

## **Minutes of Resurrection Parish's Pastoral Council Meeting held January 19, 2016**

- I. **Prayer:** The business meeting was preceded by the Committees of Council meeting in the church hall for one hour, beginning at 6:15 PM. Father George opened both sessions with a prayer. [This was the initial time that both the committees and the Pastoral Council met on the same evening.]
- II. **Call to Order:** The business meeting was called to order 7:30 PM by Terry Deitz, chair of the Pastoral Council. Both Terry and Fr. George made brief welcoming comments.
- III. **Roll Call:** Present: Fr. George, Terry Deitz, Barb Dryzal, Donna Fellows, Lynn Popovich, Alice Voytko, Rick Pavic, Faith Thomas, Bryan Hodos, Jim Kopriva, and Lindsey Selan. Absent: Brian Ahlstrom and Brian Basile. Eric Anderson had previously resigned his position on Council. Also in attendance were the recording secretary and six parishioners. A quorum was present.
- IV. **Approval of the November Minutes:**
  - a. There were no changes to the minutes and they were accepted as published.
- V. **Status of the Standing Committees:**
  - a. Activities
    - i. Completed Activities:
      1. The tee shirt and hat sale yielded a profit of \$400.
      2. For the Bon Ton Community Days, only 35 of the 50 coupons sold, yielding a profit of \$175. We'll need to evaluate if we should participate in the future.
      3. The Bake & Pig-in-the-Blanket sales went well. A few nut rolls remain and they can be purchased through the office.
      4. Meat Raffle: Best ever; ~\$3,400 profit
      5. For the Ladies Auxiliary Basket Party all 300 tickets were sold. A report on the profits was not available, but the event was a huge success.
      6. For the first time, all of the January Sizzler tickets were sold.
      7. A calendar planning meeting was held on December 3 for events taking place in 2016.
    - ii. In Process Activities:
      1. The St. Patrick's Day lottery tickets are now on sale. The ticket plays all of March and is based on the three-digit, evening, PA lottery number. The cost is \$5.00 per ticket. Sales are strong.
      2. As of yet no one has stepped forward to chair the Activities Committee. Lynn Popovich has replaced Bryan Hodos as the liaison to Council.
    - iii. Upcoming Events:
      1. The Knights of Columbus have two pancake breakfasts scheduled. The first is on January 24 followed by a second on February 28.

2. Joe Zorn will chair a Soup Sale to be held sometime in February.
  3. Our St. Patrick's Day party will be held on Saturday, March 19. The Celtic group *Tree* will offer the musical entertainment. Greg Babik is chair for the event.
  4. Our parish picnic, Summerfest 2016, will be held on Sunday, June 12.
  5. An EthnicFest planning meeting will be held sometime in May. Because of a new ordinance, the city wants a nonprofit organization to oversee EthnicFest.
  6. A starting time still needs to be established for the *Groovin' at the Grove* concerts.
- iv. In regard to Masses at the Grove, Father George said that he will not duplicate Masses, i.e., have one at the church and another at the Grove. The event planners will need assess what location serves the greatest need, and then make a recommendation.
- b. Communications
- i. Brendan Veney has assumed the role as chair of the Communications Committee. He replaces Dawn Rager who has resigned that position (but will remain active on the committee). Brendan is a ninth-grade student at Johnstown High School.
  - ii. The discussion continued on the bulletin's format, content, and size. Father George created, and shared with Council, a Word-template of a bulletin format that he has successfully used in the past. Rick Pavic has researched the cost of transitioning from a two-sheet, 8.5" x 14" bulletin to one that consists of one, 11" x 17" sheet. The cost of the former is \$0.057 per bulletin and the latter is \$0.0598. The consensus of Council is to transition to the larger format. Before the change can be made, Melanie Harris needs to be informed of the wishes of Council and educated on any software changes.
  - iii. Management of the parish's Facebook page has been taken-over by the Communications Committee.
  - iv. Brendan is trying to assemble a youth forum to gather information on how to have the youth of our parish become more actively involved. The group will have adult supervision; ground rules need to be established beforehand to help keep the gathering focused. It was suggested that Lindsey Selan, Council Youth Representative, become part of this group.
  - v. The Communications Committee has been meeting off-site, since no internet or Wi-Fi is available in the church hall. It was suggested that the Dish Satellite connection be dropped and replaced with either Atlantic Broadband internet or some other type of hot-spot connection.
- c. Education
- i. A discussion that centered on the parish's religious education program for public school students and confirmation candidates took place. Some key points of that discussion were:

