

St. Raymond of Penafort Parish Council Meeting
September 18, 2018

Members present: Fr. Derek, John Kuehn, Jake Geisert, Lisa Olson, Tom Falbo, Marj Messerschmidt, Susan Fiser, Bob Gruba, Mike Quirk and Sam Kuehn.

Julie Graaskamp present as guest.

Meeting opened with prayer by Father Sakowski.

Minutes from June 19 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Lightning Round:

1. Fr. Derek:

-David Nowicki was great to have around for 2 different times during the summer. It is a challenge for Fr. to have a seminarian around due to the increase in hours required. David was very helpful, but Fr. does not have the extra time to continue this.

-Peru: Reunion in one month. Many participants are interested in continuing work in Peru.

-Sesquicentennial: went well even though Fr. had to do work with emails from Peru. 23 priests from the area got together and many are younger than Fr. Derek.

-Fr. Sedlacek: doing well so far. Is on vacation in France at this time.

-RCIA- Starts Thursday. 15 people plan to come. Most of the meetings will be in Altoona. Jacqueline was hoping to transition out but the replacement had family issues come up, so Jacqueline will continue to lead with a team helping. It is hoped Fr. Sedlacek will assist. It is likely he will be around for 2 years and will be helpful with the program until he leaves.

-Immaculate Conception- Still no pastor. Fr. Still has to oversee things and help out as able. Fr. Hoffman is now doing daily mass. Scheduling meetings is difficult.

-Capital campaign- Roof is complete. Payments are coming in timely. Next is working on lighting, fans, painting throughout the church.

-St. Anthony statue: Most thoughts were to put up near the confessional.

-Evangelization retreat: 6-9 PM on Tues September 25. Good speaker to be present. Definitely a different approach at this second part of training.

-Scandal concerns: Looking at some type of prayer. Fr. has spoken at both churches about the issues and has noted in bulletin blog.

2. Sam: Microphone set up seems to work better for choir. Concerns about batteries for microphones including those used by the priests. Bonnie ordered new batteries as the supply was out.

3. John: Nothing to report.

4. Susan: Silent auction difficult to win for visitors who don't stay. Sealed bids are available but were not noted by Susan. Signage change to make more noticeable?

5. Marj: Timeliness concerns for funeral and mass for Fr. Sedlacek was noted by parishioners.

6. Lisa: New baptism mentor program started that Lisa/Derek are now involved in with Brad/Jamie Ceranski. Number of baptisms is down. Lisa is concerned about need for more PR on availability at the hospitals to get more young people in church. Jake noted the K of C could help with financial concerns and Lisa noted PCCW will do something with gifts as well.

7. Jake: Someone asked about the socials in the entry vs. in the hall. No place to sit in entry. Could chairs from the cry room be place out for anyone needing to sit at the social? Can the book carts be place in the church for the social weekends as well to modify congestion? Doors of the church will need to be closed after mass for anyone wishing to stay in prayer longer. Julie will talk to John and the ushers about social weekends.

8. Mike: Meal with the Bishop at St. Mary's was good.

9. Tom: Scheduling is going fine, not any reported issues.

10. Bob: Laurie Gruba is still concerned about not having the weekly Faith Formation classes. Their older child is not doing well with the current program. Fr. Sakowski said that he hears many good things about the current program, and still believes it is the best approach. If we do not win the hearts of the parents we won't keep the children. The past success rate of retaining Catholics after

Confirmation by means of weekly CCD programs has been poor. Father also noted that 5 additional days have been added to the Faith Formation schedule this year to increase involvement by families.

Old Business:

1. Debt retirement: August 2019 will be the debt retirement. Julie suggested a gathering to celebrate the debt retirement. Tom expressed a desire to keep everything on the same weekend, inviting the Bishop to celebrate Mass. If the Bishop couldn't attend, we would do something during Mass. Festival committee could address any additional celebration as part of the weekend.

-What to do with excess after debt is retired? Tithing to the poor/needy, bring in speakers that would attract a crowd, hire a director for evangelization, caring for our elderly, continuing a contingency fund for upkeep. Lisa noted transportation is very much an issue for people around our area. How can we get those people to church? Fr. would like committee members to think about what can be done with the funds.

We will launch an endowment fund as part of the capital campaign.

2. Communication/welcoming space: Julie shared ideas about better use of current furniture. Signage plaques will be added for in the entryway. Temporary signage would be needed for confessions, both confessional location and where to stand in line. The cabinet on the north wall would move to the south wall and the table would go away. Religious pictures would be placed on the south wall together. The north area would then contain St. Raymond Parish information that will be easier to find. A sign to direct people to consult with the secretary before placing anything on the boards or the use of a locked, windowed space. Possibly adding a cabinet in the coat rack spaces for a video monitor and social materials. Mobile coat racks could be obtained if needed for high use times. Features in the bulletin of changes being done, or directions on where things are, how things are set up for confession, etc. It was agreed that Julie would start with signs and organizing. Kindle is being used with a Google calendar for sacristans. Possible iPad use discussed for sign in for participation for mass in the future.

New Business:

1. Elections in November: Jake is retired after this term. Tom Falbo and John Kuehn are eligible for re-election. Announcements are needed in the bulletin asking for nominations, posting bios and noting the elections. Volunteers for soliciting nominations and counting ballots are needed. Mike and Lisa and Bob are willing to count. Jake and Tom are willing to solicit nominations. Nomination forms are done by the secretary.

Next meeting will be combined with St. Mary's parish council at St. Raymond's, December 4, 2018 with meal at 7 (hosted by St. Raymond's), followed by combined meeting. St. Raymond's council meeting from 8-9.

Closing prayer led by Fr. Derek.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Marjorie Messerschmidt