

***St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
December 10, 2018***

Attendees: Craig Behm, Nancy Delac, Jon Drexler, Mike Kelley, Scott Kimble, Father Joe Mamich, Susan Rath, Matthew Tortorici, Thomas Uthup, Bill Velioniskis, Kathy Wright

Excused: Jon Ciccozzi, Jason Januszewski,

Guest: Mike Schneider and Ana Plumlee, our new Social Concerns Coordinator, via Skype.

Called to Order: Craig Behm called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. and led the group in prayer.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes from the October 8th meeting were approved as submitted with an edit by Father Joe. Kathy Wright made the motion, seconded by Mike Kelly

Commission Report: Social Concerns

Mike Schneider reviewed some of the activities of the ministries such as: MOA's collaborative work with the Strongsville Food Bank, food pantries in Cleveland, the successful Blanket Sunday and food drive, 20 carved turkeys and many frozen ones; Mission of Hope's trip to Lexington KY; Parish Service Day brought 300 parishioners to serve Strongsville and surrounding communities; Habitat for Humanity – Apostle Build which teamed up with 11 other churches to perform rehab work on several houses on West 97th Street; Feed Our Family which continues to provide 100 meals each Sunday; West side Catholic Center which has all 2019 slots at the Westside Catholic Center and Women's Shelter. The suggestion was made to meet with law enforcement to discuss trafficking, gun reform, aggression, racism, etc. Mike's term will be over in May and there is no candidates to fill his position presently. He added that everything he had hoped to accomplish in the past has been addressed and now they are looking forward to the future.

More discussion followed as to the possible ways to ensure more participation at meetings with the ministry heads. Presently those who have activities in the near future are the only ones attending. Long and short term goals need to be addressed. Perhaps members of the ministries need to be part of the commission meeting. For example, perhaps parishioners who took part in Service Day could be invited to meet with Commission members. Perhaps a roving chairman of Commissions would ensure participation. The next meeting, scheduled for January, will address the following goals: 1) Address Mike Owens; 2) Develop speaker series; 3) Growing membership. Perhaps all Social Concerns ministry members can meet to discuss these goals. This might be noted in the church bulletin.

Follow up from October Meeting:

Father Joe presented to the members a copy of an email he received containing suggestions as to how to best spend the money in now that we are debt free: (1) individual needy students in school are given \$19,000 tuition assistance for our school; (2) take on a project such as totally building a house (Habitat) – this is a project currently under way at our parish (Habitat for Humanity and Mission of Hope) A Strongsville House would cost approximately \$75,000. ; (3) a parish picnic that was free or at very little cost – our vendors are not subsidized but a discussion followed regarding issuing vouchers. A discussion followed regarding the possibility of issuing loans for high school tuition and college. (4) Helping with emergency loans for parishioners in need.

Pastor's Remarks:

For a parish financial snapshot, as of November 30, our Sunday offertory is \$6,178 under budget, our Maintenance and Repair Fund is \$2,266 under budget, while our overall operating surplus is \$229, 125. We are ahead of budget by that amount. The number of registered parishioners is up but the average weekend mass attendance is down from 1,492 vs 1,460 due to perhaps the sad stories of clerical sexual abuse. Only one third normally attend mass, one third occasionally attend, and one third never attend. Weekly donations are down perhaps due to the increase in tax responsibility to the Cuyahoga County for this upcoming year. The donations in weekly envelopes are down, but Faith Direct remains the same. Also the tax benefits are changing. Thirty-five thousand dollars has been allocated for new kneelers and perhaps the same amount for new carpeting in the HFC for the following year.

Open Forum:

Father Joe shared with the PPC communications between a parishioner and him regarding the four-minute limit to announcements after Communion and the organ playing to signal the speaker when the time is up. A discussion followed regarding an alternative ways to signal the speaker, including a flashing light and a word count of 450 words. Parish Council was in favor of setting a limit out of respect for both speakers and the assembly. It was also suggested that Fr. Joe consider requiring that any talks be submitted before hand and approved.

Closing Prayer: Craig led the group in the Our Father and adjourned the meeting at 8:35. The next meeting is scheduled for February 11.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Piatak