

Blessed Sacrament Pastoral Council Report for February 21, 2017

Present: Harland Robinson, Catherine Boesen, Tom Salkeld, Bill Flesch, Fr. Tom McDermott, Jim G, Holly Harris, Pat Colwell, Joanne Chandler, Donna Burton **Guests:** Mike Knipp, Bobbi Jacobs **Excused:** Margaret Klein, Steve Kennedy, Mary Nichols

Meeting called to order at 6:30. Prayer led by the parish council.

Mike Knipp and the Northeast Iowa Food Bank Master Gardner-Bobbi presented information on a community garden: Start small – only 3-5 plants; Peppers, potatoes, bush style beans, lettuce, Swiss chard; Start small to help build up excitement; Building the beds and topsoil would be the largest cost.

Strategic Planning Reports:

Liturgy Committee – Donna Burton went through a committee goal review with the council.

Finance Committee – Tom Salkeld updated the committee on goals.

Stewardship Committee – Harland Robinson updated the committee on goals.

Parish Community Life and Social Justice Committee's will report in March.

New Business:

Memorial Gift Update – Restricted memorial funds that were to be possibly used for mosaic restoration may not be needed.

SCRIP Program Phase Out-The program has not generated much income over the past few years. Along with unable to find a new coordinator, the finance committee has decided to phase out the program. No new inventory will be purchased only things that are sold weekly/bi-weekly (gas, grocery, etc.). Complete phase out should be completed in a few months. Communication will be sent out to the parish members to let them know of phase out.

Volunteer Management Web-Based Service-Karla has been working on finding a volunteer tracking software/web service. Two viable programs were found and presented to the finance committee for review. The service that has been decided for purchase is a web based service. The purchase will not happen until the 17-18 budget. The service cost is based on how many volunteers are entered in the system in a year. It looks like it would run around \$360.00 a year for the basic service. For additional cost there would be options for volunteers to be able to log in and track hours. The system is also used at the Cedar Rapids Library to help track volunteers.

Parish Income Deficits-Tom noted there are five areas of the budget that look like there will be a deficit for the 16-17 budget. Winterfest, Christmas, Adult Envelopes, Capital Improvement, Fall Festival are the five areas \$77,654.00 could be the possible short fall. Some of the capital improvements have been delayed. We will inform the parish on the possible deficits. Finance is looking to make the Capital Improvement envelopes more specific to get parishioners to contribute to a specific area.

2017 Pastoral Council Elections-Father Tom discussed the struggles to get parishioners to volunteer or run for elections. He is looking to possibly downsizing the parish council body to help with the shortage. Reducing the council from nine to six will help with recruiting each year down from three to two. A plan will be brought to the parish council on moving forward with new by-laws.

Liturgy: The group is heavy into Lenten prep. Chrism Mass will be at St Patrick's, Cedar Falls, April 11, 2017

Stewardship: Possible window decals for parishioners to purchase are in the preliminary stages. Prayer cards for parishioners to send to families, friends, etc.

Finance: Promoting Amazon Smile and EFT to parishioners.

Social Justice: Focus on meal packaging at this time.

WCFFC: Budget is being worked on. Totus Tous will be happening this summer. A larger group will be sent to help accommodate more students.

Youth: The group has been busy with NCYC for November.

Just a reminder to send sub-committee minutes to Paula each month so they can be sent along with Parish Council agendas. **Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.**