

**Minutes of Resurrection Parish's Pastoral Council Meeting  
January 17, 2017**

- I. **Meetings of the Committees of Council:** The business meeting was preceded by the Committees of Council meeting in the church hall for one hour, beginning at 6:15 PM.
- II. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer:** Bryan Hodos, chair of the Pastoral Council called the business meeting to order at 7:25 PM. Father George opened the meeting with a prayer; he had no opening comments. Bryan simply welcomed everyone in attendance.
- III. **Roll Call:** Present: Fr. George, Mary Hanners, Rick Pavic, Larry Sestrich, Ray Gorman, Tom Elias, Bryan Hodos, Jeff McKissick, Steve Reasbeck, Faith Thomas, and Michelle Rager. Absent: Barb Dryzal. A quorum was present. Three parishioners, the parish manager and the recording secretary were also present.
- IV. **Approval of the November Minutes:** The November minutes were approved with one change. The spelling of Mary Hanners name was corrected.
- V. **Status of the Standing Committees:**
  - a. Activities
    - i. The following activities are being discussed and planned:
      1. Plans are underway for a St. Patrick's Day party to be held on Saturday, March 11. Two hundred pickets are being prepared. Advertising and food preparation are already finalized.
      2. The sale of the St. Patrick's Day ticket is currently underway.
      3. Holiday baking is being planned for the Easter holiday.
      4. The opening and clean-up of the Grove will take place in the Spring.
      5. The possibility of having a Cash Bash this year was previously discussed. It has been decided to postpone the event until April 2018. This delay will allow the planners to do more research on how to effectively run such an event.
      6. The Parish Family Life Committee is planning to sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday at the Grove. It was asked if the restrooms could be opened for the event. Concern was raised that, if the lavatories were opened, the water could freeze and create considerable damage. Opening and closing the water is not a simple task, and it would be unwise to do it for only a few hours. Bryan offered the possibility of the Knights of Columbus paying for the rental of a Porta-John for the event.

7. The suggestion was made to open the Grove to outside groups, so that the tranquil setting could be used for retreats. Although it was felt that the idea was good, there was concern about the potential for damage. No definitive decision was made.

b. Communications

- i. No committee report was presented.
- ii. It was asked if Mary Beth was maintaining the on-line calendar. Father George and the parish manager said that she is.

c. Education

- i. The Education Committee will be working with the Liturgy Committee in hosting the Lenten Retreat. The retreat is scheduled for March 19. Th retreat will focus on *The Ministry of the Assembly*.
- ii. Religious education seems to be going well; attendance has been good.
- iii. Father George indicated that the confirmation candidates are procrastinating in choosing their confirmation names. He indicated that if the delay continues for too long, names will be chosen for the candidates.
- iv. Father George will be working with the religious education students by taking them on a tour of the church building. Although Resurrection church will be used, the intent is to have the students become familiar with the various furnishings and appointments in a catholic church building.

d. Parish Family Life

- i. A few of the Holy Family, Pray for Families window clings are still available. Father suggested that we wait a few months before ordering more.
- ii. Saturday, February 4 has been set for the *2017 Celebration of Marriage*. The event will begin with the 4:00 PM Mass for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time followed by a dinner at Ace's. The cost will be \$45 per couple.
- iii. A Ladies' Social is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.
- iv. An Easter Egg Hunt is being planned for April 15, 2017 at the Grove.
- v. The tentative date for the Celebration of the Single Life is Saturday, May 20.
- vi. No report from the Youth Group was submitted.

- vii. An attempt will be made to try to establish a Men's Group in the parish.
  - viii. Trial-size samples of soap and shampoo will be collected to help supply the local medical clinic.
  - ix. Father George, Father Alan, and Deacon Sam will be celebrating notable anniversaries of ordination the year. It was the consensus of the group that the parish should honor these men in some way. Since Father George and Father Alan were ordained at the same time (the only two priests), Father George will explore the possibility of a joint celebration.
- e. Liturgy
- i. It was decided that the nativity scene used in 2016 will become the official Resurrection Crèche. The statuary is from a Thomas Kinkadee series with pieces still available. There is an intent to purchase some shepherds. All the other nativities will remain part of the parish and be displayed or loaned as opportunities present themselves.
  - ii. Father George was asked why the Epiphany Hymn Sung sponsored by the West End Ministerium wasn't held this year. Lack of interest was the cause.
  - iii. The following events will be taking place during February:
    1. An evening Mass will be held on February 2, the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) at 6:30 PM. Candles will be blessed at that Mass.
    2. Friday, February 3 is the feast of St. Blaise. Throats will be blessed after the 8:00 AM Mass and after the evening, First Friday Holy Hour.
    3. On Sunday, February 5, the parish will take-up a "Soup"er Bowl collection to help support the efforts of the St. Vincent de Paul Family Kitchen.
    4. At the 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday, February 11 (the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes), anointing of the sick will take place. A notice will be placed in the bulletin noting that the Mass may run longer than usual for those dealing with time constraints.
    5. During the month of February, parishioners will be invited to return last year's palms to the church. The previous year's palms are traditionally burnt to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.
  - iv. The following events and times are tentatively set for Lent 2017:
    1. Masses for Ash Wednesday will be at 8:00 AM and 6:30 PM at Resurrection church. A 4:00 PM Mass will be celebrated at UPJ as well.

