

Minutes of Resurrection Parish's Pastoral Council Meeting
March 21, 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 7:32 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, Barb Dryzal, Mary Hanners, Rick Pavic, Larry Sestrich, Ray Gorman, Tom Elias, Bryan Hodos, Jeff McKissick, Steve Reasbeck, Joe Strihan, Faith Thomas, and Michelle Rager. Absent: Brendan Veney, Youth Representative. A quorum was present. Six parishioners, the parish manager, Deacon Sam Cammarata, and the recording secretary were also present.
- IV. **Approval of the January Minutes:** The January 2017 minutes were approved with one change. Under the Standing Committee Reports – a. Activities, i-4, the sentence was changed to read: The opening and clean-up of the Grove will take place in the Spring.
- V. **Status of the Standing Committees:**
 - a. **Activities**
 - i. The following activities are being discussed and planned:
 1. The attendance at the St. Patrick’s Party was good. There will be ongoing discussions regarding the continuance of this event in the future. The Michael O’Brian Band, a draw for this event, will cease to exist at the end of the year. If we decide to continue, the group Full Kilt could fill the void.
 2. A Cash Bash was being contemplated for this year, but it appears that the same group of people are working at every event. Because of this overworking of individuals, other options are being explored. In addition, more knowledge is needed on how to successfully conduct such an affair.
 3. The possibility of running a large award cash ticket (\$20,000) is being discussed. Tickets will sell for \$20 with a target of 2,500 tickets being sold.
 4. Upcoming activities include holiday baking, spring clean-up at the Grove, another season of Groovin’ at the Grove, and Summerfest 2017.
 5. The parish is awaiting guidelines from the diocese regarding the use and rental of parish properties. With recent

legislation, our refusal to rent facilities to groups who go against our Christian and/or Catholic values could be construed as discriminatory, exposing the parish to a possible lawsuit.

b. Communications

- i. No committee report was presented.
- ii. A discussion centered on the need for this committee. The parish secretary maintains the on-line parish calendar, George Pisula keeps the web site updated, and Fr. George and Dawn Rager attends to the Facebook site. Other communications are handled through the office or by the other committees. With the aforementioned tasks being independently handled, the question was asked - Is a committee needed, and, if so, what would its duties be? In the end, it was decided to keep the committee in place for the time being.

c. Education

- i. The committee is considering sponsoring a Movie Night, choosing a film that would help to deepen the faith of the viewers.
- ii. An attempt will be made to restart the book review meetings.
- iii. Father George suggested working with parents who are preparing to have their children baptized and with couples preparing for marriage. Having a few more sponsor couples in our parish will also be helpful.
- iv. A harder push is need to get our students interested in attending the diocesan sponsored Senior and Junior High Youth Days.
- v. The Lenten Retreat centered on the Ministry of the Assembly. Although attendance was poor, those in attendance enjoyed a video and then participated in some good discussion.
- vi. In the past, the catechesis that took place on Sunday mornings between Masses was poorly attended. Bishop Robert Barron's series *The Pivotal Players*, is now being considered. [*The Pivotal Players* is a multi-part film series that illumines a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization.]

d. Parish Family Life

- i. The organizational meeting for the men's club had 18 parishioners in attendance.

- ii. "Donut Sundays" will resume on Sunday, March 28 after the 8:00 and 10:30 AM Masses.
- iii. Surveys have been sent out to those who participated in this year's *Celebration of Marriage*. Depending on the comments received, changes may be made for next year's event.
- iv. Toiletries are still being collected for the medical clinic.
- v. The last *Time Out* session was used to fill the 500 eggs to be used at the parish's Easter Egg Hunt.
- vi. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Holy Saturday, April 15, beginning at noon. This year's hunt will take place at the Grove.
- vii. A ladies' social, *Pot of Friendship*, will be held on April 22 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM in Resurrection Hall.
- viii. A *neighbor-to-neighbor* help list has been developed to support parishioners who are in need. Some examples of assistance that could be offered are a ride to Mass or Stations of the Cross, attending Mass at a nursing home, or simply spending some time with a person who is lonely. To date, one person has asked for help and two volunteers have come forward.
- ix. The Celebration of the Single Life will take place on Sunday, June 4. A social will follow in the church hall.
- x. An Appetizer Party, as a kick-off event for starting a cooking club, will hopefully be able to take place in May.
- xi. Supplies for the children's mailings, Heaven's Treasure, marriage gifts, and bereavement books are adequate now.
- xii. Those active in the Sewing Ministry are making blankets to be distributed by the Mission Team in Webster Springs, WV.
- xiii. The dates for future bowling and golf outings still need to be determined.

