

## **Saints Mary and Joseph Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes; Sept. 14th, 2017**

**Council Members Present:** Fr. Tom, Fr. Bill, Fr. Al, Deacon Jay Cormier; Steve Barretto, Jess Miller, Kristen Klecan, Lisa Ricci, Chris Raymond, Debbie Sarnie, Therese Vallario

**Council Members Not Present:** Tina Doherty, Deb Carney, Dawn Pavlini, Daniela Gomez

**Call to Order:** 7:17PM

**Opening Prayer:** Father Tom

**Guests:** 11:00 Choir from Mary Queen of Peace Church

The choir was in full attendance, united in word and spirit. Francine spoke clearly and eloquently about the importance of having strong leadership and direction for the MQP 11:00 AM Choir. They will, with the help of the Holy Spirit, be able to continue the ministry in the short term, but it is imperative that the parish look to find a suitable director if we are nurture and grow the choir, and to successfully continue the mission to encourage congregational singing and to grow as a community of disciples.

### **The property at 34 Main St.:**

The “yellow house” convent has been on the market for many months and has had many viewings with no offers. Upon conferring with experienced diocesan advisors, the price was reduced to better reflect market value. An acceptable offer has now been received. The potential buyer is a private family, and a Letter of Intent has been signed. The proceeds of the sale would be used for capital improvements at St. Joseph, and for paying off our loan to the diocese for the Mary Queen of Peace parking lot replacement.

After hearing the marketing history of the property, the council voted unanimously for the sale.

### **Old Business Updates:**

*Welcome Kits/Bags* (Kristen) nearly completed. Rosary beads are being discussed as part of the kit. Kristen to make a small change in wording on the blessing. Kristen will meet with Kay B. this month to discuss placement of kits and proper signage in the Narthex at MQP and St Joe’s.

*Ministries:* There was a discussion about our many parish ministries. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to inform/invite/advertise/promote our ministry efforts once per month as an “insert” into our weekly bulletin. This would be a double-sided insert with two ministries per side, such that four ministry efforts would be highlighted each month. This would also be promoted on our parish website, and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. It was not decided who would spearhead this effort, so we will need to define responsibilities.

*LED light bulbs at Mary Queen of Peace Campus* (Steve): We have tested a new LED bulb that has proven to meet all of our needs. Power consumption will be reduced from 9000w to 1200w when we replace all 30 bulbs. There are no energy rebates available for these bulbs, as they are very rare, but parishioner Tom Willis, manager at Standard Electric Supply, has negotiated with the manufacturer to reduce the price of the bulbs from \$3,000.00 to approximately \$1900.00. The Knights of Columbus have indicated that they will pay for the entire cost of the new LED bulbs. Thank you to the Knights and to Tom!

*Big Church Day Out:* Successfully held on Saturday, August 19th at Field of Dreams. Atonement (Brenda Terry’s 11:00 AM band at St Joe’s) opened the show, followed by a group from Centerpoint, then Sanctifying Grace from the St Joe’s 6:30 PM mass, and Kyle from the MQP 9:30 AM mass with his Anchor band. “Stand Up Salem” had a booth to educate the public about the existing drug problems in our community and held a successful raffle. Attendance was a bit down from last year, but Fr. Tom noted that while there may have been less attendees from the parish, it was most encouraging to see that many families who were at the adjoining playground area were

drawn to the music and the event. It was the intention of Big Church Day Out to reach out into the community and meet the people where they are, so in that regard it was quite successful.

*Jesus Matters!* Led by Deacon David (Steve/Jess): As reported last month, the domain name “jesusmattersnh.org” has been secured. Deacon David is now looking to hold a contest to see who can come up with the best logo/signage for the website and branding. Invitations will be on the website and in the bulletin, and Deacon David will be thinking about and asking for ideas about what we would want for the actual website content. Steve has a website-building company that will build the site as a tradeoff for some acoustical work to be performed at their facility. In lieu of that, Jess indicated that she has a friend that may be able to build the website at no cost to us at all. Jess to follow-up and report.

*New PC Badges:* were distributed at our PC meeting. The new color for PC badges is dark red. Fr. Tom will be writing an announcement for the masses to inform the parishioners that the people wearing the red badges are there to be the eyes and ears of the church. They are there to listen to any ideas or questions or concerns that the parishioners may have, and will act as a conduit between the parishioners and the Pastor and the Staff in order that everyone’s voice may be heard.

*Building a Community:* Potluck socials will be planned at both campuses. Perhaps monthly/quarterly, and open to all. We now have a large screen TV at the MQP hall and an antenna that will be able to broadcast the Patriots games. Perhaps we may look to host a game in the future, potluck with chicken wings of course, BYOB. The Social Subcommittee will also look into hosting an International Food Festival at both campuses, etc. (Debbie Sarni, Therese V. to continue with this effort)

### **New Business:**

*St. Michael the Archangel statue at Mary Queen of Peace:* A statue of St. Michael the Archangel statue was placed at Mary Queen of Peace for the month of September, to honor the month of the Holy Angels. Members of the congregation have asked that St. Michael be placed permanently in the church. The Council decided that, rather than addressing *ad hoc* the issue of statues, the Council and Liturgy Committee would prayerfully consider whether MQP would benefit from one or two new statues, and if so, which statues may be chosen as most helpful.

*Mass Celebration Times and Locations:* The parish currently has seven weekend masses. In the future, we will need to look at which masses may not have the best attendance and see if it may be prudent to combine the times/locations of some masses. Further discussion will be needed.

*Vision Statement:* We have an excellent Mission Statement, which is about *why* we exist. We need to develop a Vision Statement, which is about *what* can be in the future, about whom we are called to serve and how we may best serve them. Our Pastoral Council Retreat may help us to examine our Vision, and we will look to refine at our October PC meeting.

*Blessing Bags:* Lisa Ricci introduced this initiative last year, and Steve will check to see if Sue Levesque has made any significant progress on this project with the Faith Formation families. The bags are a large-size zip lock bags and contain items that could be handed out to a homeless person, someone in a shelter or in difficult circumstances. Items may be purchased at the dollar store and the expense for a parish, youth group, faith formation group or family to fulfill would be very minimal. For summer, the bag items could be sunglasses, a baseball cap, sunscreen, bug spray, Chap Stick, and hand sanitizer. For winter, the bag items could be a winter hat, gloves, sunscreen, Chap Stick, hand sanitizer, hand warmers, beef jerky, etc. Lisa and her son Lorenzo have had conversations with the Salem FD and Salem PD. It was decided that it would be best to contact Cathy Walton at the Town Hall, Human Services Division.

**Closing Prayer:** Father Bill at 9:03 PM