1. In the Spring, Father George will meet with the religious education teachers, to see what their needs are. He will also inquire to see if the program might work better if it were moved to Sundays between the two morning Masses. If this change takes place, the 10:00 AM may need to be moved to 11:00 AM.
  2. The program needs to follow diocesan policies with an emphasis on teaching the Catholic faith to our children. The program requires thirty hours of instruction, attendance at Mass, and works of service. Absenteeism seems to be an issue with Resurrection Parish's program and needs to be addressed. An example being the last Confirmation Formation session. Out of 30 students enrolled, only eight were in attendance.
  3. The parish's Confirmation program also needs review. The diocesan format requires two formation sessions, an annual retreat, and works of service. Our parish's plan is much more extensive.
    - ii. The Bible Study, headed by Brian Ahlstrom, continues. A typical session has about eight to ten in attendance.
    - iii. The Advent Day of Retreat had about 25 in attendance. The Lenten Day of Reflection, scheduled for March 13, will begin with 10:00 AM Mass followed with lunch. The day's activity will follow the jeopardy answer and question format, focusing on the Church and the Year of Mercy.
    - iv. The committee is operating with an \$800.00 budget.
- d. Family Life
- i. Cindy O'Connor and Lisa Sefick are heading the *Celebration of Marriage* planned for February 6 at the 4:00 PM Mass. A dinner will follow at Aces. They will be following a program offered by the Family Life Office. The renewal of marriage vows will take place at all Masses that weekend (February 6 & 7).
  - ii. A *Celebration of the Single Life* will be held on April 23.
  - iii. A ladies social with the theme *Home Sweet Home* is planned for April 16 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM.
  - iv. A *Time Out* session is planned for sometime in March.
  - v. A Children's Easter Party, being coordinated by Kris Moran, is scheduled for Holy Saturday, March 26, 2016.
  - vi. A men's gathering is under consideration for some Sunday afternoon.
  - vii. The committee is considering the possibility of a *Fish Covered Dish* to be held on one or more Fridays before the Stations of the Cross.
  - viii. The committee has a budget of \$1,500.00.
- e. Liturgy
- i. Positive comments were given regarding the Christmas decorations in the church. This Christmas, some statuary was intermixed, coming from several of the former parishes. The question was asked if it was time to

purchase a new “Resurrection” set of crèche figures. No firm determination was made.

- ii. Maureen Kimlin has come forward and offered to work on repairing and repainting some of the damaged crèche figures.
- iii. On the feast of St. Blaise, throats will be blessed at the 8:00 AM Mass and at a 6:30 PM prayer service. No throats will be blessed at the weekend Masses.
- iv. Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, the distribution of Holy Communion had been reconfigured so that all communicants receive the Eucharist at the front of the church. It seems to be going very smoothly; no complaints have been voiced.
- v. Father George will utilize lay ministers to help with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Three ministers will be needed for the 8:00 AM Mass and two ministers will be sought for the 6:30 PM Mass. There will be no noon Mass. Ashes will also be made available to be taken to the homebound.
- vi. Stacy Roberts has volunteered to construct the Paschal Candle again this year. Father George has stated that he wants to use the official logo for the Jubilee Year of Mercy as the focal point. Georgie Jakovic has offered to coordinate the development of some potential designs. Joann will order a blank candle, keeping it the same size and the current candle.
- vii. In the latter part of last year, altar server garb was discussed. Father George stated that he wasn’t opposed to standardizing the dress to one style with enough albs being made or purchased so that all servers are properly fitted. The albs will be kept at the church and shared amongst the servers. We are currently looking for someone to coordinate this project.

f. Properties and Maintenance

- i. A *Thank You* dinner was held for those who assisted in removing the carpeting from the church. Of the thirty participants, seventeen attended the dinner. They were very appreciative of the gesture.
- ii. The peeling paint on the one column has been scrapped. The committee discussed church painting, but due to the potentially high cost, decided to defer the item to the future.
- iii. A bid is in hand for the final repair and refinishing of the church floor. So as to have the work completed by Easter, the start date can be no later than February 15.
- iv. The rectory kitchen remodeling project is underway. Appliances and cabinets have been ordered.
- v. The repair and replacement of the rectory windows is to take place during the last week of January.
- vi. The statue of Mary, the gift of Immaculate Conception parish, needs to be cleaned and repaired. The statue, constructed of wood, is showing signs of rot and decay especially near the base.