2. Ashes will be made available for parishioners to take to the homebound. These ashes are to be used only on Ash Wednesday.
3. Lay minister will assist with the distribution of ashes at Mass.
4. Stations of the Cross will take place on the Fridays of Lent at 6:30 PM. Stations will not be held on Good Friday, but the church will be opened for private prayer and Stations of the Cross
5. Mass of the Lord's Supper will take place on Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 PM
6. Commemoration of the Lord's Passion is planned for 3:00 PM on Friday, April 14.
7. The Easter Vigil will begin at 8:30 PM on Saturday, April 15.
8. The 8:00 and 10:30 AM Masses will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 16.
9. This year's Lenten theme is *Repentance*.
10. Father George would like to keep the tradition of designing and creating the Paschal Candle in the parish. At this time, he has not determined what symbolism will be used on the candle.
11. Vials will be made available for holy water blessed at the Easter Vigil. This year the vials will not be prefilled; parishioners will be invited to fill the vial on their own.
12. Morning Prayer and the Office of Readings will not take place on the mornings of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Tenebrae will not be celebrated as well.
13. The Liturgy Committee will be joining with the Education Committee in planning the Lenten Retreat. The focus will be on the ministry of the assembly.
14. Every winter, the Diocese partners with the Lutheran and Orthodox traditions to sponsor two ecumenical services. The Diocese is hosting the first gathering this year on Sunday, January 22 at 3:00 PM at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. The second will be on January 29 at 3:00 p.m. at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Johnstown.
15. On Sunday, March 26, St. Benedict Parish will host a presentation on the history, science, and authenticity of the Shroud of Turin. The presentation will begin at 3:00 PM.
16. Beginning in February 2017 George Pisula has been appointed to a three-year term on the Diocesan Liturgical Committee.

- v. The faithful who attend the Thanksgiving Day Mass are being asked to bring a non-perishable food item with them. The food collection will help supply the West End Food Pantry.
- vi. At the end of the Thanksgiving Day Mass, as has been the tradition since the inception of the parish, fruit will be distributed to all in attendance. The children attending will be asked to help with the distribution.
- vii. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on Thursday, December 8. The Mass schedule is as follows:
  1. Wednesday, December 7: 6:30 PM
  2. Thursday, December 8: 8:00 AM
  3. Thursday, December 8: 6:30PM
- viii. A few parishioners have asked about the feasibility of having another Anointing Mass. Can one be planned? Father George suggested Saturday, February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.
- ix. With Christmas being on a Sunday, decorating will take place during the fourth week of Advent. John Onderko will need to solicit help from parishioners to set-up the platforms and the Liturgy Committee will seek help in decoration. The crèche scene used this year will be from the former St. Rochus parish.
- x. The Mass schedule for the Christmas holidays is as follows:
  1. Saturday, December 24: 4:00 PM
  2. Sunday, December 25: Midnight, 8:00 AM, and 10:30 AM
  3. Saturday, December 31: 4:00 PM
  4. Sunday, January 1: 8:00 AM, and 10:30 AM
- xi. The question was asked - *Should we do the Home Blessing Kits for the Solemnity of Epiphany?* The kits consist of a prayer service, holy water, chalk, and incense. It was decided to continue this tradition.
- xii. A few parishioners have chosen to receive the Eucharist by intinction. Although this method of receiving the Eucharist is not the norm, it is allowed. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have been given special instructions for using this method.
- xiii. This committee has mentioned the possibility of having a Day of Reflection for liturgical ministers sometime in the spring. We plan to work with the Education Committee in making the Lenten Retreat one that is centered ministry and service to the parish.