e. Liturgy

- i. An *Anointing Mass* was held on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11. About 15 people took advantage of receiving the sacrament. It was suggested to continue making this sacrament available throughout the year, but rotating the anointing between the different weekend Mass times.
- ii. The Liturgy Committee joined with the Education Committee for the Lenten Retreat. The presentation focused on the *Ministry of the Assembly at Mass*. Relatively speaking, there was poor attendance. Those attending suggested finding a way to communicate to contents

of the retreat to the parish. The retreat centered on the first document of the Vatican II Council, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

- iii. During the retreat a suggestion was made to have the cantors announce the intention of the Mass as they welcome the people. Oftentimes, the intention is missed by the commentator during the Universal Prayer. It was agreed to ask Mary Beth to type the Universal Prayers for the weekend Masses, including all who are to be remembered. This will eliminate some commentators from missing these specific intentions.
- iv. For the Fifth Sunday of Lent (April 2), the statues in the church will be covered.
- v. Deacon Sam will not be able to participate in all the liturgies of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum at Resurrection parish. He will be assisting Bishop Mark at St. John Gualbert Cathedral on Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday.
- vi. On Palm Sunday, the simple entrance will be used at the 4:00 PM Mass on Saturday and at the 8:00 AM Mass on Sunday. The solemn entrance will take place at the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass, beginning in the Chestnut Street parking lot. Additionally, the restoration of the Eucharist under two species and the return to the normal sign of peace will take place this weekend.
- vii. The Chrism Mass will be held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Monday, April 10 at 11:00 AM. Father George has already requested extra oil stocks. Parishioners who will attend this Mass can request the ticket to pick-up the oils and return them to the parish.
- viii. Some general notes on Holy Thursday and the Easter Triduum:
 - 1. There will be no public celebration of Morning Prayer or the Office of Readings during these times.
 - 2. Adoration of the reserved Lord will take place until 10:00 PM on Holy Thursday.
 - 3. No public praying of the *Stations of the Cross* will take place on Good Friday, however the church will be open for private prayer.
 - 4. Tenebrae will not be celebrated this year at Resurrection Parish.

5. The blessing of Easter Food will be held on Holy Saturday at noon.
- ix. The Mass of the Lord's Supper will take place on Holy Thursday at 6:30 PM. Presenters of the Oils will be chosen before Mass and the participants for the Washing of the Feet will simply be asked to come forward at the appropriate time. The repository will remain in the church at the Blessed Sacrament altar.
 - x. The Easter Vigil will begin on Holy Saturday at 8:30 PM.
 1. This year's Paschal Candle is being designed by Georgie Jakovcic and will be constructed by Stacy Roberts. The central design focuses on the *Wood of the Cross*. A Tentative design can be found in Addendum A.
 2. All seven Old Testament readings will be used at the Easter Vigil.
 3. The holy water will be blessed in the baptistry during the Vigil. No bottles will be prefilled this year, but empty vials will be made available for those who want to take some Holy Water home..
 - xi. First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, April 23 at the 10:30 AM Mass
 - xii. May Crowning will take place on Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 PM. The special ceremony that Fr. George used last year will be repeated this year. The "Statue of Mary" from Immaculate Conception church will be used on the May altar, prepared in front of her normal altar. During this ceremony, the plaque in memory of Sr. Agnese will be dedicated.
 - xiii. A parishioner asked if the parish could begin an annual novena, similar to the Infant of Prague novena held St. Andrew Parish. Father is open to the idea, but the Liturgy Committee would need to establish the structure for the novena. It was also noted that some local novenas have lost attendance and have been downsized to a triduum.
 - xiv. 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin to the children in Fatima, Portugal. During the months of May through October, the diocese has several events planned to commemorate the event, many offering the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence. A guide can be found in Addendum B. During

