

**ST. AUGUSTINE**  
**SUMMARY OF PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING ~ March 20, 2018**

Fr. Rick opened in inspirational prayer. Silent roll call was taken with the following members present: Jamie Mescher, Jerry Droesch, Connie Schafer, Heath Hegemann, Therese Brown, Barb Blanco, Nancy Niekamp, Fr. Rick Nieberding and Cindy Wuebker.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Missions** - reported by Connie Schafer:

- Soup/Bread Luncheon was Tuesday, March 13. Sister Carolyn Hoying, C.P.P.S. was the guest speaker. Well received with many good comments. The mission commission gave her a check for \$500.00 and the free offering was \$940.00 which was also presented to Sister. Over 100 people in attendance. 34 crock pots of different homemade soups.
- Mission Commission members will be gathering Thursday and visit the parishioners of St Augustine and St Joseph who are shut-ins or the age of 90+. They will receive a small potted plant. 54 people will be visited.
- Some dates to save—parish garage sale will be July 16-17-18. Items can be brought to the hall on Sunday, July 15. The Taste & Toast will be Sunday, October 21, 2018.

**Building & Maintenance** – No report

**Finance** – submitted by Leslie Tyler

- On the Year to Date Financials through February, we are meeting expectations. The offerings are up over last year and over budget. On the expense side, we are considerably under budget on the capital expenditures, but many of these items were placed on hold as we were awaiting answers from the Spiritual Wellness Survey. As previously mentioned, \$90K will be invested with the Cemetery Roads and Foundations before the close of this fiscal year. HVAC work of approximately \$15K for new controllers on the chillers is currently in progress and up to \$7K has been approved for new Sound Boards in the back of church. Other projects being reviewed by Building & Maintenance will be included on the Quarterly Capital Report that will be published in the bulletin after the close of the quarter. Payroll taxes and Benefits are also under budget, but that is attributed to the change of employee status and their elections. All other line items are tracking.
- St. Augustine and St. Joseph parishes will be participating in a normal routine financial review by the Archdiocesan Auditors the week of April 16th, 2018. The following items will be reviewed and tested: collection reports, bank statements, payroll records, invoices, VIRTUS compliance (child protection program), minutes and more. The goal of the financial review is two-fold: Help the parish achieve their mission by accessing the effectiveness of internal control and recommending courses of action to improve performance. Further assure the safety of our young people. St Augustine and St Joseph welcome the Archdiocese. This collaboration ensures efficiencies and maintains a solid foundation for the stewardship that parishioners entrust upon St Augustine and St Joseph
- Thanks to the continued generosity toward the historic One Faith, One Hope, One Love campaign. Our parish's most recent rebate on February 2, 2018 was \$17,729.30. This brings St Augustine's total share to \$148,039.47. These monies will be used to strengthen the fund toward future capital improvements in the church. If all donations are made, St Augustine should receive a total of \$316K.
- St Joseph Parish is undergoing EPA work. The EPA reached out and determined St Joseph parish to be a "Found" Public Water System because the church serves water for human consumption to an average of at least 25 individuals at least 60 days of the year. St Joseph

Building & Maintenance and Parish Council are working with the EPA to ensure their parish meets all necessary requirements to be in compliance with the EPA. Other local parishes that are not on a Community Water System are undergoing this same process.

- Semi-Annual Interest from the Archdiocesan Green Certificates (aka CD's) were distributed on March 15th for the parish. The current interest rate is 2.3%

#### **Religious Education K-6** – reported by Therese Brown

- Lenten Mission, is going well. Monkey in my chair program. Baggies to be turned in during Holy Week and after, so we will see.
- Preparing for the Easter Liturgy with Children participating during the 11:00 Easter Sunday Mass. Children's choir will also be singing.
- This Saturday is the Jesus Retreat for 54, 2<sup>nd</sup> graders preparing for First Eucharist. This is a fun and formative morning with banner making, play acting the Last Supper and more.
- May 6 is First Eucharist
- This Summer I will be doing Bible Story Hour on the Thursday in June and July, I am asking for High School helpers.

#### **Religious Education 7-12** – reported by Barb Blanco

- Confirmation Mass ran smoothly. We had 59 students receive the Sacrament. Several parents have asked me to express sincerest gratitude to all involved. Request for 2019 Confirmation date has been submitted.
- Sophomore Cultural Diversity fieldtrip on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> went well.
- Sophomores have signed up for liturgical ministries. Roger will be working with lectors in April. Hal and I will be training Eucharistic Ministers; training begins on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Our annual House of Bread 8<sup>th</sup> grade class fieldtrip went well. We had twelve students and two parents participate.
- Met with Dr. Spencer and Brenda Boeke regarding junior high release time. The plan for next year is one 60 min. class a week on Thursdays.
- 5<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> grade ACRE assessments have been submitted. Should have results to report in the fall.
- 7-12 & Parish wide - Supporting St. Jude Children's Research Hospitals as Lenten Mission. They treat childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Connie & Ken did a wonderful job sharing their story at the Masses.
- Family Holy Hour - Fr. Nathan Cromly led a Family Holy Hour on March 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm-8:30pm. He gave a phenomenal talk on the Eucharist, the role of a man/father in the family and led us in meditation during the Holy Hour. Very well attended. Fr. Nathan also gave a talk at the Spiritual Center for religious educators & ministry leaders. Catechist in attendance received one credit in the Vocare system.
- VOCARE Online Certification Process: Current catechists (with no prior certification) have until June 30, 2018 to complete the required 10 credits for annual certification. Catechists having completed 10 credits to date are certified until June 30, 2018. Catechists who earned certification prior to Vocare and have completed their Transfer credit requirements are current and certified until June 30, 2019. The notable recent changes apply to brand new catechists. Archbishop Schnurr has approved the following revisions to Vocare requirements for new parish catechists.
  - Requirements for brand new catechist as follows:
    1. Year 1: 4 Vocare credits = the 4 -credit Call Foundations bundle (#1 of 3)
    2. Year 2: 6 Vocare credits = both 3-credit Call bundles (#2 and #3 of 3)
    3. Year 3 and following: 10 Vocare credits = begin Witness Badge

## **Cemetery – No Report**

### **Pastors Report – reported Fr. Rick Nieberding, C.P.P.S.**

- Parish Survey requested a rotation of committee members. Finance Committee is setting up a suggested guideline for its rotation. We as Parish Council will use the same set up. 4 year term limits are recommended. We be looking at ways to announce the open positions. If there is any interest we will invite those prospects to shadow a meeting.
- Parish staff is looking at compiling volunteer opportunities including committee seats. Once information is put together we will do a mass mailing and amp up the social media on getting people involved.

### **New Business**

- Jerry Droesch is looking to set up a new ministry for parishioners. He currently has three small groups of 5 people that he sends short, positive, bible based text to. The response has been amazing. We will add a “Digital Discipleship” to our list of volunteer opportunities.
- Cindy Wuebker reported that we will be overhauling the parish website. We are currently working on what we would like the site to do and gathering estimates.

**Adjourn:** Next meeting is April 17, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Parish Center.