- vii. A proposal was received from VoTech for repairs to the office ramp. After reviewing the submission, it was seen as only a temporary fix. Other bids will be sought, so that the repair work can be done this summer.
  - viii. Jim Carthew is checking on air conditioning units for the kitchen in Resurrection Hall. Air conditioning units for the hall proper will be the second phase of this project.
  - ix. The parish will be working with the City of Johnstown in terms of doing the preparatory work needed to hook into the city's new sewage lines, once they are installed.
  - x. The walls in the parish office are being studied. With the partitions gone, the best solution for segregating spaces might be the construction of hard walls.
  - xi. Jim Carthew and Ben Gagan will study engineering drawings as they relate to the repair of the Fourth Avenue sidewalk.
  - xii. Father George will be approached and asked his thoughts in regards to the *Rectory Review Report*. The report calls for the exterior of the rectory to be painted.
  - xiii. Repairs to the church pew kneelers are still under consideration. There is a company that manufactures kneelers to specification, but the cost is prohibitive, ranging from \$12 - \$28 per foot. The committee suggests that we do the work in-house with volunteers. There is a local company that could cut foam for us to size. Rick Pavic will research material alternatives. It is believed that we have some kneelers in storage with which the work can begin. This project will not begin until after Easter.
- g. Youth
- i. The *Bags of Blessings* collection, spearheaded by Lindsey Selan, is set to begin at our parish. This program, sponsored by Bishop McCort Catholic High School, collects and then provides take home food for children who have no access to meals on the weekends. The project will conclude before the end of Lent. A flier will be placed in an upcoming bulletin.
- h. Cemetery
- i. Certain fees have been increased and the local funeral homes having been notified of the changes. Increased cost for cemetery care is the reason. The four new fees are listed here:
    1. Securing a burial privilege for a parishioner \$250
    2. Securing a burial privilege for a non-parishioner \$300
    3. Opening a grave for burial of cremated remains \$600
    4. Opening a grave for casket burial \$900
  - ii. The monument at the entrance to St. Emerich cemetery has been repaired.
  - iii. Since the departure of Dorothy Simone, no cemetery manager has been chosen to take her place.

- i. Finance
  - i. No meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of February.
  - ii. Currently we have a family living in St. Anastasia Hall. A rental contract is being develop to outline and differentiate the obligations of the parish and from those of the renters.
  - iii. Under the Affordable Care Act, the diocese is now viewed as one entity. So as to standardize practices within the diocese, a Human Resource director has been hired. Some of the initial changes taking place include:
    - 1. Payroll throughout the diocese is being handled by an outside company, PayCor
    - 2. Job descriptions are being written and standardized throughout the diocese
    - 3. The definition of what differentiates an hourly employee from a salary employee has changed. Some parish employees' designation will be changed.

**VI. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. None.

**VII. Old Business:**

- a. No old business

**VIII. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. None.

**IX. New Business:**

- a. Taken from the remaining candidates nominated for selection on Pentecost 2015, Michelle Rager was chosen as the replacement for Eric Anderson.
- b. With seven Pastoral Council members having expiring terms this year, a Nominating Committee was formed to help find qualified replacements. The committee is composed of Terry Deitz, Alice Voytko, Lynn Popovich, and Barb Dryzal. Selection of this year's new Council members will follow the new guidelines as put forth by the recently revised Pastoral Council's bylaws.
- c. The next Pastoral Council meeting, scheduled for April 19, needs to be moved. Bishop Mark will celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on that night for our students. The rescheduled date is Tuesday, April 26. The committee meetings will move to that night as well.
- d. It was suggested that we share some of the accomplishment of Resurrection Parish with the larger community. An example would be the volunteer work used to remove the carpet and help to restore the floor in the church. Members felt that this was a good idea and suggested that the task be turned it over to the Communications Committee for execution. Alice Voytko will do the follow-up.
- e. It was mentioned that the diocesan pilgrimage scheduled for October 22 at Resurrection Parish is not mentioned on the diocesan web site. Additionally, the diocesan Catholic Life Day of Prayer is scheduled for the same day at Mount Aloysius. Father George said that he would make the appropriate inquiries.

- f. Father George spoke of the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA). He said by supporting this initiative, any funds obtained over our parish goal return to the parish. If we do well, these funds could be used to pay for all or part of the painting of the interior of the church.

**X. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. It was mentioned that the sign board posted at the front of the church still lists Father Alan as pastor. Apparently the keys to gain entry to the board are missing; so are the letters. Drilling the lock and replacing it might be the only option.

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

- a. Father George thanked everyone for their dedication to the parish. He also thanked everyone for making him feel at home at Resurrection Parish and making his job so easy.

**XII. Comments from the Parishioners:**

- a. None.

**XIII. Adjournment and Blessing:**

- a. At approximately 8:40 PM a motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The meeting concluded with the Council reciting the Doxology after which Father George bestowed his blessing.

**Upcoming Pastoral Council Meeting**

\* Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 7:30 PM

**Upcoming Standing Committee Meetings**

\* Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 6:15 PM

Submitted by  
George G. Pisula, Recording Secretary