

ST. AUGUSTINE
SUMMARY OF PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING ~ November 21, 2017

Therese Brown opened in inspirational prayer. Silent roll call was taken with the following members present: Heath Hegemann, Jamie Mescher, Pat Butler, Therese Brown, Steve Bruns, Ben Baumer, Ben Wehrman, Jerry Droesch, and Cindy Wuebker.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Missions- submitted by Connie Schafer:

- Angel program— 23 letters sent to families in Minster and received 18 replies. Assisting 12 foster children and also Sister Marge's needs of the elderly and working poor of her parish.
- Christmas Visitation—December 20th members will be visiting parishioners over 90 and shut-ins. Members will be baking cookies for the baskets.
- St Anthony dinner theatre-members and parishioners donated 30 baked goods for this annual event.
- Taste & Toast was very successful. 209 tickets were sold. 189 tickets were turned in at the door. Many positive comments. \$431.00 was collected from selling of the wine bottle couples.
- No longer offering Bingo at Heritage Manor Nursing Home on Tuesday afternoons. A big thank you to some of the women of the mission commission who have helped with bingo for over 15 years. Bingo is still being offered every Thursday and birthday bingo the last Thursday of the month.
- Members approved pledging \$500.00 for four years to the Legacy Fund at Maria Stein Relic Chapel. Our donation will be matched. The mission commission will be added to the Donor Wall.

Building & Maintenance – reported by Ben Baumer

- Steeple leaks have been repaired. We will continue to monitor this item.
- The outside of the North church windows have been re-painted.
- Looking into future projects: replacing the Hanover St sign & rectory sign facing the parking lot, polishing the church floors under the pews, bringing in a professional company to review our sound system, other cemetery projects(new roof on chapel, clean and tuck point chapel brickwork, center monument fence repaired/replaced, paint of the main entry fence).
- There will be now meeting in December. Next meeting will be January 23rd at 8:00 pm in rectory basement.

Finance –reported by Pat Butler:

- Spiritual Wellness Survey results for the Finance Committee were reviewed. The 2 areas that may be addressed on Phase 2 is Communication on how St. Augustine spends their funds and Committee/Volunteer Rotation.
- Archdiocese Audit set for April 2018
- Gift Acceptance policy in progress
- Piano in the front of the church was showing signs of a possible replacement. The piano tuning company suggested an internal humidifier, which we are testing for \$450. Signs are showing this may be solution. If not, we will look to our new Director of Music for suggestions to replace or not.
- Modified policy for wedding music. \$150 has historically been the dollar amount suggested for couples to pay the musician direct for weddings. Moving forward to keep the payment consistent and make it easier for the wedding couple, the couple will now make payment direct to St Augustine for this. St Augustine will pay this fee to the Director of Music on a quarterly

basis in the form of a bonus. Note that couples can elect to bring in their own music and no fee will be assessed.

- Preparing to send out the Reminder Letter for the Parish Assessment and Cemetery Dues in the first part of December. In general, we receive a little less than half of the total collected before we send out reminder and a little over half after the reminder letter is sent. On the Parish Assessment, we have received approximately \$21K thus far and typically receive \$50K. The Cemetery has received \$5600 and their total hovers between \$12-\$14K. The Cemetery breakdown of fees will be sent with the reminder letter this year.
- Don Kitzmiller will be rotating off the Finance Committee at the end of the year. We thank him for the generosity of his time in serving on the Finance Committee. Replacement will pursue in the upcoming month.

Religious Education K-6 – reported by Therese Brown

- I am looking for a 3rd grade Catechist to take over for the rest of the year. It is in the bulletin this week.
- Preparing for Advent and Christmas
- Working on responses to the Spiritual Wellness survey
- We have 2 Catechists that have finished a Badge in VOCARE.
- All liturgies, classes are going well.
- We are looking for sub-Bus drivers.
- Students have responded well to Rustic Hope Diaper Drive and the Thanksgiving Drive, we will not have collection of any kind at Christmas, we are encouraging families to participate in the Angel Program. Little Flowers will have the St. Jude's collection in memory of Maureen Meiring
- We will send Catechists letters to in December.

Religious Education 7-12 – submitted by Barb Blanco

- JH PSR - We addressed the topic of bullying again this year. A couple of parents contacted me with concerns. School administration has been advised, it is being addressed there as well. There are no major concerns at this time.
- Vocation Awareness - 8th grade students enjoyed their visit from Fr. Rick last week. They had an opportunity to ask questions about his vocation. 8th grade catechists had a follow-up session for discussion and Q&A.
- HS PSR Missions presentation will be held on Sunday, December 17th at the Halls of Hanover. Sacred Heart youth group (Jodie Blindauer), Lauren Roetgerman, Cassie Jutte, Erica Oldiges, Casey Blanco and Linda Thieman will share mission experiences.
- HS PSR resumes on Sunday, January 7th with Vocation Presentations at the Halls of Hanover with Fr. Dan Schmitmeyer and Fr. Stephen Dos Santos (tentative)
- Holy Hour for vocations went well. We had about 60-70 parishioners in attendance. Hope to grow attendance, particularly youth, in the future.
- Confirmation - Confirmation retreat ran smoothly. We had 58 sophomores from Minster and 1 student from Marion Community. 13 of our senior students did a fantastic job with skit, leading small group discussions and Mass ministries. Confirmation interviews are nearly complete. Special thanks to Carol McMaster for scheduling appointments and Fr. Rick, Deacons Hal & Roger, Alex Clune, Nancy Niekamp and Dan Klosterman for assisting with interviews. Confirmation practice is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17th @7pm. Archdiocesan liturgical plan was sent last week.
- VOCARE Online Certification Process - All catechists are registered on the system. There have been some minor technical difficulties. Overall positive response from everyone.

- CYSC – Catholic Youth Summer Camp registration took place on Oct. 1st. Camps sold out in less than 24 hours. Several students are on waitlist. Do not have current parish registration numbers as of yet. Camp staff members are currently working on expansion plans.

Cemetery – reported by Ben Wehrman

- Cemetery Board has reviewed the comments from the Spiritual Wellness Survey. Some of the items of concern were already in the works to be resolved.
- Major concerns to be addressed: new fence at entrance instead of wrought iron, replace railing around center monument, removal of 3 trees south of the barn, new roof on barn, applying weed killer 3 times per year, concrete sidewalks under markers in new section, low spots in cemetery to be filled, restoration of grave markers. Considering raising the cemetery dues to assist in cost of these items.
- Bids for resurfacing are in and work will begin in the Spring of 2018.

Nancy Niekamp – Parish Council President

- Nancy covered comments from the Spiritual Wellness Survey addressed to Parish Council. Four major concerns were brought to the council's attention: Lack of communication from the parish, the need for more parish activities to grow spiritually, rotation of committee membership, and the reverence of the Mass. Council members ensued in discussion on how to best address these issues to better serve the community. Discussion will continue in upcoming meetings. All parishioners are welcome to attend council meetings to address council with concerns.

New Business –

- Cindy Wuebker reported that the new music director will start Nov 29th with choir rehearsal and begin playing the first weekend of December. Annual Christmas Concert is set for December 17th at 7:00 pm.
- The Lima Symphony Orchestra will be performing “Baroque by Candlelight” on January 21st at 4:00 pm at St. Augustine Church.

Adjourn: Pat Butler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Heath Hegemann, motion passed. Next meeting is January 16, 2018 at 7:00 pm in Parish Center.