

Parish council meeting May 9, 2016

Parish Council members present: Father Jim Gallagher, John Carey, Clarke Scott, Skip Vierretha, Phyllis Stanga, Kathy Perri, Jane Coates, Phil Hoover, Gerry Caprario and Cathy O'Callaghan

Several parishioners were also present.

John Carey opened the meeting at 7:00 with a modified passage from Ephesians 1:17-19,

The message delivered in the reading is "God has a plan for us, it is often difficult to let God have the reins." A great reminder before our Parish Council meeting where we try to put the needs and wishes of the Parish above our own.

John turned the meeting over to Father Jim Gallagher for his report.

**Pastor's report:**

Father asked for foreign language speakers for Pentecost.

Father recently completed two calendar planning sessions and the calendars from both parishes are being combined.

In the future, Father will list the upcoming Parish socials and people can sign up to chair or assist at the social of their choice. Father Jim noted that there were many opportunities for adult formation and we are adding the "Lack of Talent Show" to our social calendar.

June 5th - Gerry Caprario will talk about repairs and maintenance after communion.

Other ministries will have other Sundays during the summer to try to involve more parishioners in their ministry.

Prayer night was a great success. Father Jim thanked all of those who made the evening possible. It even allowed the new Chief of Police from Altavista to visit and be welcomed by the St. Victoria's parish and community. Father noted that he will be writing the column for the Altavista Journal for May and June.

Father Jim reminded us that Deacon Chris Barrett starts work on July 1st, he will be here on Sundays, visit some homebound parishioners and attend RCIA on Thursday nights. Father is advertising in the Altavista journal and it's sister papers for candidates for the RCIA program. Deacon Chris will also do some July adult formation classes.

Father Jim recognized the hard work of David Van Donsell and Brenda Michaels in getting the budget together. Father Jim will be asking for money at Nazareth church in Roanoke as he does his annual mission church outreach. This year he will split the money he receives between us and OLP.

Our parish did well supporting the Bishop's appeal and Living Our Missions. Both fundraisers surpassed our goal set by the Diocese and generated funds for the parish.

Father will be glad to provide tickets to The Little Mermaid performed by Holy Cross school. Performances will be held at Lynchburg college. Dates will be in the bulletin, the end of May.

June 2 will be graduation at Holy Cross, the burial of Father Jim's, aunt Ruth, and a wedding for Daniel Lavoie and his fiancé Sarah. Just like life, beginnings and endings all in the same weekend. We wish Father Jim a safe and fulfilling weekend as he participates in so many milestone events.

There were some music concerns from the parish. Several parishioners attended the meeting to voice their concerns. On a recent Sunday, Tess and Romaine chose to have responses, including the Our Father, sung in Latin. Some parish members did not like having all of the music in Latin, they felt it made the mass seem less inclusive. Discussion followed. It was suggested that as new songs and versions are introduced that the musician and cantor lead the parish. Father told the history of music at St. Victoria's. Cathy and Kathy commented that we are lucky to have so many talented people volunteer their time to rehearse and contribute during mass. Jane suggested that other parishioners who are interested in the music for the mass attend liturgy planning. Most music decisions are made at liturgy planning meetings.

The resolution seemed to be agreeable to all. Tess was just trying something different. She realized it was not popular and will not repeat the All Latin Experience. John reminded parishioners that an All Latin mass is celebrated twice monthly at Our Lady of Peace. Members of the Parish realize they have a way to influence the mass, attend the liturgy planning meetings. All agreed that resolving conflicts quickly and not allowing them to divide the parish is crucial and one of the main reasons the Parish Council was formed. The council thanked the parishioners who attended and invited them to any and all meetings in the future.

### **Old business:**

We revisited the proposed parking lot projects. The choices presented at the March meeting were to pave the lower lot or to construct an additional handicapped parking lot in front of the rectory.

Carmen Perri was able to get some quotes for the projects. Gerry is trying to close out his work with repairs and maintenance. He does not have the time to oversee this project. Quotes received suggest that paving for bottom lot would be \$20,000. Paving alone for the top lot would be \$14,000. With tree removal, grading, ramps and railings the top Handicapped Parking Lot project will be about \$30,000. Father will follow up on getting a grant from the diocese. There is also a member of the parish who will contribute to either project.

John moved that we move forward with the handicapped parking lot depending on financial commitments. Clarke Scott seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

John challenged the group with the question "What would you like to do as a parish council?" One suggestion was to Post the agenda on the website and on the bulletin board to encourage involvement of the parish. This may require holding the executive meeting two weeks before the actual meeting to allow adequate notice for those wanting to attend.

Having a Parish Facebook page was discussed and decided against due to lack of control of content.

Ladies Guild does not meet in the summer. However, they are always eager and able to help the parish and the community. The ladies' guild will

be able provide a desk and file cabinets for Deacon Chris's office should the request in the bulletin not turn up any good contributions of gently used items. Phyllis said that the adult formation is on summer break and both Phyllis and Bob will be attending conferences.

Gerry reported that there was a fire in the stove. He is going to investigate it. November 16<sup>th</sup> will be Gerry's last day as our fulltime volunteer Repair and Maintenance Chairman and staff. He pointed out that he does a lot more than repairs and maintenance. He suggested that we appoint a building and grounds manager to check doors, supplies, and be here when contractors come to do work. Then the volunteer person for repairs and maintenance would come under this person. He felt that the Building and Grounds Manager would be a time commitment of about an hour a week. It was suggested that Gerry needs to market his requests for replacements. He noted that he has already spoken to a few individuals. Cathy noted that it obviously would take several parish members to replace the many jobs that Gerry does for St. Victoria's.

Parish workday is September 17th and the picnic is September 18th.

Justice and peace report: Dawn is still requesting volunteers. Clarke also noted that the local literacy group is working with a lot of spouses of Liberty students. They are always looking for new volunteers. There was a request to please add new parishioners to the directory in a more timely fashion. Janet will be finishing up the list and we will print the new directory within the month. It was suggested that in the future we please add an addendum page to the directory, perhaps every six to nine months as new parishioners are welcomed into the parish.

Becky Pitsenbarger suggested that the closing blessing at mass be amended to include "Go forth to serve the Lord and one another." Father said that he will begin that after concluding the Easter season.

Father led us in a Version of the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy O'Callaghan, secretary