

## **Parish Council Meeting March 20, 2017 – Church Basement**

Present: Fr. Clement, Fr. Paul, Deacon Axel, Jean Edwards, Barbara Reed, Rose Marie Hart, Matt Zoller, Fred Silva, Tita Gontang, Lynn Amaty, Debbie Depta,

Absent: Tony Terracciano, Claudia Alcantara, Joe Woodhead

Guests: Michele Thomas, Jennifer Martinez, Jessica Selba and son Joshua

Opening Prayer: Rose Marie Hart

Minutes for February: Approved as submitted

**Guests Concerns:** Although not scheduled to speak, several parishioners (noted above) came to the meeting to voice their concerns regarding information they had heard that the DRE hours were being reduced which might impact on the religious education of the children of the parish. They were given 10 minutes on the agenda to express their concerns. After that, Fr. Clement asked that a meeting be arranged with the CCD staff to clarify the situation.

### **Pastor Updates:**

- As noted above, the position of the DRE is being reduced to 29.5 hours which is consistent with Diocesan guidelines for our size parish.
- The parish is considering bringing its accounting in-house; currently we are using an accounting firm in Ocean City.
- A parishioner has suggested that we hold a pig roast; he has been asked to gather more detailed information about costs and expected income for the parish.

**Master Planning:** The plans for the proposed addition to the church campus are progressing. The Master Planning Committee made presentations at all Masses on Mar 11/12 followed by a social in the hall. Approximately 250 people attended. The building plans and schematics along with three tri-folds of parish history were placed in the hall and will stay there for the duration.

**Capital Campaign:** The goal of this committee is to inform and engage parishioners about the proposed building and develop a funding strategy, primarily through pledges and eventually some fund raising activities. The committee initiated a series of Pastor Updates to appear in the bulletin throughout the campaign and will assist the Diocese in conducting an affordability study and focus group sessions in May/June; these activities were recommended and offered by the Diocesan Development Director, Deborah Fols, to measure the parish's readiness to build the new Parish Office and Rectory. Mrs. Fols will submit a report to the parish in late June and the two Committees will meet to plan the next steps. At the moment, a kick off for the pledge campaign is targeted for September.

**Nominating Committee:** Tita Gontang, Matthew Zoller and Fred Silva are serving on this Committee. Nomination forms will be placed in the pews after Stations of the Cross on March 31. Voting will take place May 6/7 weekend and newly elected members will be invited to the May Council meeting. Elections of Officers will be held that evening also.

**Parish Library:** Rose Marie Hart has requested an appeal be placed in the bulletin for more Catholic centered books and videos. There is also a need to find someone to convert VHS tapes to a more

updated format. Rose Marie will sort the materials that have already been donated and then we can address our needs to the parish.

**Stations of the Cross:** The Parish Council will lead the Stations on Friday, March 31. Rose Marie Hart has made all the arrangements for the readers and music.

**English/Hispanic parish Mass and Dinner** –Dr. Policastro asked the Council about holding another joint event this year as we did June 26, 2016. There is some question about the readiness of the parish to have another one. Fr. Paul reported that the Hispanic leadership suggested we skip a year. A few problem areas from last year were noted by some parishioners: not enough food and confusion about the seating plans but there were others who favored holding one in 2017. A committee was formed to discuss it further: Matt, Claudia, Jean and Jessica Selba.

**Ministry Notes:**

- Tony and Linda Massino would like to make a presentation on Marriage Encounter. Jean will follow up with this to see if it can be added to the 2017 calendar.
- Bill Brooks will coordinate a presentation by the Usher Ministry on April 22/23

**Parish Council Meetings:** There will be **NO** meeting in April because of the Easter holiday. Future meetings may be held in the hall to accommodate those unable to do the basement steps.

**Next meeting: May 15.**

Closing Prayer was led by Deacon Axel.