Newman Hall - Holy Spirit Church

Parish Pastoral Council

Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2023, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

*Present*: Bob Gannon, Gary Schmoranc, Homer Teng (note-taker), Ivan Tou, CSP, Linda Safarik-Tong (facilitator), Lorina Tornai, and Ned Niccolls

7:30 – 7:35 **Opening Praye**r – Gary

7:35 – 7:45 **Adopt December Minutes**

* The Council unanimously adopted the final version of the December minutes that was sent out in the morning of January 3 via e-mail.
* Fr. Ivan will post the minutes on the parish website.

7:45 – 8:00 **Discuss setting up an Executive Committee**

* Homer spoke in favor of setting up an executive committee of the council that would meet with Fr. Ivan to set the agenda for the future meetings. The idea for the committee comes from a diocese’s resource book entitled, “Suggestions for Parish Council: Guiding the Parish, Moved by the Spirit” (2016).
* Homer believes that creating such a committee will provide structure to the council and increase a sense of engagement among members with the work of the council.
* The committee will consist of a facilitator of council meetings, a co-facilitator, and the recorder.
* Linda and Homer presently serve as facilitator and recorder, respectively. While no member objected to forming an executive committee, none volunteered to join Linda and Homer as the third member of the group.
* Linda and Homer will meet with Fr. Ivan a couple of weeks before the next council meeting to set the next meeting agenda.

8:00 – 8:15 **Parish Council Nominations**

* Linda brought up the issue that the council needs 5 new members for the next term that begins in August 2023. She would like to start the process early to allow plenty of time for discernment.
* Current members Ned, Bob, and Linda will be leaving at end of July. Plus, we need to fill the slots that have been vacated by Alfreda Campos and Frances Reid.
* Linda asked council members to consider taking the lead in the nomination process. She has templates of flyer, brochure, and nomination form from last year’s process. They need to be revised and updated.
* Lorina expressed a concern about the lack of clarity and focus on the purpose of the council. In response, Ned said that the council exists to do the following things:
  + To be the sounding board for Fr. Ivan in vetting ideas.
  + To assist Fr. Ivan on special projects.
  + To reflect the vibes of the parish to Fr. Ivan.
* No council member volunteered to be the organizer of the nomination process. Fr. Ivan mentioned that he would take on that role. He would ask parish administrative assistant Amy LaGoy to update the flyer, brochure, and nomination form.
* Some members suggested nominating leaders of existing parish ministries to the council, as a way of facilitating communication among different groups.
* All agreed that personal outreach is the most effective way to recruit prospective candidates. There will be an in-person information session for parishioners who are interested in learning about the council and what being a member entails.

8:15– 8:45 **Community Events:**

* *Parish-wide retreat***:** The Council reached a consensus to have a parish-wide retreat during the Easter season. Fr. Ivan will form a retreat team to organize it. He would like council members to consider joining the team.
* *Time/Treasure/Talent Weekend after all masses***:** There was no discussion of this item.
* *January potluck idea***:** Council discussed having the January community-building activity be a potluck. However, members did not reach a consensus of when and who would organize it.

8:25 – 9:10 **Pastor’s Update**

* Fr. Ivan said that the parish is on good financial footing, given the fact that it has saved a lot of money from heating costs since the breakdown of the boiler.
* The parish will donate a portion of the money saved to help the people of Ukraine who are experiencing a harsh winter in the middle of a war with Russia.
* Business development manager Ana Perez-Guimaraes is working on getting the parts that are needed for repairing the boiler.
* All the dirt in the planters on the patio have been removed. The next step is to decide which planters will be taken out.
* The roof will be recoated so that solar panels could be installed. The parish will seek bids from qualified contractors for the recoating project.
* The parish has received two bids for solar panels installation.
* The diocese expects the parish to develop a 5-year plan. Fr. Ivan would like the council to take on this task.

9:10 **Closing Prayer** – Gary

*Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM*