

St. Francis of Assisi Parish – Triangle, VA
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2019 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE - 9:30AM in the Brother Juniper Room.

- a. Members present were Fr. John O'Connor, OFM, Pastor, Terry Danner (Chair), Jean Allen, Maggie Eves, John Hales, Michelle Nicolai, Chuck O'Hern, Pequitte Schwerin, Dan Sullivan, Ulli Vaerst, Dr. Tricia Barber (Principal), Marv Floom (Finance Council), Marianne Hayes (RE)
- b. Members Absent were Phil Bongiorno, Clarence Neason, Angelica Salguero

II. Opening Prayer - Fr. John O'Connor, OFM

III. Approval of Minutes - Minutes of the 17 August 2019 meeting were approved. These will be forwarded to Chanel Marquis for posting

IV. Old Business – The final vote on the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Pastoral Council Constitution was held. The vote was unanimously adopted by all voting council members present. The Constitution was adopted.

V. Pastor's Report – Fr. John

- a) The Parish will be doing Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays. Prayer will be bi-lingual. There will be no overnight Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament out of concerns for the security of the participants.
- b) Fr. John will start a bi-lingual Holy Hour on Tuesday Evenings at 7:30, starting on 1 October.
- c) The HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) system in the Parish Center continues to have problems. There is a loud noise coming from the external components. Estimates to replace start at about \$300,000. There is an offer to attempt to repair what we have for \$30,000, however this would be a short term (little as one year) fix.
- d) The new sound system has been operating somewhat erratically. The system has a sound board, that is designed to be attended. We do not have personnel to attend it and monitor / adjust levels as the Mass is in progress. The previous type of one button sound systems are no longer in production. Problems are difficult to solve, last Sunday volume got very loud at one of the Masses. The system was reset, and hopefully that will resolve the immediate issue.
- e) The school is looking at improving security, and recommendations will be coming for improvements.

- f) The parish audit is scheduled for next week.
- g) The Benedictine Sisters of Virginia are starting to raise funds to build a new Monastery.
- h) The St. Francis of Assisi Parish annual appeal will be going out shortly.
- i) There needs be a parish fund raising campaign to raise funds to pay large capital costs that occur from time to time and are outside the scope of the baseline Parish budget.
- j) Parish collections have started a significant upward trend in September. Total Parish membership is growing.
- k) Fr. John will have a meeting shortly with Bishop Burbidge.
- l) Holy Name Province will be deleting ministries yet to be announced. St. Francis is not on the list.
- m) Parish welcomes for newcomers have been moved to the Br. Juniper rooms and have been better attended
- n) The Labor Day picnic went very well, 160 attended.

VI. St. Francis of Assisi School Report – Dr. Tricia Barber

- a) The School Superintendent will be visiting
- b) The school has worked hard on the Blue-Ribbon school program and is hoping to be so honored by the US Department of Education.
- c) Current enrollment stands at 230, and a brief discussion of family tuition was held.
- d) She asked that we all pray for Sister Susan Louise Eder of the Oblate Sisters.
- e) The annual Chili Cookoff fundraiser is coming soon (look in the Bulletin)
- f) St. Francis of Assisi School was awarded Purple Star Designation by the State of Virginia for excellence in supporting military connected children and their families.

VII. Voter Initiatives

The parish will be encouraging voter registration and voting in this year's Virginia elections. It is too late in the year to start a voter registration drive, as the registration deadline is almost upon us. There was a suggestion that a voter registration drive could be conducted for the 2020 election.

VIII. Strategic Plan: Next Steps

Maggie Eves delivered a brief update on the Strategic plan, and was soliciting volunteers to help with it.

IX. New Business

a) Solar Panels

There was a proposal put forth by the Care for Creation – Care for the Poor Committee. The proposal suggested working with the “Virginia Interfaith Power and Light” on proposals to install solar panels or other carbon reducing approaches. Fr.

John noted that there has been a lot of support for this from Virginia utility companies and noted a parish in the Hampton Roads area had a successful program – at no cost to the Parish. Maggie Eves will work with the Committee and to determine guidelines for Parish Participation.

b) Envelopes for new parishoners

A suggestion for envelopes for new parishioners was raised. Marv Floom of the Finance Council agreed to look into it.

X. Next Meeting: August meeting will be held at 9:30 AM, Saturday, October 19th in the Br. Juniper Room.

XI. Closing Prayer: Marv Floom led the group in a closing prayer.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Sullivan