the months of May through October, Fr. George is contemplating having confessions at 5:30 PM and rosary and benediction at 6:30 PM on the 13th day of these months. For reference, the 13th coincides with these days of the week: May – Saturday, June – Tuesday, July – Thursday, August – Sunday, September – Wednesday, and October – Friday.

- xv. On Friday, April 21, the Serra Club of Cambria County and the diocesan Vocation Office are sponsoring a Bishop's Night for Vocations Dinner at Bishop Carroll High School. The deadline for reservations is April 7.
- xvi. On Sunday, March 26, St. Benedict Parish is hosting a presentation on the Shroud of Turin. The presentation begins at 3:00 PM. No tickets are required; a free-will offering will be collected.

f. Properties and Maintenance

- i. The sewer project for the church will be placed on hold until we receive notice from the city to move forward.
- ii. PennDot has forwarded to the parish a 30-point checklist needing to be adhered to when repairing the Fourth Avenue sidewalk. Because of the potential expense, major repairs are being delayed. In the interim, the men's club will be asked to help make temporary repairs. Additionally, data will be gathered to start the application for grants to help lower our expenses. It was noted that Jim Carroll, a parishioner, has experience applying for grants.
- iii. The stone repointing at the church has been delayed. It is felt that the necessary repairs need to be evaluated by professionals before proceeding.
- iv. The hand railing at the front of the church (near Ace's building) needs to be tightened. This is a high priority item.
- v. There are six or seven choir chairs that need to be reupholstered. The men's group will be asked to help.
- vi. Some of the pews in the church are shifting. The repairs can be done in-house, but labor will be needed to do the lifting. It was suggested that Boy Scout Troop 622 assist.
- vii. The interior wall in the church hall still needs attention. John has done some repairs and he continues to work on it. At minimum, it needs to be cleaned and painted.

- viii. The bricks surrounding the bench at the end of the parish center parking lot need to be repaired. Bob Rosage will be asked to look over the situation and make suggestions.
- ix. The damages to the outside of the rectory (alley side) still need to be addressed. The damage was done by a truck making deliveries to the Sweet Shoppe.
- x. It was noted that the exhaust fan in the church hall still needs to be repaired or replaced.
- xi. Father George noted that he has an upcoming interview scheduled, trying to secure additional janitorial help for the parish; this has proven to be a difficult easy task

g. Youth

- i. No report. Brendan Veney, the youth representative, was not at the meeting. It appears that he is being bogged-down by his school and extracurricular activities. Maintaining a youth representative has been an ongoing issue; other options need to be explored if we want to retain this position on Council and have input from our youth.
- ii. It was noted that sending children to camp can be expensive. It was also suggested that families be made aware of the Angel Fund Scholarships that are available to help pay for those attending these camps.

h. Cemetery

- i. No meeting or report.

i. Finance

- i. The diocese is having some issues with PayCor, the contracted service for payroll throughout the diocese. There are hopes that the issues will soon be resolved.
- ii. A question was asked about the Finance Council's meetings and membership. In response, Father George stated that the meetings are closed to parishioners and that the members of this Council are appointed by the pastor.

VI. Comments from the Parishioners:

- a. None

VII. Old Business:

- i. Michelle Rager has taken responsibility to have the plaque in honor of Sr. Agnese made. It will be fabricated by Richland Plastics. The plaque will be mounted on a moveable stand, contain the revised text approved at this meeting (Addendum C), and it was decided to add a picture of the Immaculate Conception church building to the plaque. Plans are to dedicate the plaque on May 7 during the May Crowning ceremony. It was suggested that any remaining money collected in memory of Sr. Agnese should be donated to the Sisters of Mercy in sister's memory.
- ii. The parish will be noting two anniversaries this year. On the weekend of April 29 - 30, Deacon Sam Cammarata will celebrate his 25th anniversary of his ordination to the permanent diaconate. Then on Sunday, May 21, Father George will note the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Plans to commemorate these events are underway, but not yet finalized.

