

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Bridget's Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Ryan Miller, Chairperson. Fr. Jerry said an opening prayer.

The following is a list of who was present at the meeting:

Ryan Miller, Bob Casey, Katy Pupungatoa, Deb Cernohous, Linda Romberg, Lola Higgins, Jeanne McCoy (for Tom Westerhaus), Fr. Rich, Jesse Gilles, Sue Steckbauer, Fr. Jerry Harris, Vicki Cobian, Roxanne Lovell-Olson.

**Approval of Minutes and Agenda:** The minutes from the September 11, 2018 Parish Council meeting were reviewed and one change was needed. On page 3 in the Faith Formation Committee paragraph, fifth line, should say – “Amy, who works with both middle and high school grades, would like to present a Living Stations of the Cross program and would also like to have a Christmas program on December 16<sup>th</sup>.” Katy Pupungatoa made a motion to approve the corrected September 11, 2018 meeting minutes. Debbie Cernohous made a second to the motion. It was the unanimous decision of the Parish Council to approve the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance Committee:** Bob Casey reported the committee reviewed monthly financial statements but it is early in the fiscal year. The adult envelope contributions are down a bit compared to last year at this time. Maybe some people have changed their weekly contributions to a lump sum. They will look at this item more in November. There will be an internal audit procedures workshop held in Amery on November 16<sup>th</sup> that several people from St. Bridget will be attending including representation from the pastors, church staff, trustees, and finance council. The committee discussed the possibility of using credit cards to purchase SCRIP. There would be a 3 percent additional charge for the parishioner but it might create more purchases. The committee discussed the solar panel project – nothing has been decided except the fact that the cost will not come out of parish budget money. It will not be done unless all money needed is raised first.

**Social Justice Committee:** Katy Pupungatoa reported for the committee. There are two people that resigned from the committee so they are looking for additional members. They meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the library (will not meet in November). There were no formal requests so the committee reviewed their pre-approved tithing list. They recommended approving the following tithes.

Fr. Jerry's Emergency Fund, to be used at the pastor's discretion for requests from people for emergency circumstances such as rent, heat, automobile needs, etc. - \$1,000

Catholic Relief Services to assist victims of Hurricane Michael - \$1,000

Ecumenical Asylum Committee to assist immigrants with support, food, etc. - \$500

**MOTION** – A motion was made by Jesse Gilles to approve the three tithing recommendations. Vicki Cobian made a second to the motion. It was the unanimous decision of the Parish Council to approve this motion.

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Jesse Gilles gave a report for the committee. Scott stated he would like to step out of the committee. Sue suggested they meet with the past members to review what they put together and get their opinion of how things are progressing. Jesse and Sue met to go over the Strategic Planning Spreadsheet and looked at what has been completed and what should be next. They will contact original members to see if they will come back to review the plan. Sue sent them an email and so far received one response that said yes. They will work on getting the committee together. A lot of the plan has been completed but there is constant revision.

**Facilities Planning Committee:** There was not a report for this committee.

**School Committee (Education Committee):** Jeanne McCoy gave a report for the committee. She expressed her gratitude to the Parish Council members for the work they do. The committee is updating their strategic plan ideas. They received from the diocese a four year grant. The Marketing Subcommittee is working on revising the page of Four Great Things About St. Bridget, which was originally made in 2016, and using as a marketing tool to promote St. Bridget School.

The Communications Matrix will be an ongoing process to keep updated, gone thru month by month. Next year's Gala will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Gala planning group will meet again on October 23<sup>rd</sup> for taste testing to decide on food. The wreath and poinsettia sale will be going on until October 22<sup>nd</sup> – they need volunteers to sell products after upcoming masses. The school is still looking for a music teacher. The art teacher position had two applicants and they will be interviewed later this week. They also will have 3 interviews for the position of kitchen help for the hours of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Amy and two teachers will be helping with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade retreat when they go to the Dunrovin Christian Brothers Retreat Center. The middle school grades are doing Celtic Games for a fundraiser to the charity they chose, Coco's Dog Rescue. October 25<sup>th</sup> will be Grandparents' Day with a church prayer service followed by music and a reception. October 26<sup>th</sup> will be the diocesan fall conference celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Catholic catechism (new version).

