

**St. Martin de Porres Parish, Warren, Michigan
Combined Parish Finance Council
and Stewardship Awareness Committee Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 1:30 PM
Parish Center Conference Room**

MINUTES

Opening Prayer/Faith/Sharing Experience: The meeting began at 1:32 PM with a reflection on upcoming Easter Sunday Gospel: “Unbelievable Good News.”

Attendance and Review of the Minutes: Members PRESENT: Fr. Nick Zukowski, Pastor and Chair; Jerry Cipkowski, Bill Edwards, Mike Garcia and Larry Lage. ABSENT/EXCUSED: Mike Kostrzeba. Minutes were approved with the capitalization of Bill Edward’s first name.

Ongoing Education and Formation of the Council

“Go and Make Disciples: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization” Section 5: Our Goals. We need to evangelize ourselves before we can evangelize others.

Ongoing Parish Finance Issues

A. Issues for discernment/consensus (Old Business)

1. Review monthly reports, review and approve budget for FY 2017-2018: We are grateful for the extensive monthly reports Dawn Peters sends us. Discussion on whether we should present a “floating budget” vs. only the Sunday collection support report. We will continue “as is.”
2. “Called by Christ, Gifted by the Spirit” stewardship awareness update: Fr. Nick gave a series of homilies during the Sundays of Lent that focused on Christian Stewardship: What is it? How does it affect my state in life? How does it impact my family? What should my financial and material sacrifice be? And how do I live out my call in service and ministry? People have expressed gratitude for this “teachable moment.”
3. “Changing Lives Together” Parish Center storage addition: Storage area on the west end of the parish center. Two bids were received -- \$108,000 and \$152,000. Both were considered too high. Other options will be explored. We also need to know what city building codes will allow us to do. We might enclose the inner garden patio surrounding the parish center hall, and use that for the storage area.
4. Church sound system: Bill Edwards and Larry Lage: Delivery date for the new speakers is April 12th. We will wait until after Easter Sunday to install the equipment. Still need to purchase an iPad and component parts.
5. Church doors and automatic openers update: Mike Garcia and Larry Lage: Update on upgrade of church exterior doors and parish center middle doors: Larry Lage mentioned the progress that is being made on the doors. It is coming along well. 6 out of 8 church doors have broken hinges and need attention and repair. Automatic door openers will need to open both doors, as one door is too narrow for wheelchair access. Joe Demonaco will install new doors and frames in the parish center entrances.
6. Update church marquee Sign: Fr. Nick will contact Dan Heileman after Easter.
7. AED for church and parish center: Mike Garcia: Still trying to pin down dates for parish staff and parish leadership, including the Ushers and Knights of Columbus. The Catechists are trained.
8. Sunday offering collection receptacles: Mike Garcia. Still working on product development. How can we create something that meets the eye when you enter church, but is discreet and blends in?

Minutes of the April 11, 2017 Meeting of the Parish Finance Council P. 2

9. Storage area for K of C, Christian Formation and FAM youth group: Storage Closet in Classroom 1. Rocky Mercier is working on it this week. He should finish the rough work this week, but will need to consult those who will be using it to order and install proper storage shelves and accessories. Classroom 1, where the closet is located, will be operable when Christian Formation classes resume during Holy Week.

10. Any other Old Business? None.

B. Issues for dialogue, sharing, reaction, proposing (New Business)

1. Current Updates on other parish stewardship efforts

a. Catholic Services Appeal: 10% of overage to Ray of Hope Day Center: CSA 2016 was successful. We went over the parish target by almost \$1300! A check for the Ray of Hope Day Center, the coordinating office for the Macomb County Warming Center will be sent. Fr. Nick informed the Council that as of March 7, the CSA 2017 parish target is \$91,038 –a 16% increase over last year's target of \$78,444. He has sent an official letter of protest, asking that the parish target for 2017 be reduced by at least \$10,000. The CSA Target Appeals Committee is meeting this month, and will review the request.

b. Changing Lives Together: \$150,000 was spent on the two new church bathrooms, leaving us a balance in that account of about \$53,000. We are hoping to build our storage area for between \$53,000 and \$80,000.

c. Sunday Offering: We are moving from Parish Soft to Connect Now, and this will impact our on-line giving. So far, 35 families are giving their church support on-line. Our Sunday collections remain \$30,000 below budget.

2. Report from Parish Pastoral Council -- Setting new dates for the new master events parish calendar 2017-2018 and brainstorming to cut down on fund-raising events and conflicts: A spirit-filled and successful meeting took place at the end of March. Reps were present from the parish staff, PPC, Ushers, K of C and ACWC. It was agreed to meet quarterly. Lori will provide the dates of collections mandated by the Archdiocese so as not to cause conflict. We have 15 fund-raising events that take place over a twelve-month period! How can we combine some of these?

3. Any other New Business?

a. Propose SCRIPTS fundraising: A suggestion was made that we consider the SCRIPTS fundraising program, through which local businesses donate a portion of receipts to a non-profit.

b. LED lights for the parish center hall, hallways and classrooms: While initially it will be expensive to buy the bulbs, after 5 to 7 years, they would pay for themselves.

c. Garbage receptacles/ash trays for the church entrances: What was purchased and installed turned out to be of inferior quality. We receive a store credit and will try again.

d. Needed repairs for water pipeline from parish center to Dearden St.: The pipes going from the parish center and under Dearden Street to the other side of the street needs major repair or replacement. It is 44 feet from the building to the sidewalk, another 15 feet to the street, and 40 feet across the street. Estimated costs are \$4,300 for the bare minimum, \$11,500 to back hoe, and \$16,900 to dig up the whole area and repair/replace. The nearby tree also needs to come down. All of this will be at our expense and is not covered by our property insurance.

Evaluation of the Meeting: Useful. Got a lot done.

Schedule of Next Meeting and Assignments: Propose Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 1:30 PM.

Closing Prayer: The meeting ended at 3:45 PM with the Stewardship Prayer.

Submitted by: Fr. Nick Zukowski