

Minutes from Pastoral Council Meeting

January 28, 2020

Present: Fr, Cyrus (Pastor), Bill Konlers (Deacon), Joe Malaterra (Parish Council Chair), Sarah Corneck, Dominik Kulis, Gracemary Avitabile, Thomas Devine, Juany Fumai, Mori Han-Lemus, Michelle Harding, Michelle Hopson, John LoRusso, William Macnamara, Frank Matto, Catherine Romano

Absent: Anthony Buono, Michael O'Loughlin.

-Fr, Cyrus opened the meeting with prayer.

-The minutes from the November 19, meeting was accepted by Michele Harding and seconded by Juany Fumai.

-Deacon Bill and Tom Bonaventura were introduced to the council, this being their first meeting.

-The Ministry reports for this meeting were presented and noted. The ministries are active and engaged in their service to the parish.

-Fr. Cyrus clarified the term limits for council members, being a three-year term with a three year renewal. He also spoke about the upcoming Annual Catholic Appeal. **Assumption Church's Annual Catholic Appeal goal it's responsible to meet is \$165.750.** There were some questions as to how the Catholic Appeal money is spent. Some council members questioned if any of this money goes toward the Sexual Abuse Crisis. Deacon Bill explained how it is dispersed and assured us, that none of the money goes toward that at all.

-On line giving was also discussed. How in today's world of technology, it is very important to factor in and implement an offertory giving vessel/app online. John Lorusso, stated that fire escape routes have been posted throughout the school.

New Business

-Father Cyrus asked three questions to be focused on and discussed at this meeting, from the council members:

- 1. What are (The Council's) expectations for him and what did he expect from the council?**
- 2. What changes/needs for the parish do we want to see now and in the future?**
- 3. How can we as a church be a forerunner for Catholicism in Westport?**

Discussion(s) and suggestion(s) ensued. The council felt that Fr. Cyrus has done a good job this past year, implementing new ideas. Ideas and suggestions included a new website, Family Life activities (Feast of The Assumption Celebration, Mardi Gras, Senior Luncheons, Lenten preparations). All four of the buildings within the parish are now using wireless internet. There is a Smart Board in the Youth Room; that is being used by three religious education classes on a

weekly basis. Along with his regular duties as pastor, Fr. Cyrus said there was a need for him to visit the homebound more frequently and was concerned, being the only priest in the parish, that is difficult for him to accomplish.

-Father Cyrus' expectations from the council, is to be a working council to help grow the parish. Council Member Michelle Hopson, said: "We need to tap into the resources of the young families to see what their needs are along with the needs of the parish members as a whole." Tom Bonaventura, volunteered to conduct focus groups to help start this. Fr. Cyrus created a sub-committee to implement this. The sub-committee members are: Tom Bonaventura, Michelle Hopson, Dominik Kulis. They will all meet and begin this process. Deacon Bill said from that meeting, the council would create and implement a parish survey for feedback.

-Father also spoke of the need to look into repairs to both the church and school buildings. Some of the repairs mentioned were: furnaces, which are old and do not run properly, new front doors for the school, and new windows in the classrooms.

-Fr. Cyrus gave us the Lenten Schedule for Ash Wednesday and daily through out Lent. There will be Mass on Ash Wednesday at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 12:15 pm, 5:15 pm and a prayer service with ashes at 7 PM. Also, ashes will be distributed at the Saugatuck Rail Road Station starting at 5 am on Ash Wednesday.

-Father Cyrus announced that Jean Gillespie would speak to the parish on February 9, at the 9, 10:30 and 12 noon Masses about "**Walking with Purpose**". Father Cyrus has also invited Steven Lee on March 7th and 8th 2020, to speak about Catholic Radio within the Bridgeport Diocese.

-Bill McNamara spoke about the Knights of Columbus holding a St. Patrick Day Dinner, on March 14th after the 5pm Mass, to help raise funds for their outreach projects.

-Cathy Romano spoke on upcoming events:

There will be a parish Palm to Ashes ceremony following the Saturday 5 pm Mass, before the Mardi Gras on February 22.

The Senior Luncheon will be held on March 19, with 12:15 Mass and the celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph

-Deacon Bill closed with prayer.

-Schedule of Upcoming Council Meetings = March 31, 2020 and June 2, 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Respectively Submitted,
Cathy Romano, Parish Council Secretary