

St Mary Parish Pastoral Council Meeting – January 16, 2018

The Parish Council meeting on January 16, 2018 was called to order by President Kevin Welling with Father Walling, Ellen Homan, Mary Lou Homan, Sue Homan, Pam Wehrkamp, Tony Moorman and Ben Uhlenhake present. Father Walling led the prayer and faith formation.

Finance/Maintenance (Ellen Homan): Parish account balances as of December 31, 2017 were as follows: checking account \$13,373.60; permanent improvement fund \$11,879.31; savings with the Archdiocese \$0.00; Zumberg fund \$6,657.06; cemetery fund \$5,086.51.

The Archdiocese wants each parish to start setting aside a cemetery perpetual fund – essentially if the church were no longer to exist this perpetual fund would be used to care for the cemetery. In order to build the balance for this fund it was decided by the finance committee to move \$500 from the permanent improvement fund and \$500 from checking. Additionally, the annual cemetery fund contribution collected in November will be raised from \$10 to \$20 and effective March 1, 2018 lot fees will increase from \$50 to \$100 for parishioners and \$500 to \$1000 for non-parishioners. These rates are either still below or comparable to other area cemeteries.

The new heating system and air conditioning is almost complete. Roessner Energy was awarded the bid in August and proceeded to install; there is just a small amount of work remaining after some electrical changes are completed by Justin Bruns. The state boiler inspection went well and praised the installation work that was done. Many thanks go to Justin for doing the additional electrical work that was needed.

Education (Sue Homan):

A note from Sue Homan – “Regretfully, Ron and I are stepping down from teaching and running the CCD program. I hate to leave with so many open positions next year. However, I am sure the person God is calling to run this program will have the energy and enthusiasm to enhance others to teach our youth. Along with Ron and me stepping down, Stephanie Bruns has also decided to step down along with Marj Hess. This means that we will need five new teachers - first, fourth, fifth and six, seventh and eighth, and ninth and tenth grade I am in the process of placing all my records on a flash drive for the next person. I will also compile a list of my duties. One note of thought is that much of my job entails my duties with organizing the Communion Service. In recent years, our attendance for this has been steadily declining. My suggestion is that we abandon the Communion Services or have someone else do this ministry. This would make the CCD Administrator job much easier. I want to thank you for having allowed me to run this program these years. It has truly been a blessing to me to be able to do this ministry.”

We have seven children in our parish who will receive Jesus for the first time on April 8. They are Lauren Beckman, Clare Broering, Ashlynn Homan, Lana Kaiser, Austin Uhlenhake, Matthew Uhlenhake and William Wehrkamp. I am sure that I speak for our parish that we pray that each of these children have a blessed First Communion day.

We have five graduating seniors this year. They are Adam Hess, Alex Raffel, Kayci Schmitmeyer, Allyson Schritz and Lilly Vagedes. Again, I am sure that I speak for our parish that we pray each of these individuals will have a bright and successful future.”

As you can see we are in need of five new religion teachers, a CCD Administrator and Communion Service Coordinator. Please prayerfully consider fulfilling one of these very rewarding positions – please contact Sue for further details.

Worship (Mary Lou Homan): The annual parish picnic was held in September – we were fortunate to have beautiful weather and good attendance. The church was decorated beautifully for church for the Christmas season – many thanks to all those who were involved in this. As always, the choir was wonderful – thanks to them as well. Forty hours will be the first weekend in March. Exposition will be on Saturday, March 3 until 8:00 and on Sunday closing will be at 4 p.m. followed by with a dinner following.

CYO (Isaac May): The CYO group has been working at many weddings this past year which enabled them to make two donations of \$500 to area people in need – Moore family in Celina and Scarlet Unrast family in Coldwater. The annual appreciation breakfast is slated for Sunday, March 18. Recently, the CYO group made chili soup and donated it to the CALL food pantry and they also went caroling at Christmas to some of our parishioner's homes.

Old Business: Jared Kohn will be ordained in May 2018. Marj Hess has made arrangements for two charter buses to bring parishioners to the ordination. So far 49 seats have been reserved and space is available for 61 more people – these seats will now be open to the rest of the cluster for reservation. There will not be a fee charged for this but contributions to help defray the expense will be accepted. Please contact Marj if interested in going.

New Business: Some people have voiced a concern that the ushers should be seating more people as church fills up instead of the person sitting in a chair at the back. This is something to watch, unsure if those sitting in the back prefer to stay there as opposed to being seated elsewhere.

Pastor Remarks: Many thanks and congratulations go to Ellen Homan, cluster business manager, as she prepares to retire at the end of February. We wish her well and thank her for her dedication and service to the cluster.

Future Dates:

Parish Council Meeting: May 22, 2018

Donut Sunday: June 17, 2018

Donut Sunday: August 18, 2018

Parish Picnic: September 9, 2018

Submitted by Pam Wehrkamp