

**Minutes of Resurrection Parish's Pastoral Council Meeting  
May 16, 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 7:27 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, Faith Thomas, and Michelle Rager. Absent: Brendan Veney, Youth Representative. A quorum was present. Deacon Sam Cammarata, four parishioners, the parish manager, and the recording secretary were also present.
- IV. **Approval of the March Minutes:** The March 2017 minutes were approved with one change. Under the Standing Committee Reports – d. Parish Family Life, items viii, xiii, and xv were combined into one statement, numbered viii. The subsequent items were then renumbered. The new statement reads: 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.
- V. **Status of the Standing Committees:**
  - a. **Activities**
    - i. The following activities are being discussed and planned:
      1. The opening of the Grove with the associated clean-up has begun and will continue for the next few Saturdays. This year's events will begin with Summerfest 2017 on Sunday, June 11 followed by the first of three *Groovin' at the Grove* events on Saturday, June 17.
      2. With the culmination of the Michael O'Brian Band and the potential of our parish workers becoming "burnt-out," the St. Patrick's Party won't be repeated next year. Although the event did yield a profit of approximately \$2,800, it was decided to try an alternate source of revenue in the future.
      3. The possibility of running a large award cash ticket with a \$30,000 cash give-away is being discussed. Plans call for tickets to be sold for \$20 during the months of January,

February, and March with the winning numbers being drawn during April. Two daily awards of \$500 will be disbursed each day based on the numbers drawn by the Pennsylvania Lottery. If all of the planned 2,500 tickets are sold, the parish will net a profit of \$20,000.

**b. Communications**

- i. No committee report was presented.
- ii. A comment was made that the parish events are not being updated in a timely basis on the web site. After some discussion, it was uncertain if the parish secretary knew that it was her responsibility to maintain the web master calendar (in the past, this was done during an annual scheduling meeting held by Father Alan). The parish manager will convey this responsibility to the parish secretary.

**c. Education**

- i. The parish book reviews will be restarted. The first three sessions will be held on the fourth Wednesday of the next three months (June 28, July 26, and August 23). The books to be reviewed are *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel, *Strangers in a Strange Land* by Archbishop Charles Chaput, and *The Benedict Option* by Rod Dreher.
- ii. Chris Babik was applauded for her performance during her first year as parish Director of Religious Education (DRE). In addition to Chris, all of the religious education teachers added greatly to the support of the program. An appreciation dinner is planned for June 12.

**d. Parish Family Life**

- i. The Easter Egg Hunt, held at the Grove, went well with 36 children attending.
- ii. Many good reviews were received on the Women's Pot of Friendship Social that was held on April 22. Besides the social interaction, the participants got to enjoy some good food and sample a variety of teas.
- iii. The men's group meeting, held after Easter, experienced lighter attendance than normal. The group will host the Donut Socials to be held after each Mass on Mother's Day weekend. The next group meeting is scheduled for June 26.

- iv. For future Donut Socials, it is felt that more publicity and encouragement is needed to increase participation.
- v. The toiletry collection project to benefit the medical clinic has proven to be very successful. Nonetheless, it is being suspended for a while.
- vi. Currently the Neighbor-to-Neighbor project only has one parishioner offering assistance.
- vii. The Celebration of the Single Life will take place on Sunday, June 4, at the 10:30 AM Mass. A catered social will follow the Mass in the church hall.
- viii. The first parish golf outing for the year is scheduled to take place at Oakbrook on June 14, beginning at 5:00 PM.
- ix. A blood screening session is being planned for September 23. A Caregivers' Display will be made available during the event.
- x. A *Make and Test* cooking/sharing group is planned to get started in late summer.
- xi. A parish swimming *Pool Party* is being discussed.
- xii. For the Mother's Day carnation sale, \$800 in sales and donations was achieved.

#### e. Liturgy

- i. The liturgies of Lent, Holy Week, the Easter Triduum, Confirmation, First Eucharist, and May Crowning seem to have gone well without any harsh criticisms. One comment was made that it would be nice if we could return to rotating the books used for the *Stations of the Cross*, changing from week to week. With the ordering of additional booklets, this change could be in place for Lent 2018.
- ii. Father George will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priestly ordination on Sunday, May 21. The Mass schedule will change on the Sunday with the 8:00 & 10:30 AM Masses being combined into a 9:00 AM Mass; Father George will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving at 2:00 PM. A dinner reception will be held at Christ the Savior Social Hall afterwards.
- iii. Ascension Thursday falls on May 25. The normal Mass schedule will be observed (6:30 PM anticipated; 8:00 AM & 6:30 PM holy day).
- iv. There will be a cemetery Mass (weather permitting) on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29 at St. Rochus Cemetery Chapel beginning at 9:00 AM.
- v. Pentecost Sunday falls on June 4. The extended vigil for Pentecost will not be observed.

