MINUTES

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

December 7, 2016

Rita Guest, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Phil Olekszyk said the opening prayer. The minutes from the November 2nd, 2016 meeting were approved.

**In Attendance**:

**Council Members:** Phil Olekszyk, Christine Van Buren, Linda Gregory, Cheryl Davis, Rita Guest and Chriss Lawrence.

**Ex-Officio Members:** Father Jim and Magdalene Howell.

**Guest:** Deacon Sandy Mattson

**Old Business:**

**Bingo update:** Father Jim reported that all was back on track. The machine has been repaired. We need new leadership as our regular volunteers are getting burned out. Bingo proceeds go to not only St. Therese, but also to outside charities such as the Health Wagon out in Western Virginia. Someone will speak at the masses in January to see if more volunteers can be recruited for this worthy ministry.

**Statue of St. Therese**: Father Jim reported the statue is done and in a crate in Northern Italy. We are waiting on flight information.

P**arish Directory**: Rita reported that 150 families had their pictures taken for the new directory and everything has been turned over to the photography company, she just needs a picture of the new statue. Father Jim said she could use one off the board in the Commons Area. It was brought up that parishioners who want a directory should pay for it, if they do not have their picture in it.

**Parish Bulletin update:** Father Jim announced the new expanded format for the bulletin will start after January since everyone is so busy right one. There will be a separate page inserted with the additional information.

**Newsletter update:** Cheryl Davis reported on the parish newsletter. She is still looking for an editor. It was decided to have a quarterly newsletter. We will see how it goes and possibly change to monthly at a later date.

**Neighborhood Communities:** Deacon Sandy has information that was begun in 2011 for the 33 zones or communities and the number of households in each community. Linda Gregory is getting with Kerry Fallon to get in touch with key people for resources from Saint Kateri parish near Poquoson, who has a good program in place that is working. Linda volunteered to call them and invite them to our February meeting and share the process they used to make this program a success here. We discussed the need for a job description for the neighborhood coordinator in each community. Father Jim passed out information developed in the past and asked us to each go over the reflection questions on the last pages to see if we can come up with some ideas for the February meeting.

**Facebook Project Update**: Christine reported that she has been working with Brandon Allaman and has started a Facebook page, which is currently blocked. She also found there is already an unofficial Facebook page and is trying to find out who started it. It currently has 48 likes and 411 views. We don’t want two, possibly we can work to combine them into one closed account with filters as to who can put information on it and what that information is.

**New Business**:

**Community Socials:** The Wine and Cheese Social went very well, thank you to Kerry, Phil, Rita and Ana. We would like to plan four events each year and get the information out to the parish so we can get help in planning them. Two events which we want to keep are the Parish Picnic in the beginning of October and possibly the Wine and Cheese Event later that month or next. Bring ideas to the February meeting.

**Liturgy Committee Reports:** We would like to see reports on any plans, needs or issues they might have. Denise Canada has minutes from their meetings.

**Financial Report:** Father Jim distributed highlights from the Finance Council meeting.

**Parish Council Elections:** We need to have elections for Parish Council members, we still need four more people. Rita volunteered to draw up a form for nominations and we will have it in the commons areas in February.

**Evening Seminars on God’s Word:**  Rita said she would like to see additional seminars or a retreat. Father Jim said he enjoys doing what he calls “Pastor’s Perspective”. We could have one of these per quarter.

**Additional New Business:** Linda Gregory asked if anything had been done about the Columbarium. Father Jim said someone has been hired in the diocese that will oversee cemeteries and more information would be forthcoming.

**Next Meeting**: We will hold the Parish Council Christmas Party on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 6:30 P.M in the Social Hall. This will be for members and spouse/guest. An email will go out so everyone can sign up for what they want to bring. Our next regular meeting will be February 1, 2017 in the Social Hall.

**Closing**: Rita said the closing prayer, and adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Chriss Lawrence, Secretary

P.S. Don’t forget to do your homework: Reflection questions and Community Socials