Mary of the Visitation

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Mary of the Visitation Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at the East Campus (Big Lake). The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer. Members present: Rich Hubbard, Geary Keppel, Theresa Slominski, Tracy Johnson, Jeff Howell, and Brenda Prudhomme. Also present were Fr. Mike Kellogg, Pastor, and Trustees, Clay Wilfahrt, and Eric Krause. The Agenda was amended and approved. The September minutes were corrected and approved. No Parishioners were present to address issues, questions or concerns. No Youth Council Representatives were present.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS**

**Parishioner comments:** A Parishioner had asked a Council Member about having caroling at both campuses. The only weekend available is at the Big Lake campus. It would take twice the number of volunteers to step up and organize this event. Until we have one worship space, someone will always be disappointed. As it is, Becker has Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and is able to hold more people for special Masses. Another Parishioner shared that the Finance Ministry is doing a good job.

**Recording Secretary:** A Recording Secretary is needed to take the minutes for the Parish Council Meetings. A notice will be placed in the bulletin.

**UPDATES**

**Legal Issues:** The Diocese is still preparing their pre-settlement package. The hope is to have a conclusion to present to the judge by the end of the year. Insurance companies have given the Diocese a settlement amount. They also need to declare re-organization and receive approval from the judge.

**Land/Property/Future/Pew Cards:** Listening sessions will be in 2 phases. Phase I, to take place in November, will include questionnaires and prioritizing issues. We want to know what is valued at each Parish Campus. Phase II, tentatively scheduled for January, will include dot voting, having Parishioners select which values are the most important. Phase III will be developing a plan to build from. We are asking for prayers during this process.

**Calendar Raffle:** The Calendar goes out in May for drawings. Paula Gaffaney has offered to lead this again for us. It is recommended that the information and tickets get out sooner rather than later.

**September Fest:** The meeting is scheduled for October 25th. It is estimated that we were $4000.00 short of the budget monies needed.

**Stewardship:** Out of the 900 registered families at Mary of The Visitation, we have 400 envelope givers. Father Mike was not able to attend the last seminar due to September Fest and won’t be available for the next one as he will be in Italy. He has not received an answer from Dr. Sutton to see if and how they can continue to participate.

**Focus Prayer:** Theresa attended the Liturgical Ministry Meeting and as she was tasked with bringing Prayer Focus to the team. She was told this would not happen. No one is comfortable telling people how to pray and what to pray for. Choral practice is done before Mass. Father Mike will work with the Liturgical Committee. There has been a push to say the Rosary before Mass, say the Prayer for Vocations during Mass, recite the St. Michael Prayer for the Catholic community following the Rosary. Everyone is to pray and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. Nothing should interfere with the celebration of the Eucharist, as that is the reason we come to Mass each week.

**Strategic Planning:** Jeff is reviewing the Strategic Planning documents.

**MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

**Faith Formation Ministry:** No report**.** Classes have started and Pivotal Players is ongoing.

**Youth and Children’s Ministry:** They have gotten the okay to have t-shirts printed for all three groups (Kids for Christ, Youth for Truth and UJam.) The designs were completely designed by youth. The MOTV logo is being added. They are discussing the pros and cons of Confirmation Retreats versus Tec Retreats for Confirmation Candidates. The Youth Group is considering Living Stations of the Cross in April. The service project night went well. Twenty-five youth attended. Ministry training is scheduled for October 24th at the Youth Center. Guest speakers are set for Youth of Truth. The Senior High Youth Conference at Castaway is in need of Chaperones on 10/27 and 10/28. On October 31st, there is a combined Youth Group costume party. Bingo in Big Lake is November 10th. Youth finances are doing well.

**Liturgy/Environment and Music Ministry:** There are a lot of things coming up that need volunteers to participate...the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service and Caroling December 9th. People are needed for coordinating food, driving, etc.

**Building and Grounds:** No report. The garage in Becker has a new roof.

**Outreach:** The Thanksgiving food drive starts the weekend of October 27th and bags will be handed out for two weekends. The Giving Tree will begin after Thanksgiving for the same charities as in the past. The visitor from Great River Family Promise said there was a lot of interest.

**Finance:** An error was found on the budget spreadsheet. They are still above “0.”

**ACTION ITEMS**

* Brenda will share with her Ministry Team why caroling is held in Big Lake.
* All Pastoral Council Members will pray for the direction of Listening Sessions.
* Jeff will meet with Keith Klein for direction on Strategic Planning.
* All will pray and be prepared to discuss Prayer Focus at the next Council meeting.
* Rich will contact GRE for sending a truck to replace the rope on the flag pole at the Big Lake campus.
* Kathy will email Gretchen to put a notice in the bulletin for a Recording Secretary.
* A part-time Staff Communications position is still open.

The meeting was closed with prayer. The next Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at 7:00 PM at the West Campus in Becker.

**All parishioners are welcome to attend!**

Submitted by Kathy Loeffler, Recording Secretary