

ST. Edward's Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting
February 7, 2017

Present: John Power, Tony Gilbert, Ed Lawlor, Patricia Power, Fr. Critch, Cathy White, Sean Doyle

Absent: Jackie Hennessey, Gerard Walsh

1.0 Welcome and Opening Prayer – copy of opening prayer distributed to members by Fr. Critch

2.0 Review and Adoption of agenda – addition to agenda 3.8 –“ New ministers.”

3.0 Review and adoption of previous minutes – the minutes from January 10, 2017 were adopted by Tony Gilbert and seconded by Patricia Power with the following changes: under, members present should read Tony Gilbert, not Tony Fitzgerald, and KOC should read Knights of Columbus.

4.0 Business Arising

4.1 Elections for Parish Council – Approximately 12 people were nominated and 7 accepted.

The names of those who accepted will be put in the bulletin and parishioners will vote for 4 people to represent them on the parish council. Nomination papers and pencils will be passed out at the beginning of mass on Feb 11 & 12 so people can vote for their candidate of choice. During the next election in 2018 a profile of each candidate running for election will be created to help parishioners in the voting process.

4.2 Screening update for new ministers – all new ministers who are presently active have been screened.

4.3 Update Food Bank – last week Fr. Critch met with other church leaders, both mayors, & coordinators of the food bank. The catholic churches have increased their contribution, Knights of Columbus have contributed \$1,000.00, Sisters of Mercy contributed \$2,000.00, and the towns contribute through various fundraisers, and also pay utility bills. The Food Bank needs \$4,000.00 per month to keep it running. It was suggested that the Service Clubs and individuals in the community need to provide funds to the Food Bank if it is going to continue to be viable.

4.4 Website Development – the parish website has been updated with new pictures and valuable information.

4.5 Fundraising Dinner Update – 60+ tickets were sold for the Dinner in the first couple of days. A contract was signed with Big Erics to purchase a commercial dishwasher for the parish hall. The dishwasher cost \$3600.00 and will be paid in four installments, which means no interest will be charged. A plumber & electrician will be needed to complete the installation.

4.6 Knights of Columbus Building Update – ongoing

4.7 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – was held on Jan. 18, 2017 at St. Edwards Parish. Very good turnout, great participation from various choirs, and social afterwards was enjoyed by all who attended.

4.8 New Ministers – Contact information is needed for all new ministers and this information must be given to people who are calling them to confirm their attendance.

5.0 New Business- Reports & Updates

5.1 Sacramental Preparation – the parents of the children receiving first communion or confirmation will meet on February 18th & 19th after the mass. The Canadian Bible Society has donated bibles to all those receiving First Communion or Confirmation. These bibles will be given out during the mass.

- 5.2 **RCIA** – One gentleman is presently enrolled in the course and possibly another woman. Patrick & Lucy Dobbin have agreed to be on the committee and sessions will begin in February.
- 5.3 **Finance Committee** – nothing new to report since last meeting
- 5.4 **Cemetery Fund /Meeting** – All money for plots, urns, etc. will be put in a cemetery fund. This will allow the committee to put money back into the maintenance of the cemetery, if necessary ie clean up, fence repair, landscaping, etc.
- 5.5 **Pastoral Care** – Christmas Eve mass at Admirals Coast Nursing Home was much appreciated. Every second week there is a service held at the nursing home. A notice has been put in the bulletin advertising home visitations for the sick or for those who cannot leave their homes.
- 5.6 **Bereavement** – the team has been very busy with an increased number of funerals. A new form to collect information regarding the funeral has been put on the parish website .
- 5.7 **Development & Peace** – the committee will organize a women’s retreat and have Sr. Elizabeth Davis as the guest speaker.
- 5.8 **Update: Lenten Mission-Adult Faith Development** – An information sheet was distributed on Fr. Michael Kelleher – guest speaker. Fr. Kelleher will stay with Fr. Critch during his visit and will also have a 4-day mission at Corpus Christi Parish. The cost of his visit will be split between the two parishes. Flyers maybe distributed to homes in the area of St. Edward’s advertising the mission, as well as other events.
- 5.9 **Maintenance**- Church & Presbytery – Fans, ceiling and central vacuum still need to be cleaned. Someone will be hired for this job due to the height of the ceilings. The stations of the Cross from the old church are being re-painted and will be hung in our church before lent.

6.0 Archdiocesan & Regional Pastoral Council Reports

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Council Meeting was held January 14, 2017. A summary of points from Vince Withers regarding the Strategic Planning Meetings are as follows:

Meetings with various zones were completed by December 15, 2017. Approximately 1300 people showed up to the meetings and 440 of those people spoke. The overall tone of the meetings were aggressive at times but people did have their say. Of the 70 meetings held most people in attendance had a positive reaction to the aspect of change.

It is obvious that there is a good deal of mistrust. People were generous with their comments. The main common threads of thought were the following items:

- access to a priest
- evangelism
- youth involvement
- financial challenges
- communications with/from the Archdiocese
- the use of foreign priests
- lay ministry

General Observations:

- well attended meetings
- thankful tone
- supportive
- need for definite change
- urban vs rural divide- need to maintain some balance

Mr. Withers stated that he hoped the results of the Strategic Planning Meetings would be ready by the middle of March, 2017. At that time all reports should be made available on the Archdiocesan website and to Parishes.

The next Archdiocesan Pastoral Council meeting will be held February 25, 2017 and the Regional Pastoral Council Meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2017 at Holy Family Parish.

7.0 Other

- 7.1 **Youth Minister for Council** – Fr. Critch suggested that we need to get to know the youth before recommending someone for council. Fr. Critch will meet with Suzanne Gilbert to see if any youth are willing to get involved in projects in the parish. For example maybe some youth would be willing to help with the Dinner being held on February 25th at the parish hall.

8.0 **Next Meeting** - March 7 2017 at 7:00pm in Parish house

9.0 **Closing Prayer** – lead by Fr. Critch

10.0 Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Minutes submitted by: Cathy White

