

***Parish Pastoral Council Minutes  
Church of the Holy Spirit, East Greenbush, NY  
September 29, 2016 at 6:45 pm***

***In Attendance:*** Cathy Bruno, Nick Bruno, Deacon Bill Dringus, Kevin Haggerty, Rick Hannmann, Fr. Joe O'Brien, Steve Wiech.

***Absent:*** Cathy Bellisario, Matt Heitker, Karen LaFrank, Frank Putallaz

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

***Review of Minutes*** The June 2016 minutes were reviewed and accepted by the Council.

***Old Business***

***New Business***

**Finance Report**

**Church of the Holy Spirit**

The Church ended the 2015/16 fiscal year with a deficit of \$7,703, compared with a surplus of \$2,419 for the 2014/15 fiscal year. Offertory income declined \$5,360 last fiscal year while employee health benefits increased by \$12,783. There was a discussion of reviewing the need for an increased offertory program. There was interest in an increased offertory program but some concern on the potential impact upon capital campaign. It was thought that this could be better received as we neared the end of the capital campaign. The Council would seek the advice of the Finance Committee as the year continues.

**Holy Spirit School**

The School ended the 2015/16 fiscal year with a \$5,100 surplus. The school's finances and enrollment are stable. Unpaid tuition from the preceding year is approximately \$8,000.

The Council entered executive session for a discussion, emerging a few minutes later.

**Holy Spirit School**

Fr. O'Brien introduced Michael Kosar, our new Holy Spirit School principal, to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council. Michael comes to us from the faculty of the Blessed Sacrament School in Albany. He has a BA in History Education from Siena College and holds a MA in History and Political Science from the College of St Rose. He is in the process of completing his certificate in educational administration through the College of St. Rose.

Mr. Kosar thanked the Council for their welcome and he shared that he had long admired Holy Spirit School and finds it a wonderful opportunity to serve as principal here. He discussed the filling of faculty positions for the beginning of the school year. Current enrollment is at 216.

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

After reviewing the process for parishioners who wished to use their credit cards to pay their pledges, Fr. O'Brien and Steve Wiech have resinded the method offered by Trans

First, a subsidiary of NBT Bank. Instead, letters went out to parishioners inviting them to use Vanco, our current online offertory provider, to process their pledge payments. To date, some \$187,000 in pledges and gifts has been received.

The Facilities Planning Committee has selected two contractors to replace our heating and air conditioning units in the church and to repair two stained glass windows and two ventilators in the church. We are looking to proceed with these improvements beginning in October before we meet with our architect, Paul Mays, to consider some improvements in the Parish Center early next year.

### **LIFT report**

The new LIFT year is underway with our recently concluded September gatherings. Our LIFT topic for the new year is Prayer. Laura Countryman could not be here for tonight's meeting but she provided a written report for Council members on the direction of the new year and September events. Fr. O'Brien invited Council members to come to LIFT to experience our parish's intergenerational faith sharing as a chance to grow in faith and see for themselves how our parishioners have been experiencing this program.

### **News on St. Mary's in Nassau**

Fr. O'Brien reported that last Friday, St. Mary's Church in Nassau was struck and damaged by a motorist who was alleged to be driving under the influence. Fr. O'Brien has been in contact with Fr. Close, St. Mary's sacramental minister, to see if Holy Spirit could be of any assistance. Fr. Close appreciated the offer and would contact us if our assistance would be helpful.

**Next meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 6:45 pm**

**Future meetings: Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm**

**Closing Prayer**