

Cathy Romano