**Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes**

**February 2024**

February 6, 2024 - The meeting was called to order in the Birch Library at 7:03 PM.

The Opening Prayer was led by Father Chuck.

**Members Present:**

Fr. Chuck, Deacon John, Deacon Jerry, Deacon Mike, Rick Heiland, Terri Horrigan, Olusola Falodun, Robyn Jacobs, Doug Koch, Gloria Murray, Steve Browning

**Members Absent:** Mic Griben, Cris Upperman

**Minutes**

A motion to approve the January minutes was made by Doug and seconded by Olusola. It was approved unanimously.

**Communications**

There were no communications relating to the Pastoral Council.

**Pastor’s Report**

* Father Chuck reported that notices explaining the Archdiocese’s Chapter 11 were sent to the parish.
* This year’s Annual Appeal has begun, and the theme is *“FAITH IN ACTION.”* As in the past, once our parish meets its goal, the remaining funds raised goes directly to our parish.
* Our Friday Lenten Meal will begin on Friday, February 20, 2024, from 5-7 PM. It will run every Friday through Lent and will end the Friday before Good Friday. Volunteers are needed to help make this a successful event for our parish.

**Education Committee –** Presented by Terri Horrigan

Elementary Religious Education **–** Stacy Wright

* On February 9th, the children will be making cards and crafts, and these “gifts” will be given to residents at Sunrise of Frederick.
* March 15th will be the children’s Stations of the Cross.
* Stacy is in the planning stages of Vacation Bible School, which will be held June 17-21. The theme this year is “*Scuba.”* She is welcoming volunteers to help with this program. People can sign up to help through signup genie on flock notes.

Youth Ministry – Kevin Parker

* The new year began with a family potluck dinner, where roughly 150 attended.
* We took thirty-four teens to Mount2000 this past weekend. As always, the retreat was a great hit and a moving experience for all.
* Super Bowl Sunday Subs will be on sale after each Mass this weekend, February 10th - 11th.
* As always, Bishop Parker will be celebrating Confirmation Mass this year May 10, 2024. Fun fact: One of our Confirmandi, who is also enrolled in RCIT, will be coming into the Church at the Confirmation Mass. Therefore, Bishop Parker will also be baptizing him and giving him first communion! He is friends with several of our teens in ANCHOR, who evangelized and invited him to our parish!

Adult Education – Carolyn Nolan

* RCIA Rites of Sending and Election will be celebrated on February 18; retreat day is February 24.  We have three candidates being received into the Church at the Easter Vigil this year.
* New adult ed class on *Heroic Virtue* is off to a great start with forty people participating.
* Church Chat will be offered on Sunday mornings during Lent with the topic: *Forgiven – The Transforming Power of Confession.*
* Marriage Enrichment opportunity for Spring is being created.
* Ageless Ventures Super Seniors continue to meet monthly for social, spiritual, and educational enrichment.
* Cemetery excavation and replotting the new (and last) section is complete.

**Finance Committee** – Presented by Mic Griben

* Income is up from last year.

**Health and Safety** **Committee -** Presented By Rick Heiland

* Rick stated that the County Council met in January at City Hall in Frederick. Libertytown City Council was present at this meeting and Rick attended it on behalf of St. Peter’s. Rick reported that during this meeting, there was a motion to update the sidewalks in Libertytown, and this motion was approved.
* The next Health and Safety meeting is February 27, 2024.

**Liturgy Committee –** Presented by Dcn. John

* Committee met on Monday, January 8th.
* Deacon John reported that the attendance at this year’s Christmas Masses was up by four hundred people from the last year.
* This year’s Layman’s Retreat was successful and there were many positive comments from those who attended.
* Feast of St. Blaise – Feb. 3rd (Sat.): As this feast falls on a Saturday, Father agreed to do the “Blessing of the Throats” that weekend (2/3-4) after all Masses. Deacon John once again offered to come over to the elementary religious education classes & bless the throats of the children and teachers between the Masses.
* Archdiocesan Reflection Day for Liturgical Ministers – Sat., 3/2 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm) Sherri Slattery brought this retreat to the committee and reminded them that last year, it was held at St. Michael’s in Poplar Springs (Mt. Airy). Even though it is in Towson this year, she recommended it, and she hopes that many of the ministry leads can attend. (She will forward the email to ministry leads so that they can send the info to the liturgical ministers.)
* The next Liturgy meeting is March 11, 2024.

