

**St. Francis de Sales Pastoral Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 28, 2017**

**Attendees:** Ray Traube, Sylvia Brokos, John Fisher, Alice Long, Patrick Perkins, William Countess, Iris Hernandez, Nikki Gorski, April Holdun, Martine Uveges, Herman Bush, Eleanor Fisher, William Bankert, and Deacon Jim Sullivan.

**Absent:** Fr. Jack Ward and Fr. Jaime Garcia.

**Order:** Ray Traube brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Opening Prayer:** The Embracing Our Mission – Shaping our Future prayer was said by all.

**Approval of Minutes:** The January, 2017 minutes were approved.

**MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Faith Formation:** Nikki Gorski reported:

- RCIA has 5 adults and 2 children.
- Elementary Faith Formation has only 3 weeks remaining. Last classes will be held 4/27 and 4/28.
- Seventy (70) children will be celebrating First Eucharist this year. The Spanish community will celebrate First Eucharist at Mass on May 17<sup>th</sup>,
- The children bagged for Outreach as their Lenten project.
- Middle School Faith Formation will conclude on 5/24 and 5/26. They held a food drive for their project for Lent.
- High School started confirmation. Year 1 began on March 4<sup>th</sup> and Year 2 started March 18<sup>th</sup>. Bishop Madden will be celebrating at confirmation.
- A youth ensemble has been formed and will play at the confirmation Mass on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM.

**Latino Community:** Iris Hernandez reported:

- The Latinos were holding Stations of the Cross in the Stone Chapel on this coming Saturday at 7:00 PM.
- New members are joining.

**Liturgy:** Sylvia Brokos reported:

- The committee has been working on the Palm Sunday/Triduum/Easter Vigil services.
- There will be some changes to these services. We will not be using the Baptismal pool for immersions at the Vigil because there is a crack in the pool. Instead, Fr. Jack will pour the water as is done at the infant Baptisms.

**Parish Life:** Currently, there is no representative for this ministry, so no one reported.

**Service:** Bill Countess reported:

- Eighty-two casseroles were donated for Our Daily Bread.
- For January, Outreach saw 144 clients, distributed 142 food bags and assisted 51 clients financially. For February, they saw 195 clients, distributed 198 food bags and assisted 73 clients financially.
- Faith formation assisted with the bagging the food.
- Forty boxes of food were distributed to forty families for the annual Lenten project.
- Let's Do Lunch and assisting at the homeless shelter continue and can always use volunteers.

**Stewardship:** John Fisher did not have a report but he did ask about possible repair of the leak in the Baptismal pool. Deacon Jim explained that the water is coming up through the carpet a few feet away from the pool so that it seems that just repairing the crack in the pool would not be an option.

**Youth:** Patrick Perkins introduced Eleanor Fisher as the new Youth representative and she reported:

- February 10-12<sup>th</sup> was the annual middle school and high school winter retreat. Cooper Ray was the speaker. The weekend was positive, uplifting and provided a good bonding experience.
- February 11<sup>th</sup> was the Kids' bingo.
- The assembly of the bingo packets scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> was canceled.
- March 17<sup>th</sup> will be a party and event planning evening.
- March 20<sup>th</sup>, the youth will be assisting at the homeless shelter.
- March 24<sup>th</sup>, JIF will meet for Stations of the Cross.
- April 7<sup>th</sup> will be the Easter egg stuffing (2,000)
- April 14<sup>th</sup> will be Stations of the Cross for the middle schoolers.
- April 15<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Easter egg hunt and assisting with decorating the liturgical spaces for Easter. It will also be game night at Holy Spirit.
- April 20<sup>th</sup>, SFDS youth will attend Mass and hold a Donut Social with the youth from Holy Spirit.
- The Youth Ensemble has a great assortment of instruments.
- Diane Lewis is making some good changes to the confirmation experience.
- Middle School Youth are planning a multi-cultural event at Prince of Peace.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Ray Traube asked John Fisher to announce the result of the recent Parish Council Elections. John reported that Patrick Perkins received 232 votes, Ray Traube received 192 votes and Alice Long received 186 votes. As they were the highest vote getters, each will serve a two year term on the Council. April Holdun received 175 votes and Martine Uveges received 170 votes so they will be serving one year terms.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

-- Ray Traube distributed a revised Appendix A to the Council by-laws. The members reviewed it and Ray will update it. He also distributed the closing prayer schedule for the upcoming year.