- vi.** Four outdoor Masses are planned to take place at the Grove. The first Mass will kick-off Summerfest 2017. The remaining Masses will take place prior to the three *Groovin' at the Grove* events.
- vii.** Fatima Devotions – 2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> 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. The flier can be found in Addendum A. During the months of May through October, Father George is planning to hear confessions at 5:30 PM followed by the rosary and benediction at 6:30 PM, on the 13<sup>th</sup> days of each of these months. For reference, the 13<sup>th</sup> coincides with these days of the week: May – Saturday, June – Tuesday, July – Thursday, August – Sunday, September – Wednesday, and October – Friday.
- viii.** A few months ago a parishioner ask the committee to consider starting a parish novena, similar to the Infant of Prague novena held at St. Andrew parish. After discussing the possibility, it was decided not to proceed with this request.
- ix.** It was suggested and agreed upon that we should use the following quote from the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration in the bulletin as a way to enhance participation at Eucharistic Adoration: *“In our self-centered culture and classic American emphasis on work, we often feel we have to accomplish something during our time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. We rate our experience by how ‘good’ our prayer was, how heartfelt our devotion was, or how focused we could remain. Yet prayer and contemplation are fundamentally God’s work, in which we are invited to participate. We need only give Him the opening, and He will do the rest. By coming to adoration, we are handing Him the keys to our hearts, allowing the rays of His love and grace to bathe our souls in the light of His Presence, as the rays of the sun bathe our bodies in light. If we can take the time to pull away from the busyness and distractions of life and just sit at His feet, He will lead us.”*

**f. Properties and Maintenance**

- i.** A quote of \$42,000 was received for repair work to the steps and railing leading (closest to Ace’s Lounge) to the church. The committee will be seeking a more economical solution with concentration on repairing the railing first and then concentration on the other work.

- ii. The work on the Fourth Avenue sidewalk remains a priority. Ben Gagan will be submitting drawings of our plans to Penndot for their review and approval. In the interim, the Men's Group along with the Properties and Maintenance Committee will gather on Saturday, May 27 to do some temporary repair work.
- iii. In February, the parish received an electric bill for \$778.67. The bill for March was \$3,870.20. The cause of the big difference is being explored; perhaps one of the bills was an estimate. The bills represent electricity costs for the entire parish.
- iv. The air conditioning work at the rectory is completed.
- v. The trees surrounding the Oratory have been trimmed. Additionally, the bricks surrounding the bench at the end of the parish center parking lot have been repaired.
- vi. Some of the pews in the church are still shifting. The repairs will be done in-house, with Boy Scout Troop 622 assisting.
- vii. The crack in the marble steps leading into the sanctuary has been repaired.
- viii. The hot water tank in the church is in need of replacement. The current tank is 300 gallons with a slow recovery. A smaller tank with a quicker recovery will be sourced.
- ix. The sound system in the church seems to be posing no issues lately. Because of this, the replacement plan is being placed on hold.
- x. With the onset of warmer weather, the exhaust fans in the church have been turned on.
- xi. Father George mentioned that the church boiler is beginning to fail and that replacement of the unit will be necessary in the near future.
- xii. No proof of insurance has been given to the parish by Ace's Lounge. Therefore, plans will proceed to gate the Chestnut Street parking lot. Repairs to the lot will need to be limited to avoid meeting the current code requirements.
- xiii. It was mentioned that the sign board on the front of the church needs attention. Joann mentioned that the letters are disintegrating and replacements can't be found. Tom Merhaut of Merhaut Church Restoration and Religious Supply has been contacted for help.

g. Youth

- i. No report.

h. Cemetery

- i. Ed Meyers is our current caretaker for the cemeteries. His duties include cutting grass twice per month between the months of May and October, trimming once per month, opening and closing graves, and resetting grave stones (paid for by the family).
- ii. The only cemetery that has space available is Immaculate Conception; about 80 plots are available.
- iii. The first quarter cemetery financial recap is as follows:
 

1. Opening Balance	\$30,340.29
2. Two plots sold	600.00
3. Payment to Ed Meyers for 6 burials	(1,950.00)
4. Reimbursement payment	(127.20)
5. Collection envelopes	372.00
6. Interest	199.35
7. One permit	50.00
8. Two burials	5,500.00
9. March 31, 2017 balance	\$30,984.44

i. Finances

- i. No report.

**VI. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. There has been a request to change the start time of the golf outing to 5:30 PM. That possibility is being explored; the findings will be communicated once they are known.

**VII. Old Business:**

- i. The plaque, noting a short history of the church's Blessed Virgin statue, is now in place. The plaque and movable stand was dedicated in honor of Sr. Agnese Mikolaj, who served as a sacristan at Resurrection Parish. With the \$800 that remains, an etching of the picture of the statue in Immaculate Conception church in the aftermath of the 1889 flood will be created and mounted on the legs of the stand. Another plaque is being considered for the Prayer Garden at the Grove.
- ii. At the last Council meeting a discussion ensued about the sequencing of meeting times for the Pastoral Council and the Standing Committees. The intent was to have the Pastoral Council meet at 6:30 PM and the Standing Committees meet at 7:30 PM. Members were asked to discuss this possibility with the standing committee members. The consensus was that 7:30 PM was too late

for many of the standing committee participants; the meeting times will remain as they are.

**VIII. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- i. None

**IX. New Business:**

- i. The election of officers took place. The officers for the 2017-18 term are:
  - 1. Bryan Hodos – Chair
  - 2. Michelle Rager – Vice Chair
  - 3. Rick Pavic – Secretary
  - 4. George Pisula has agreed to remain as recording secretary. This is an appointed position with no voting rights.
- ii. Congratulations were extended to Deacon Sam Cammarata on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the order of deacon, to Father George on the anniversary to his ordination to the order of presbyter, and also to Father George as he notes another birthday.

**X. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. None

**XI. Pastor's Closing Comments:**

- a. None

**XII. Adjournment and Blessing:**

- a. At 8:23 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, June 27, 2017 at 7:30 PM\*

**Upcoming Standing Committee Meetings**

Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 6:15 PM\*

- \* The meetings are being delayed one week, as Father George will be participating in the diocesan retreat the prior week.

Submitted by  
George G. Pisula  
Recording Secretary

## Addendum A

# 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.