

**St. Joseph's Church Parish Council**  
**October 5, 2015**

**Present:** Rev. Peter Worn, Julie Brissette, Carmella Dalton, John Ferguson, Karen Hopkins, David Kaminski, Deacon Mike Letizia, Nancy Light, William Mathewson, Dennis McGough, Lorraine Pigula, Grainger Sasso, Heidi Stemkoski, John Sullivan, Al Thompson, Robert Vertucci

**Excused:** Hannah Humphrey, Susan Ross

**Guest:** none at this meeting

At 6:34 pm, President Dennis McGough called the Parish Council meeting to order.

**Opening Prayer:** Dave Kaminski

**Welcome New Members**

- Brief self-introductions by all present

**Approve Parish Council minutes**

Dennis McGough called for a motion to approve the June 29, 2015 Parish Council meeting minutes. Motion made by John Sullivan; second by Julie Brissette; unanimously approved as written.

**Old Business**

Rebuilt – what's next? Round robin discussion ("Building on Rebuilt")

*Name 1 thing the parish does well*

1. Welcoming new people to the parish
2. New parishioner perspective – welcoming, inviting environment (no pressure to get involved)
3. Music ministry
4. Parishioners are willing and ready to step up when a need arises, i.e., sacristan ministry
5. Family social events
6. Adaptive and responsive parish
7. Deacon perspective: pastor's introduction of the readings is beneficial
8. Parishioner perspective: teenagers in our parish are exemplary
9. Religious education program
10. Kids invited to the altar for the Our Father (focus on the importance of children)
11. Pastor's Lenten liturgies (evening Mass)
12. Overall emphasis on youth and encouraging their involvement in the parish
13. Mass has a spirituality that is not found in many other churches (people are looking for a relationship with God)
14. Beautiful facilities and grounds – welcoming and well cared for
15. Adoration Chapel
16. When parish invests in an event, it is highly successful and well run

*Contribute 1 new idea to consider*

1. Greeter ministry – make an effort to be more welcoming
2. Age demographic of 20-25 year olds are being lost, increase use of social media
3. Increase the number of social/family events
4. Work to entice more people to join the parish (social events, greeters, etc.)
5. More people involved in the liturgy through various ministries
6. Outreach to the underserved (poor, jail ministry, refugees)
7. Engage a parish-wide initiative to increase the number of new parishioners
8. Outreach to unchurched/lost people; can't reach out to new parishioners from inside the parish
9. Ministry to homebound people

10. For parishioners who travel for long periods – stream homilies, take advantage of electronic opportunities to engage parishioners – homebound could also benefit
11. Social justice – human development committee
12. Music – ways to increase community singing
13. Increased number of female preachers

#### PCA update – Dennis McGough

- Pastoral Care Area: Holy Family, St. Michael's, St. Francis, St. Joseph's; Skaneateles and Jordan are being considered
- Overview of the purpose of establishing PCAs
- Current status (meetings being held with all 6 pastors)
- Dennis is the PCA facilitator – will be calling a meeting in the near future to begin a discussion of Mass schedules

#### 2016-17 PC officers – Dennis McGough

- All three current officers' terms are ending in June 2016
- Asked Council members to consider assuming an officer position in the Spring

#### **New Business**

##### Establish Nominating Committee membership – Dennis McGough

Dennis suggested establishing this committee now so Council has a slate of candidates by the March meeting  
Volunteers: Julie Brissette, Dave Kaminski, Bob Vertucci; suggested asking parishioners to join the committee

##### Christ Life workshop – Karen Hopkins

- Karen and Dc. Mike provided an overview of the program purpose, schedule, estimated cost, etc.
- Prior to considering implementation, our pastor needs to research this and other programs

#### **Parish Committee Reports**

##### Faith in Action/Facilities – John Ferguson

- Overview of fundraising efforts and projects completed for new members
- \$50,000 remain from \$1.5M raised
- Estimates on infrastructure and masonry work will be sought
- \$20,000 spent in HVAC repairs last year (assessment will be done on the entire system)
- \$1,000/month in a capital improvements fund
- Bulletin updates as appropriate
- Discussion of energy savings – down over 20%

##### Fall Festival (see written report)

- Susan Ross provided a written report
- Dennis thanked Julie Brissette for her leadership in organizing the Fall Festival

#### **Parishioner Feedback Received**

Council members shared the following comments/feedback they received:

Heidi Stemkoski: religious education program is beginning; Teen Faith is a big time commitment for parents; 6<sup>th</sup> grade is a little young for required volunteer hours (every other week) and "mandatory" donations; Peter will confirm requirements with Kristen

Dave Kaminski: has been asked if the summer Mass schedule will return in 2016

Karen Hopkins: suggestion to display an American flag in church

## **Pastor's Comments**

### First Parish Council meeting

- Initial group was unmanageable in size
- Parish Council is a conduit to share information with the Pastor
- Sr. Ellen's retirement has reduced the flow of information to the Pastor
- Considering a Pastoral Associate, Director of Engagement
- Finance Sunday is approaching: down \$15K, continuing to trend downward; have been fiscally responsible to compensate; future decisions will need to be made regarding expenses

### Clergy conference update

- Time spent discussing the fact that in the NE the structure of Catholic parishes has changed: decreased attendance, number of registered parishioners, budget and finances
- Societal shift has occurred - not just at St. Joseph's
- Pastor's meeting with Sr. Laura Buffano about the PCA was positive; Sr. Laura is a skilled facilitator
- Pre-K through Confirmation: 600 children registered compared to 658 in 2014; enrollment has not been finalized
- 9:00 am Mass- enhanced Children's Liturgy of the Word; open to children of all ages

### RCIA

Have 5 candidates engaged in the program

### PCA Diocesan-wide workshops

Encouraged Council members to attend as their schedules permit

### Advent Small Groups

Small groups will meet again this season

### Adult Gatherings

- Pope's encyclical on the environment
- 2016: The Year of Mercy

### Website

Meetings have been convened to discuss potential improvements

### Parish social events

- Pastor wants to focus on increasing the number of social events
- Encourage parishioners to bring their friends

### Mass attendance

Mass attendance has been declining – especially among young families

### **Prayer Leader**

November 16, 2015 meeting - Rob Vertucci

### **Closing Prayer:** Dave Kaminski

At 7:52 p.m., the Parish Council meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by,  
Karen A. Hopkins  
Secretary, Parish Council

**Next meeting:** November 16, 2015; 6:30 pm