

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 7:00 – 8:45 PM Conference Room**

Present: Jim Braniff, Paul Capetillo, Antonio Del Rosario, Fr. Hilbert, John Mancuso, Letty Moss-Salentijn, Sarah Tintle, Fr. Yesalonia

Absent: Laura De Boisblanc, Marguerite Lucarelli

### Agenda

**1. Prayer.**

**2. Review of Minutes, 14 December 2022.** The members received the Minutes from the December 14 Parish Council meeting and the Pastor asked if any corrections were needed. The Minutes were accepted after two corrections.

**3. Report: Pastor.** The Pastor reported the following:

**A. Holiday Season Review.** The Grammar School Christmas Pageant, the first in three years, was a big success. The Christmas concerts were also popular, one concert attracting over 800 attendees. Profits exceeded the financial breakeven point.

**B. Finances.** Ben Denihan, chair of the Finance Committee, will be invited to join a future meeting to give Parish Council members a bigger picture of finances and budgets. The Pastor also updated the Parish Council on the current fundraising initiatives:

a. Annual Appeal: The appeal is on track to achieve its \$600,000 goal.

b. 2022 Cardinal's Appeal: Parishioners have generously given \$700,000, surpassing the \$340,000 goal.

c. Heat Fund: The fund has been a net positive.

d. Advent and Christmas Flower Fund: Contributions to the flower fund has also been positive.

**C. Livestreaming Services.** Shifting the daily livestream to the 12:10 PM Mass has brought numerous streaming issues. The

parish priests have met to discuss a return to livestreaming the 5:30 PM Mass.

**D. HBO Filming.** HBO's multiple-day use of the Church for filming has generated significant income, however the gains are offset by the loss of the yearly antique show rental.

**4. Status Report: Vision Statement Implementation.** The Implementation Committees have been working enthusiastically to come up with action plans. The Pastor has given the following directives and suggestions to the committees:

- a. Avoid spreading efforts too thinly and trying to tackle numerous initiatives, thus risking muting the impact.
- b. Ensure collaboration and connection to the other committees.
- c. Each committee chair should submit three solid recommendations for action by May. The recommendations will then be prepared for review by the parish in the fall.

**5. Discussion: Publishing Attendance and Collections.** The possibility of publishing the weekly Mass attendance number and amount of the Offertory collection was discussed.

**A. In Favor of Publishing.** Four PC members were in favor of publication. One member commented that the church he attended growing up did this and it gave the community a goal to achieve. Another member commented that it could act as a transparent fundraising strategy and could potentially raise additional money for the parish.

**B. Against Publishing.** Two PC members were not in favor of publishing these statistics. They did not believe the publication of these numbers, especially the weekly collections, would be helpful.

The Pastor commented that for a brief time the parish published these statistics in the bulletin. It was left to the Pastor to make the final determination of whether to publish these statistics.

**C. Discussion: Parish Ministries.** The Pastor remarked that with rare exception, there is a siloed mentality that prevents collaboration among ministries. Parish ministries should be looking for ways to work together to improve groups'

visibility and generate interest. In response to this, there were the following suggestions:

- A. **Speakers at Mass.** A PC member suggested having ministry heads give a short presentation about his or her ministry at the end of Sunday Masses. Another member pointed out that parishioners have previously complained about there being too many announcements and were unlikely to be receptive to this approach.
  - B. **Written Promotion.** Other council members suggested having scrolling information on the parish ministries displayed on the screens inside the Church or outside on the electronic news boards. The Pastor did not agree with either idea. He also pointed out that having scrolling boards outside would create too much light pollution for the neighbors, several of whom have already complained about the screens' brightness.
- D. Other Business.**
- A. **CPR/Emergency Training.** In light of the Buffalo Bills football player who suffered a heart attack, it has been suggested that we should have someone present during Mass who is trained to take action in a medical emergency. The priests have already taken a CPR class and there is a defibrillator in the Church, located in the front left corner next to the statue of St. Ignatius Loyola.
  - B. **Youth Ministry.** PC members discussed how to grow Youth Group membership. The Pastor commented that Kate Noonan does an amazing job running the group, but there is still only 8-10 active members. A PC member commented that she has previously worked with Kate Noonan to promote the ministry, but it is generally difficult to generate teens' interest. Another member commented that he could try to promote the ministry among the youth he regularly deals with.
  - C. **Discussion on Violence.** Two PC members expressed an interest in leading a discussion at a Parish Council meeting on the ongoing violence happening in the larger community.

They would like to learn about and discuss the forgiveness side of violence so the parish can help others.

**The Pastor concluded the meeting with prayer.**

**The Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.**

**The next meeting is Wednesday, 8 February 2023, in the Conference Room.**

Respectfully submitted.

Paul Capetillo.