**Maintenance Committee** – Presented by Doug Koch

* Doug commented that there was nothing to report.
* Father gave an update on the Church doors. He said that we are moving closer to having a contract signed. Because the doors are custom doors, this complicates the project, but we are moving in a positive direction.
* Fr. Chuck also mentioned that there was a slight gas leak in Sappington Hall and this leak has been fixed.
* Lastly, Ryan is replacing lighting panels in the church.

**Social Concerns Committee** – Presented by Robyn Jacobs

* The committee met on February 1, 2024.
* Environmental Effort: With guidance from the Pastoral Council, we discussed recycling at the parish. Deacon Jerry reported he checked with Frederick County recycling, and we do not qualify to have the county pick up our recycling. We need to use the vendor who hauls our trash. Liz Hunter, parish bookkeeper, was able to find out from Republic their approximate fees: $281 to deliver the bin, $156.50/month for the service, and $235 to haul away the bin if we stop. The Committee felt this was expensive and will recommend that we not pursue this suggestion.
* Rice Bowls: The Committee will personally hand out rice bowls after each Mass this year.
* Elderly Giving Tree: The tree will be displayed in the church narthex on February 17th with all donations due back by March 17th. The requested items of Frederick County DSS will be posted on the tree and printed in the bulletin and flock notes. It is the same list as last year.
* Thrift Shop: Last year (2023) finished with a little over $82,000.00 in revenue and processed over 6,100 transactions.  Most people came with another person so in essence they serviced over 12,000 customers.  This is a gross dollar number and does not include maintenance and costs associated with running the business.  In the last quarter of the year, the thrift shop had several $900.00 days and even a $1,000.00 day.  These numbers do not include Christmas in the Country, but rather only normal Thrift Shop days.
* The Social Concerns Committee discussed during their meeting disbursement of thrift shop funds. A total of $50,000 was available for distribution. Our criteria:

1. The recipient needs to be meeting a need.
2. Our focus should be on Frederick County, but we can consider a larger global need.
3. The recipient needs to be aligned with the Catholic faith and beliefs.
4. The percentage of funds going to administrative costs versus meeting the need should be considered.
5. The Committee recommended the following charities receive funds: Parish bus for Annapolis Right to Life March, ARC of Frederick, Birthright, Villa Maria of Frederick County, Maryland Right to Life, Frederick Prison Ministry, Frederick Rescue Mission, Gabriel Project, Heartly House, Mary’s House, Mission of Mercy, Mother Seton Academy in Baltimore, Religious Coalition, St Vincent DePaul Camp Glow, Thelma Mood Fund, Way Station, Second Chances Garage, Interfaith Housing Alliance, Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County, Frederick County Meals on Wheels, Partners in Care, Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership, Andrea House, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Little Sisters of the Poor - St Martin’s Home - Baltimore, Parish drive for socks for the homeless, Steadfast, Hannah’s Homestead, SOAR of Frederick County, and the Parish program of food bags to the students in local schools.

**Vocations Committee - Steve** Browning reporting for Stephanie Rubeling

There was nothing to report for this month.

**Old Business**

* Evangelization Committee – Under review to revamp this committee and select a representative for the council. Father will be meeting with the Deacons to discuss this action. Possibly change the name to “Welcome Home Committee” - This is still in progress.
* Robyn presented ideas to enhance our bulletin including a bulletin submission form to submit bulletins, which she saw on the St. Michael’s website. She gave Fr. Chuck the submission form to view, and he will talk with the staff about implementing this at St. Peter’s. (This item was not discussed and should be revisited at the next meeting.)
* Bylaws will be sent out this month for review.

**New Business**

* March Planning Day has been set for March 16, 2024, after the 8:00 AM Mass. A potluck breakfast will be served.
* Terri will send a copy of last year’s March Planning Day minutes which details last year’s committee goals.

**Adjournment**

Doug made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Olusola, and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

The next Pastoral Council meeting will be replaced with the March Planning Day which is scheduled for March 16th in Sappington Hall. Deacon John led the closing prayer.

Approved by the Council at its March meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Horrigan,

Secretary