

**Minutes of Resurrection Parish's Pastoral Council Meeting
November 15, 2016**

- 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 7:23 PM. Father George opened the meeting with a prayer; he had no opening comments. In his opening comments Bryan stated two points of order for the Council. The first point clarified that the Pastoral Council does not deal in personnel matters, so matters dealing with individuals should not be discussed at Council meetings. The second clarification stated that the Pastoral Council serves as an advisory board whose purpose is to assist the pastor in making decisions.
- 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. Excused: Joe Strihan. A quorum was present. Three parishioners and the recording secretary were also present.
- IV. **Approval of the June Minutes:** The September minutes were approved with no changes.
- V. **Status of the Standing Committees:**
 - a. Activities
 - i. Some details from the Ethnic Fest wrap-up meeting were reported. These included:
 1. The Polka Mass held on the Sunday of EthnicFest weekend is being eliminated.
 2. Sundays hours will be cut-back, ending at 4:00 PM. It was felt that some Sundays hours were needed as an outlet for excess food.
 3. This year profit was up from last year. There were two driving factors. They were the addition of the Fall Frenzy ticket and a cut-back on advertising.
 - ii. The Meat Raffle and the Ladies' Auxiliary Basket Party proved to be very successful.
 - iii. Upcoming activities are:
 1. Holiday Baking
 2. The selling of the January Sizzler tickets
 3. Efforts to revitalized the St. Patrick's Day Party, planned for March 11, 2017
 4. The possible addition of a Cash Bash for April

- iv. No calendar planning meeting will be held for the 2017 events.
- b. Communications
- i. The committee had no meeting. Brendan Veney will serve as the Council liaison to this committee.
 - ii. Father George, Dawn Rager, and Brendan Veney continue to work on keeping the parish's Facebook site updated. George Pisula maintains the parish's web site.
 - iii. Comments were made saying that Mary Beth is doing a good job with the parish bulletin.
- c. Education
- i. The first adult education class was held earlier this month on November 6. Five people attended, one being a parent of a religious education student. Future classes will be held, once per month, beginning in February.
 - ii. The West End Ministerial Hymn Sing is scheduled for Resurrection Church on Epiphany (January 8, 2017).
 - iii. The Advent Day of Reflection is set for the Third Sunday of Advent, December 18.
 - iv. Father George will do a special presentation for the religious education students focusing on celebrating Advent in the home.
 - v. To date, religious education attendance has been good. The possibility of inclement weather and bad roads in the winter may have an impact on attendance.
 - vi. It was affirmed that Christine Babik is doing a fine job as our new Director of Religious Education.
 - vii. With the move of religious education to Sundays, there seems to be a slight improvement in family Mass attendance.
- d. Parish Family Life
- i. There was a small turnout for the family bowling event held on October 2 at Richland Lanes. Another attempt may be made during the winter months.
 - ii. A turkey covered dish will be held after the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, November 20.
 - iii. A Time-Out gathering is scheduled for November 16. The focus of this event will be cutting items for the children's Christmas party and other service projects.
 - iv. This year, the *Undercover Project* will be combined with the *Christmas Needs Tree Project*. The residents at Laurelwood will be the beneficiaries.

- v. The Children's Christmas Party is scheduled for December 18 after the 10:30 AM Mass. Students from Bishop McCort Catholic High School have offered to help with the party.
 - vi. Christmas cards will be sent to prisoners and shut-ins this year. The cards will be prepared by the religious education students.
 - vii. 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. Some sort of game is being planned for the evening's entertainment.
 - viii. A Ladies' Social is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM.
 - ix. An Easter Egg Hunt is being planned for April 15, 2017 at the Grove.
 - x. The tentative date for the Celebration of the Single Life is Saturday, May 20.
 - xi. No report from the Youth Group was submitted.
 - xii. The *Pray for Families* window clings will be distributed on the Masses of December 31 - January 1, the weekend after the feast of the Holy Family.
 - xiii. It was suggested that announcements should be made after the closing prayer at weekend Masses, highlighting the events of the upcoming week.
- e. Liturgy
- i. Attendance at the noon Mass on All Souls Day at St. Rochus Cemetery was poor (only 4 people attended). As a result, this Mass will be eliminated next year.
 - ii. As time goes on, it appears that more and more liturgical ministers are asking to be moved to an inactive status. If this trend continues, ministries might need to be consolidated or even eliminated.
 - iii. A Mass, remembering the service provided by our veterans, was held on Friday, November 11. Even though attendance was low, many positive comments and thanks were received from those who attended. Announcements for this event were sent to the Catholic Register and the Tribune-Democrat, but they were never published.
 - iv. 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.
 - v. 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.

- vi. 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
- vii. 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.
- viii. 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.
- ix. 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
- x. 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.
- xi. 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.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. 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.

- xiv. 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
Recording Secretary

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.