

St Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – January 30, 2017

The Parish Council meeting on January 30, 2017 was called to order by President Dusty Uhlenhake with Father Walling, Ellen Homan, Tony Puthoff, Mary Lou Homan, Marj Hess, Kevin Welling, AJ Kunk, Sue Homan and Pam Wehrkamp present. Father Walling led the prayer and faith formation.

Finance/Maintenance (Ellen Homan/Tony Puthoff): Parish account balances as of December 31, 2016 were as follows: checking account \$7,878.99; permanent improvement fund \$5,188.09; savings with the archdiocese \$43,670.00; Zumberg fund \$6,506.76 and the cemetery fund \$3,903.54. It was noted that collections were down approximately \$2,000 for the past six months, similarly the other parishes in the cluster experienced the same. This may be due in part to Christmas falling on Sunday and so having one less collection than in most years.

The furnace in the church has been experiencing problems and requiring frequent maintenance; it's at least 25 years old. It was discussed that this may need to be replaced in the next couple of years. If it is replaced we may want to consider installing air conditioning for the church at that time. We will look into the cost of air conditioning as well as how to go about funding it.

The school hall will be getting air conditioning this year, costing about \$8000 – it was discussed that the men's sodality may pay for it.

Education (Sue Homan/Marj Hess): The weather has been very cooperative this year so we've been fortunate not to have to cancel classes – this allows for continuity in instruction to the students. The teachers are all doing a great job and students are busy. The second graders will be receiving their first holy communion on April 23. Our five seniors will have their Baccalaureate Mass on May 21.

Worship (Mary Lou Homan): The church looked beautiful for Christmas and the choir (as always) did a wonderful job. Many thanks to all who helped to decorate and take care of the church, as well as to our choir members.

CYO (AJ Kunk): All is going well, compliments to Angie Kaiser and Barb Uhlenhake for their leadership with our youth. AJ Kunk attended the March for Life and was sponsored by the ladies sodality. A parish breakfast is being planned for some time in the spring.

Missions (Father Walling): Thanks and appreciation was passed along from Fr. Bill Bueth in the Guatemala mission for our contribution last year.

Old Business: Thanks to those in the men's group that have helped with snow removal and salting on the sidewalks during icy conditions – luckily due to the mild winter we've not had much activity.

Mary Lou Homan continues to do a great job taking care of the school hall. She has been doing the job temporarily and we are looking for someone or a couple of people to take over this job, if you are interested please contact Mary Lou. The primary duties are coordinating with the cluster office as to when there are rentals, making sure the hall has been cleaned by renters after they are done, doing a general cleaning of the school hall once a week and making sure that all appears to be in working order.

To help alleviate some of the coordination among various people and inconsistency in renting the hall it was decided to let the cluster office handle these duties. Renters will now need to contact the cluster office to reserve the hall. At that time a contract will be sent out to the renter and will need to be returned to the cluster office with the deposit in order to secure the hall for the date requested.

New Business: Dusty indicated that when setting up and putting away the outside Christmas decorations the manger scene has shown signs of age and wear. The paint has faded and the light bulbs are loose within the figures and appear to be in disrepair. We should look into having these replaced or redone. Perhaps a parish member(s) would consider building a manger or contributing new figurines. Please contact Dusty if interested.

Future meeting date is May 16, 2017.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tony Puthoff and seconded by Marj Hess.

Submitted by Pam Wehrkamp