

Parish council July 11, 2016

Members present: Father Jim Gallagher, John Carey, Kathy Perri, Gerry Caprario, Jane Coates, Phil Hoover, Clarke Scott, Phyllis Stanga, Ed Rooney, Sal Ferlise, Skip Vierrether, and Cathy O'Callaghan

John Carey called the meeting to order at 7:05.

John chose a very powerful prayer 'I asked God' in response to what is happening in the world today. The prayer reminds us that God always hears our prayers, but the way he answers them is not always the way we expect.

Pastors Report: Father Jim shared the report from Dawn. For the first quarter of 2016, 872 people were served at an approximate cost of \$113,000 worth of food given out.

Our Lady of Peace now serves food once a month and opens a food pantry once a week in coalition with Daily Bread in Lynchburg. Beginning July 14th Daily Bread will offer a weekly meal in the Dawn parking lot and you can drive through and pick up your lunch. This will start at once a week and progress to twice a week. Grants have provided the money for this project.

Sister Patricia McCormack will provide a conference to Catechists and Parents, at Holy Cross on August 20th, from 10-3pm. Deacon Chris will have a conference for Liturgical ministers on Saturday, August 27th from 10-3pm.

Father spoke about visiting Notre Dame and some of the special places that he was able to see. Father Jim was visiting Notre Dame with the principal and teachers from Holy Cross for a presentation on how to recruit Hispanic students and allow grants to help pay for their tuition. This is called the Segura Initiative. He also met a group of students involved in the Ace Program which at Notre Dame allows students who graduate to teach in poor rural areas for a few years in exchange for free graduate school. Father shared wonderful pictures from his trip.

Father's take away from the conference was the need to do more outreach to students and to further the connection with Notre Dame and tap into the energy and enthusiasm for the faith that the young people of that campus have.

Father has the sheet for the social events and is still collating the results of sign ups.

Father Jim did not have a financial report from Living our Mission, we did surpass our goal for the Bishop's Appeal.

Father Jim wants to wait until the next diocese grant time to apply for funding for the parking lot project. Our first grant was not approved as it contained estimates instead of actual quotes from contractors. This rejection may be an example of the way God answers our prayers by giving us what we need rather than what we think we want as this led to a discussion on placement of the lot and the wishes of the parish in general regarding the project. After a lengthy discussion the following was proposed:

Invite people to Parish Council meeting on September 13th to find out more about the project and voice opinions and concerns. The blacktop project will probably take \$30,000 out of capital improvement. We also have some funds from an anonymous donor.

Beginning next September, 2017, we will have a Saturday night mass. Proposed times will be 6 in winter, 7 in summer. Yeah!

Father Jim will be away August 4-12, Father Dan Vane will be here. Father will also be away on August 29-September 4th.

Thursday night, July 7th, there was a mass for the Brookneal parish and Jane said it was appreciated by the former parishioners of St. Elizabeth's from Brookneal. Turnout was great and those involved had a wonderful time worshipping together and reconnecting. Jane thanked Father for organizing this important outreach and Father Jim credited Jane Coates and Marilyn Thurman for their help in pulling it off.

Reports from Other Ministries:

Bob Stanga and Phyllis Stanga reported on some conferences they have been attending. The first conference was led by Sister Rupp, the topic was compassion. The presentation impacted both Phyllis and Bob and they would be glad to share some highlights and suggested readings. The other conference was led by Father Renninger about song and the parts of the mass.

Bob reiterated that the retreat series about Pope Francis will help pull together everything the year of mercy means to Catholics. The series will be presented to our parish at a Saturday conference at a later date. Bob would like to invite the people of OLP to attend.

Father Jim thanked Janet Caprario and Marge Ferlise for their work on the directory.

After Gerry retires as our Repair and Maintenance King in November, Carmen Perri and Paul O'Callaghan will tag team the repair and maintenance portion of his job. A Buildings management chairperson will be announced at a later date, there is an interested party at this time. Yes it takes at least 3 people to replace all that Gerry has done for our parish the past decade and a half.

John is suggesting that the two parish councils meet together to have a joint retreat with the Parish Council of OLP. Several years ago a joint retreat was led by Deacon Chis at Tabor house and Father Jim and Cathy remember it as a very positive experience. All agreed and John will look into finding a time to add it to the calendar. Bob suggested that a joint conference be opened up to LPA in the future. This would bring in ideas from all nearby parishes.

Luke will be passing on the reins of youth minister as he turns 21 and officially joins the adult world. It was suggested that we will take a break from that position as there are few teens in the parish at this time.

Cathy had no report from Ladies' Guild as they take a break in the summer. Clarke had no additional report on Justice and Peace, he thanked Father and Phyllis for providing the information on Dawn.

Gerry's report: Gerry has been working on getting a phone line for Deacon Chris, he is also working on getting the parking lot lights timed correctly. The new faucet in the kitchen needed tweaking, this may have been completed by Jane Coates after the meeting, go Jane! There is an ice maker in the hall purchased by the ladies guild, the manual is on the machine and Gerry requested a copy for his files. The machine is easy to use and can be programmed to start making ice at a certain time and run for several hours.

Ed thanked John for keeping the website updated. John, Father Jim and Phil now meet with the executive council a month before the Parish Council meeting so that the agenda can be on the website.

Ed noted a web site excelsi dei to purchase Latin missals and prayers. Ed also noted a website named www.Canonlawmadeeasy.com This website gives information that is easy to read and understand about many church topics. He also put in a song request to Jane for *Holy God We Praise They Name*.

Deacon Chris is putting a bio together for the website. John is putting together a cheat sheet about what the roles of a Deacon are for those unfamiliar with the ministry of Deacon. This will be a bulletin insert in the future.

Phil, Sal and Cathy will be up for reelection. Cathy will handle nominations after the September meeting and election before the November meeting.

Mike Cassidy will help with the trash and we are going down to one barrel to stop the animals and insects. It will also improve the look of the hall. Some barrels may be put in the carport area to hold recyclables.

Father Jim set the executive meeting for August 15th after Holy night mass.

Father led us in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cathy O'Callaghan, secretary.