

***Parish Pastoral Council Minutes  
Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY  
June 15, 2016 at 6:45 pm***

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

***Opening Prayer*** by Fr. Joe O'Brien. Meeting began at 6:45 pm.

***Review of Minutes*** The minutes were reviewed. Karen LaFrank made a motion to accept the minutes, Cathy Bruno seconded the motion. The motion passed.

***Old Business***

***New Business***

**Holy Spirit School report**

Joe Slichko offered a report on the state of Holy Spirit School:

--Holy Spirit School's current enrollment is 217, pre-k thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade. As of today's meeting our total enrollment for September is at 195. Joe indicates that currently there are 12 openings in the Pre-K 3's and 14 openings in the Pre-K 4's. Pre-K enrollments occur throughout the summer months.

--Pat Cahill, our Art teacher of over 25 years, will be retiring at the end of June.

We thank her for her contribution to our school over all these years. We are searching for an Art teacher.

--Joe Slichko offered a financial summary of school operations thru May 2016: the school is operating at a \$5,000 surplus; FACTS uncollected tuition is about \$1,000; uncollected tuition from families with 'special plans/circumstances' is about \$10,000. (Joe left the meeting, returning to Pat Cahill's retirement reception.)

**Holy Spirit Community Building Project: Building Fund and Communications**

Fr. O'Brien and Steve Wiech have been in contact with a representative from NBT Bank to look at a way to enable parishioners who wish to use their credit card for pledge payments. We hope to share this information with parishioners interested in using their credit cards to make pledge payments.

To date, some \$171,000 in pledges and gifts has been received.

The Facilities Planning Committee is proceeding to contact heating and air conditioning contractors and stained glass window repair and restoration providers to obtain bids for work in our church. We are looking to proceed with these improvements in the church before we move on to some improvements in the Parish Center early next year.

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. Even with this new work, the Committee seeks to stay within budget for the total project. The Committee seeks to keep the Council, the Finance Committee abreast of our current

status by sharing information at meetings, and with the parish community through notices in the newsletter and announcements at Mass.

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

For much of the year, we were reporting a deficit based on the impact of our parish Building Project. In May, we began to report income from our fund raising (gifts and pledges) as we incurred expenses in the building project. This reduced the parish deficit and helped to clarify our financial position. A review of our May financial reports showed the parish operating at a deficit of \$2,500 resulting from a decline in offertory income and an increase in health benefit costs. As the benefits costs are expensed quarterly, the deficit will be larger at the end of June, the end of fiscal year.

Through mid-June, the Bishop's Appeal campaign has raised \$41,000 in pledges and gifts towards our parish goal of \$62,700. This is slightly ahead of last year's pace.

### **LIFT report on Stewardship Day, May 21st**

Stewardship Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The day began with a prayer and commissioning for over 50 parishioners as they set out to participate in service throughout the community. This year, we marked our Stewardship Day as part of our 'Year of Mercy' celebrations. Council members were invited to attend, to take part in Stewardship Day.

In several projects of note, parishioners made over 1,000 sandwiches for an Albany men's homeless shelter and over 80 dresses were made to support the Little Dresses for Africa project. Bishop Scharfenberger presided at our 4pm vigil Mass and over 80 parishioners enjoyed dinner in the school gym, witnessing to their day of service.

### **Council Membership for the coming year**

Fr. Joe asked members if they wished to recommend other parishioners who might be good candidates to join our Parish Pastoral Council to contact him during the summer.

**Next meeting: on a September date to be determined**

**Closing Prayer**