

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY
May 11, 2016 at 6:45 pm

Presiding: Fr. Joe O'Brien ***In Attendance:*** Cathy Bruno, Nick Bruno, Matt Heitker, Karen LaFrank, Frank Putallaz. ***Present:*** Eddie Trevino
Absent: Cathy Bellisario, Deacon Bill Dringus, Kevin Haggerty, Joe Slichko, Steve Wiech.

Opening Prayer by Fr. Joe O'Brien. Meeting began at 6:50 pm.

Review of Minutes

Old Business

New Business

Holy Spirit Community Building Project: Building Fund and Communications

The first round of letters have been sent out to donors. About a dozen parish families wish to pay sing credit cards. Fr. O'Brien and Steve Wiech have been in contact with a representative from NBT Bank to look at a way to enable credit card payments. We hope to have movement to report soon.

To date, some \$170,000 in pledges and gifts has been received. Two parish households withdrew their pledges several months ago. There have been no new withdrawals. One household contacted Fr. O'Brien to reduce their pledge from \$3,000 to \$2,000. We believe one pledge household has moved away. In another household the husband and the wife had died during the last year. Their children honored their parents' pledge. Based on the pattern of payments received so far, it is believed that over \$300,000 of the \$320,000 total of pledges and gifts will be received.

Last night's Facilities Planning meeting discussed how to plan for the remaining work to be done, first in the Church and then the Parish Center. Two particular areas were identified in the Church: the stained glass windows and heating and air conditioning. The Committee is looking to the stained glass windows; the initial bidder proposed repairs for all the windows at \$18,000 per window. Committee members looked at the windows and felt not all of the windows required the same level of repair. The Committee is looking for other bids to consider repairs for the windows requiring the most extensive work first. The Committee authorized Kevin Haggerty to proceed with contacting contractors and obtaining bids on both the stained glass and heating/air conditioning projects.

The Committee is planning to meet with the architect and begin the next steps of the project. The Committee wants to have work moving to completion in the Church and have all costs identified before proceeding with the Parish Center plans. The Parish Council is appreciative that work will proceed on the stained glass windows and the heating and air conditioning.

Finance report: Bishop's Appeal, the church and the school reports

Through the first two weeks of the Bishop's Appeal campaign, we have received about 90 pledges and gifts totaling \$21,000 towards our parish goal of \$62,700.

Matt Heitker gave a review of the April parish financial report noting that the parish is operating with a deficit because of the effects of the Building Project but once the project's effect is considered, the Parish is operating with a surplus of about \$2,000. While reporting on the School's results, the total shows a deficit of \$73,000 through the end of March: Unpaid PSA funds and NYS mandated service payments are anticipated which total over \$60,000. The NYS mandated services funds are generally received by the schools by March 31st.

School report

Joe Slichko was unable to attend our Council meeting but he did send a written report which was shared with the members. Attendance for September was a focal point of his report. Currently, he is waiting on parents to hear of their plans for the new year. 106 are registered for K/8 and 68 are registered for PreK 3/4. There is an Open House scheduled for June 1st and both Joe and the teachers are in contact with our school parents to encourage enrollment.

The School Finance Committee is holding workshop meetings to move towards preparing a new budget for '16/'17.

LIFT-Stewardship Day, May 21st

Stewardship Day is coming up in a week and a half. Council members were invited to attend, take part in Stewardship Day. Invitations are being sent to members of a variety of parish ministries, LIFT/faith formation registrants, sacramental preparation families and recent Confirmants.

Our day will begin with prayer and a commissioning. There will be many activities: Garden, Dresses for Africa, Sandwich making, clothing collection. Our day will close with Mass and a dinner in the gym. Bishop Scharfenberger will preside at our 4pm vigil Mass on the 21st.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 15th at 6:45 pm

Closing Prayer