**Liturgy:** Deb Cernohous reported the committee did not meet.

**Religious Education/Faith Formation Committee:** Vicki Cobian gave a report for the committee. They discussed the mug project, where they fill a gift mug with treats and give to each catechist at their birthday to show appreciation. Diane and Tessa shared their relief and thanks for the abundance of volunteer catechists. It has been the best response ever with more men and more married couples. There are 356 students enrolled from 188 families. 86 of them registered online. The youth rally held last Wednesday was very successful. Tessa coordinated the event with Fr. David Neuschwander speaking, music adoration, pizza and games. Several area parishes participated.

**Spirituality/Stewardship Committee:** Lola Higgins gave a report for the committee. They went over the feedback on the women's retreat that had 49 women attend. The overall response was very positive and it went really well. There were 26 people that attended the yoga devotion. The Labyrinth went very well and was asked if we could do it again. It is planned again for March 18<sup>th</sup>. We have an Eagle Scout parishioner looking for a project and they would like to put a permanent Labyrinth on the grounds next to church. The Small Christian Communities will be held before Lent for six weeks. There will be somewhat like a "Renew" program that was held a few years ago. We will be bringing in the ARISE program. There will be Webinar for ARISE to get trained and running. On the first Sunday of Advent there will be a 4pm service for reflection with a simple meal. The committee talked about an adult mission trip to Columbia and will move forward with the Life in the Spirit planning in January. They also have two book studies going on.

#### **Pastor/Administrator Report and Discussion Items**

- Listening Groups – Fr. Jerry and two other churches are holding a gathering for whoever wants to attend as a listening, question, answer session regarding clergy abuse.
- We Lack For Nothing Book – Fr. Jerry commented that the church staff and other small groups are also discussing this book. Jesse commented that with being involved with planning, this book was almost the same as us and what we are doing. Lola commented that everyone should read this book, it would help with understanding. Sue commented that regarding the Strategic Plan we went deeper than what the author stated and shared that we need to look past that 22 percent of people that we are reaching with conventional methods. Fr. Rich commented we need to think about what the church wants and that is to grow in faith. We need to do what the church wants as a group. Vicki feels that the church's priorities are always the same and it is hard to make a change. The priest and parish should grow together but these days, people shop around for a fit instead of wanting to compromise any. Sue felt we need to offer spiritual growth opportunities for ALL people to feel welcome in church with different options. Fr. Jerry asked everyone to read the next chapter for discussion at our next meeting.
- Staff Review – Fr. Rich is meeting with staff individually to see what the job duties are where they are spending time. He will look over job descriptions and become more involved with ministries.
- Solar Panel Update – Fr. Jerry said the committee is deciding how the solar panel project will be presented to the parish. They need to create some type of brochure about the benefits of solar to the church and how it will work to purchase a panel "in honor of" or "in memory of". The Finance Committee doesn't feel all questions have been answered yet and there needs to be another meeting of the committees together. The Finance Committee also has concerns about having enough "reserve" funds to cover any extra costs. Ryan asked about the possibility of doing a smaller program now – maybe install half the panels now and set up a plan for installation. Maybe in five years do more and they might be cheaper and more efficient. Fr. Jerry will take the ideas and questions back to the Solar Panel Committee. They need to put together a written report for us and maybe present it in November.

- CSA Update – Sue reported that we are treading lightly and haven't done as much promoting this year – not putting a notice in the bulletin and not talking about it at masses. We have about \$50,000 and at this time in 2016 only had about \$41,000. Parishioners seem to understand CSA more now over the past few years and are more likely to contribute.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

“Formed” (Netflix-like Program) – Fr. Rich is working on making available to parishioners the online “Formed” program – it is like Netflix but made for church programs. It will be funded by the Joany Fund and cost \$1,850 per year for both our parishes. Debbie commented that she was at another parish on the eastern side of Wisconsin and they were promoting and talking about it. It will begin around All Saint's Day.

### **Upcoming Parish Events:**

- October 9th – First Senior Gathering
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – Spanish Mass (Hammond)
- October 16<sup>th</sup> – Soup and Bread
- October 16<sup>th</sup> – Eucharistic Holy Hour for Peace
- October 18<sup>th</sup> – Picture Retake Day
- October 25<sup>th</sup> – Grandparents' Day (School)

The next Parish Council Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, 2018. Fr. Jerry ended the meeting with prayer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Lovell-Olson, Recording Secretary