

# **St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Triangle, VA**

## **Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes December 14, 2019 10:20 AM – 11:25 AM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE – 10:20 AM in the Brother Juniper Room.**
  - a. Members present were Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, Pastor, Terry Danner (Chair), Phil Bongiorno, Maggie Eves (Co Chair), John Hales, Clarence Neason, Michelle Nicolai, Chuck O'Hern, Pequitte Schwerin, Dan Sullivan, Ulli Vaerst, Dr. Tricia Barber (Principal), and Marv Floom (Finance Council)
  - b. Members Absent were Jean Allen, Angelica Salguero, and Marianne Hayes (RE)
- II. Opening Prayer - Fr. John O'Connor, OFM**
- III. Approval of Minutes - Minutes of the 19 October 2019 meeting were approved as corrected. These will be forwarded to Chanel Marquis for posting**
- IV. Elections for Chair and Recorder – Incumbent Chair Terry Danner, Co-Chair Maggie Eves and Recorder Dan Sullivan, were nominated and unanimously re-elected to another 12-month term.**
- V. Pastor's Report – Fr. John**
  - a) Fr. John noted the Holy Name Province consolidation is going forth, and he continues to monitor this closely.
  - b) The Diocese continues to progress on the AC for the school, as of the moment projected costs are stated not to exceed \$250,000. However, bids are not back yet for the work, nor has a vendor been selected. The finance council notes this is the current estimate and should not be considered the final word. Installation is projected to be completed by late spring.
  - c) Fr. John noted a meeting with several law enforcement organizations to work toward a more robust security presence at the parish.
  - d) Dr. Barber continues to actively pursue new enrollments in the school; however, this is an area where people frequently relocate, so it has been difficult to complete the desired enrollment totals.
  - e) New Parishioner orientation is working well. It is being held every other month in the Brother Juniper room, has good attendance and it is a good venue.
  - f) Fr. John was invited to a Catholic Leadership Roundtable event in DC. Catholic Leadership Roundtable is an organization of laity, religious, and clergy working

together to promote best practices and accountability in the management, finances, communications, and human resource development of the Catholic Church in the U.S.

- g) Fr. John was invited to a Military Ordinariate Conference in February.
- h) Dean Very Reverend Lee R. Roos, V.F. had a review with St. Francis and it was a quite favorable visit. The Diocese of Arlington has regional Deans to oversee its parishes operations.

#### **VI. Finance Council Report – Marv Floom**

- a) Collections year to date are slightly behind last year, however a number of IRA donations are coming in, and the end of year number will likely be a better indicator.
- b) The annual appeal stands at \$135,000 vs \$122,000 at this same point last year.
- c) Legacy giving is an appealing option for many, and the committee will look at ways to promote this.
- d) There will be a note coming from the Finance Council on the HVAC status. While the immediate need is the air conditioning, the boilers will reach end of life, likely in the next several years.

#### **VII. Strategic Plan**

Co-Chair Maggie Eves after much hard work by her strategic planning team, distributed a copy of the Strategic Plan. Initial feedback from Dr. Barber was very positive. The Pastoral Council members were asked to review the Strategic Plan and respond either affirmatively or with suggestions to Maggie by 31 December. The final vote on accepting the revised Strategic Plan will take place at the January 11, 2020 meeting.

#### **VIII. Homeless Dinner Report**

Dan Sullivan provided a summary of the homeless dinner served by the Pastoral Council at the Hilda Barg Shelter. It went extremely well, and the food was well received. Contributors included Terry Danner, Clarence Neason, Chuck O'Hern, Angelica Salguero, Pequitte Schwerin, Dan Sullivan, and Ulli Vaerst.

#### **IX. New Business**

##### Solar Panels

Maggie Eves briefed the council on the issue of installation of solar panels on church buildings. It appears that the roof of the school will be adequate for this. There may also be an option to place panels on the hill behind the school. The basic model for use is company installation of the equipment and has its investment returned by the parish paying the company for electricity until the money is paid back. Once full payment is made the parish then enjoys the lowered energy costs. Catholic Energy is a company

that does this work. Discussion included an actual review of the roof, installation, and maintenance issues. A company representative will brief the council members at the next meeting.

**X. Parish Festival**

Friar Henry will lead a group to revise the parish festival event which will be vendor based. Maggie Eves, Clarence Neason, and Ulli Vaerst volunteered to assist in the effort to accomplish this.

**XI. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at 9:30 AM, Saturday, January 11 in the Br. Juniper Room.

**XII. Closing Prayer:** Fr. John led a closing prayer.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

**Respectfully submitted by Dan Sullivan**