--Ray also distributed a sign-up sheet for council members to volunteer to help at the parish bingo.

--Deacon Jim suggested that we change the opening prayer as the Embracing Our Mission campaign is just about completed.

--He also mentioned that Fr. Jack has donated his statue of the Sacred Heart and it is currently in one of the niches in the narthex. We now have one empty niche in the narthex and it was suggested that we might find someone to donate a statute of the Blessed Mother.

--Deacon Jim also stated that the Pastorate plan probably will be announced this week.

-- He said that Rob Henry is very enthusiastic about the youth ensemble.

--Deacon Jim also said that the parish is a little behind financially but is hoping that Easter will help.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

April Holdun offered to be secretary and as there were no other nominations, she was elected by a show of hands.

Ray Traube was nominated for Chair and as there were no other nominations, he was elected by a show of hands.

Both Herman Bush and Martine Uveges were nominated to serve as Vice Chair but Martine declined so Herman was elected by a show of hands.

**GOOD OF THE COUNCIL:**

There was a suggestion that reconciliation for pre-school parents be held at a time when the children were in class to accommodate the parents' schedules.

There was a suggestion in the Council box that we do away with the ringing of the bells during Mass. There was some discussion of this issue and it was decided that it was unlikely as the bells had recently been added to the Mass and Fr. Jack is in favor of the bells.

It was also suggested that Extraordinary Ministers and the Altar Servers need training and should be instructed on proper dress. Sylvia Brokos said that she would take those issues back to the Liturgy Committee.

Ray Traube adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Brokos

**Collections**-- Deacon Jim asked the Council for approval to take collections at every Mass including Thanksgiving and Ash Wednesday. The Council approved this suggestion.

**PARISH UPDATE**: Fr. Jack discussed the Pastorate and how that will affect the parishes involved. Holy Spirit will join with SFDS and Prince of Peace sometime after February. It may happen right away or it may take up to 5 years. Fr. Jack already has started meetings with Fr. Simmons to determine what the future will look like. Each parish will keep its own identity with its own parish council and finance committee. Representatives from these committees would meet with the other parishes on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. Programs that are jointly run will continue that way. There will be some modification to Mass schedules.

Fr. Jack also reported that the parish audit recently was completed. The auditors had some concerns about the handling of the collection bags. The auditors also mentioned some sort of reserve for the cemetery but it was unclear if they meant \$200,000 cash or an insurance type policy in that amount. Deacon Jim will look into that. There also was some discussion that the parish may owe an additional \$51,000 to the archdiocese for the Viaticum.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, Fr. Garcia was very late in going to his car which was parked on the Rt. 95 side of the parish office. Before he could get to his car, he was approached by a man who demanded money. When Fr. Garcia did not produce any money, the man demanded his coat. Fr. Garcia reached into his bag as if he had a gun and the man left. As a result, Fr. Jack wants to improve the lighting and install cameras on both sides of the Kilduff-Office complex. He also decided to close the Stone Chapel at 3:00 PM on Mondays through Thursdays, at Noon on Fridays and close it entirely on the weekends.

Deacon Jim reported that the Knights want to install two defibrillators. If new, the cost would be \$2200 each. Jim is hoping to purchase refurbished ones. As he did for Prince of Peace, Fr. Garcia has offered two raffles his cooking skills by preparing dinner for the winner. He is willing to do it twice to assist in raising the money.

**GOOD OF THE COUNSEL:** Patrick Perkins updated the Council on plans for the Jubilee Mass and the food to be served following the Mass. He also stated that the choir(s) would not be performing Twelfth Night this year but would sing at the Jubilee Mass and at Epiphany.

**COUNCIL'S CORNER:**

Outreach Numbers

Thanks to John Carroll and Shoprite.

Elections

***Closing Prayer:*** Fr. Jack said the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at ???? PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Brokos