

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes
Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY
March 9, 2016 at 6:45 pm

Presiding: Fr. Joe O'Brien **In Attendance:** Rocco Acquilano, Cathy Bellisario, Nick Bruno, Kevin Haggerty, Rick Hannmann, Frank Putallaz, and Steve Wiech. **Absent:** Cathy Bruno, Deacon Bill Dringus, and Joe Slichko.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm. Fr. Joe O'Brien opened the meeting with prayer. The January minutes were reviewed (there was no meeting in February). Rocco Acquilano motioned to accept the minutes as is and Kevin Haggerty seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes was passed.

Special Item

Rocco Acquilano addressed the Council to inform them that he was stepping down from the Parish Pastoral Council after 23 years. He said that it has been a pleasure serving the parish and the Council. He felt that things were in good hands and it was time to retire. Members of the Council expressed their thanks and gratitude for all he had done, especially through the Social Action Ministry.

Old Business

None

New Business

Holy Spirit Building Project

- Fr. Joe O'Brien stated that a letter to parishioners who made pledges to the Building Project will be mailed over the next week to ten days. Over \$40,000 was received from parishioners from December through February. Kevin Haggerty anticipates that most parishioners will make pledge payments (monthly, quarterly, annually) and we would borrow from the diocese, as needed and when needed, to proceed with the knowledge that pledge funds received by the end of the renovations would repay the diocese.
- The Facilities Planning Committee will meet during April to review the updates in the church and the expenses to consider the scope of the work that can be done in the Parish Center. The original budget for the church renovations was \$100,000 but, with work on the church's heating and air conditioning system, the budget will be about \$140-150,000 once completed. The Parish Center work will be done with remaining funds. The earliest timeframe for the Parish Center renovations will be late fall of this year.
- Cathy Bellisario brought up the need to repair the stained glass windows. After some discussion among the members, Kevin Haggerty said that he will bring this to the Facilities Planning Committee. The one estimate the Committee received indicated that each window would cost \$18,000 to repair.

Parish Finance Report

- Finding a successor to Bernie Rizzo, our parish and school accountant.
Fr. Joe O'Brien stated that the Search Committee has considered four candidates and interviewed three. In addition, a local CPA firm has also contacted the parish to express interest in performing this work. Fr. Joe said that after some discussion, the Search Committee would prefer to work with an individual rather than a firm. Fr. Joe said the committee is ready to extend an offer to a candidate. If this candidate accepts the position, they may have the opportunity to work together with Bernie for a short time to learn our procedures.
- Finance reports for December and January for the church and school were distributed and reviewed by Council members.

School Report

Principal Joe Slichko was unable to attend the meeting. An Open House will be held this weekend for Holy Spirit School. Enrollment for the 2016/17 school year has begun.

LIFT report

Deacon Bill Dringus is currently returning from the Philippines in transit back to the US from the Philippines. February LIFT was on held Super Bowl Sunday afternoon, 130 attended.

Vicariate and deaneries

A first meeting, an organizational meeting, of our local vicariate was held in late February.

Next meeting is April 13 at 6:45am.

Closing prayer was led by Fr. Joe at 8:20 pm. Our next Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 13th at 6:45 pm.