- xiv. This year at Christmas the help of parishioners will be solicited to assist in starting a new tradition at Resurrection Parish. Each household is being asked to bring an ornament that signifies something about your family. By displaying these symbols on a Christmas tree, we will come to better see and understand the diversity that makes up our parish family. The ornaments can be homemade or purchased, they can be a heirloom, or they can be anything else that fittingly represents what is important to your family. All ornaments will be returned after the Christmas Season.
- xv. Some thoughts and discussion were exchanged on the article - *Why Do So Many Miss Experiencing Jesus in Our Parishes and How We Can Change This.*

f. Properties and Maintenance

- i. Signature Roofing was called to come back and inspect some loose shingles on the flat roof of the church. Jim Carthew is to keep the committee informed of possible solutions.
- ii. Repairs to the Parish Center ramp are nearly completed. Issues with the railing still need to be addressed. In doing the work, the contractor also made some repairs to the foundation at no additional cost.
- iii. The gas leak at the Parish Center, reported at the last meeting, has been completely resolved.
- iv. The mats at the entrance to the church will be back in place before Thanksgiving. They are needed to help absorb water and prevent slippage.
- v. A check is needed to verify that the roof vent in the church are closed.
- vi. No progress has been made on the Fourth Avenue sidewalk. Ben Gagan and/or Jim Carthew will be sending our repair plans to PennDot for approval.
- vii. The sanctuary transition strips are not yet installed. Silicone caulking is needed to complete the job.
- viii. The Kneeler Project is currently in phases 2 and 3, i.e., removing the kneelers, disassembling, and then painting and replacing the worn parts. Phase 2 is moving slower than expected, putting a delay on phase 3.
- ix. Some pointing is needed on the Fourth Avenue foundation of the church to prevent water/freeze damage. John Onderko will do the repairs.

- x. Continuing issues with the church's sound system warrants the need to have it evaluated professionally. It appears that the speakers are good; the amplification system needs to be addressed.
- xi. A reminder was issued that the portable sound system and the Conga drum needs to be brought back from the Grove before the onset of winter.
- xii. A lengthy discussion centered on the parish's parking lots with special emphasis on the Chestnut Street lot across the street from the church. Patrons from Aces, the Grand Hall, and other local venues oftentimes used this lot, making it unavailable for our parishioners. Although no decision was made on a solution, several options and issues were discussed. They included:
  1. Posting additional signage, noting the possibility of towing
  2. Chaining off the entrances and exits
  3. Meeting with local businesses to find a solution
  4. Liability issues need to be researched
  5. If chaining and/or towing become a solution, who will be responsible for monitoring?
- g. Youth
  - i. No report. Chris Babik has talked with a few religious education students about the possibility of filling this vacancy. Brendan Venery has agreed to serve. Chris is also seeking others to participate.
- h. Cemetery
  - i. No meeting or report.
- i. Finance
  - i. No meeting was held. The next meeting is planned for January.

**VI. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. The issue of the parish's liability was brought-up again in reference to opening our parking lots to other venues, especially if personal injuries occur.
- b. As a way to get more people involved in the activities of the parish, using a peer-to-peer approach was suggested. This would be like the sponsor couples in the marriage preparation program.
- c. A comment was made stating that attending the Ladies' Auxiliary Basket Party was a good experience.

**VII. Old Business:**

- a. Bryan state that the “Bell Project,” a thank you gift for Bill Zdravecky, has been delay again (but not forgotten) because of Terry Deitz’s recent surgery. Bill retired after a serving a lengthy tenure as the bell ringer for funerals.
- b. Some determination needed to be made as to how to spend the funds collected for the repair of the Blessed Virgin statue in honor of Sr. Agnese. Since it was determined, after closer examination, that no significant repairs were necessary, a plaque noting the history of the statue was suggested. Determining the text of the plaque was given to the Liturgy Committee. George Pisula will have a proof ready for the January meeting. (See Addendum A)

**VIII. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. None.

**IX. New Business:**

- a. By consensus, the Pastoral Council/Finance Council Christmas Party has been set for January 10, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Boulevard Grill. Each member will be responsible for paying for their meal. Spouses are invited to attend as well

**X. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. None

**XI. Pastor’s Closing Comments:**

- a. Father George asked that we keep families in our prayers.

**XII. Adjournment and Blessing:**

- a. At 8:56 PM the meeting was adjourned. The meeting concluded with the Council reciting the Doxology after which Father George bestowed his blessing.

**Upcoming Pastoral Council Meeting**

\* Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:30 PM

**Upcoming Standing Committee Meetings**

\* Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:15 PM

Submitted by  
George G. Pisula



**Addendum A**

**Tentative Text  
For the Blessed Virgin Plaque**

On May 31, 1889, a great flood struck the city of Johnstown causing waters to rise as high as fifteen feet in the Cambria City section of the city. The Immaculate Conception church building, both inside and out, was badly damaged as the result of the water's wrath. Yet one object remained untouched inside the church. The statue of the Blessed Virgin that you see before you, along with its May devotions decorations, remained clean and undisturbed. Although the marks on the wall showed the water had risen above the statue, the statue nevertheless was saved from contact with the liquid and its rubble. Everyone who saw the statue amid its devastating surroundings was convinced that a miracle had saved the statue.