VIII. Comments from the Parishioners:

- a. The question was asked if the insurance issues related to the parking lots (between Aces and Resurrection Parish is using each other's lots) were resolved. Joann Fyock, Parish Manager, said that they have not yet been resolved.

IX. New Business:

- a. Bryan restated the parish's winter policy regarding meetings. In short, if the Greater Johnstown School District dismisses early or cancels classes because of inclement weather, all parish meetings that day are cancelled. Liturgical services will not be affected.
- b. A discussion ensued about the sequence of meetings for the Pastoral Council and the Standing Committees. Currently, most of the Pastoral Council meeting time involves giving committee reports. Some felt that if the Pastoral Council meeting was held first, issues facing the parish could be discussed and then these issues could be passed onto committees for resolution. This was discussed in the past, but placing the Standing Committee meeting at 7:30 PM was too late for some participants.
- c. Since this was the last meeting for this term of Council, Bryan wanted to discuss the state of the parish. The general comments were all positive; getting people to become involved and remain involved seems to be the biggest challenge.

X. Comments from the Parishioners:

- a. None

XI. Pastor's Closing Comments:

- a. None

XII. Adjournment and Blessing:

- a. At 9:11 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, May 16, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Upcoming Standing Committee Meetings

* Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 6:15 PM

Submitted by
George G. Pisula
Recording Secretary

Addendum A



Addendum B

Centennial of Apparitions at Fatima

The year 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to three shepherd children in Portugal from May to October 1917. The message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance of sin, prayer (especially the Rosary), and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Pope Francis has encouraged the faithful to take advantage of the spiritual benefits at Marian celebrations during this centennial observance. In the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Bishop Bartchak will lead the following celebrations:

* Saturday, May 13, Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima, 11:30 A.M., Rosary and Mass, Our Lady of Fatima Church, Altoona.

* Friday, September 8, Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 5:30 P.M., Mass and Rosary Procession (outdoor shrine), Saint Catherine of Siena Church, Duncansville.

* Sunday, October 1, Annual Marian Celebration in Honor of the Holy Rosary, 3:00 P.M., Rosary and Mass, Saint Benedict Church, Johnstown.

Participation in these celebrations are in keeping with the ways in which the faithful may obtain a plenary indulgence during the Centennial Fatima Observance as announced by Pope Francis. The opportunity for a plenary indulgence throughout the entire year, which began on November 27, 2016, and will end November 26, 2017, may be gained as follows:

To obtain the plenary indulgence, the faithful must fulfill the ordinary conditions: Go to confession and Communion, be interiorly detached from sin, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

(1) Pilgrimage to the Shrine: Make pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine in Portugal and participate in prayer dedicated to the Virgin. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed, and invoke the Mother of God.

(2) Prayer before any Statue of Our Lady of Fatima: The faithful who visit with devotion a statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory or proper place during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October (2017), and there devoutly participate in prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary. Those seeking an indulgence must also pray an Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.

(3) Application for the Elderly and Infirm: To those who, because of age, illness or other serious cause, are unable to get around, may pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and must spiritually unite themselves to the jubilee celebrations on the days of the apparitions, the 13th of each month, between May and October 2017. In addition, they must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed, and offer to our merciful God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers and sufferings or the sacrifices they make in their own lives.

Addendum C

Revised 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, located at the corner of Third Avenue and Broad Street, 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 Marian 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. The members of the former parish presented the statue to Resurrection Parish as part of the 2009, six-parish Cambria City merger.

*This plaque is dedicated to Sr. Agnese, RSM,
who served as a sacristan at Resurrection Parish.*