

The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting December 15, 2015

Members present: Fr. Frank Palmieri-Pastor, Fr. Noly Berjuega-Parochial Vicar Valerie Williams-President, Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary, Donna Kearney, Dianne Trapini, Sharry Williams, Joey Duggan

Members absent: Mark Mossell, Mitch Williams,

Additional Parishioners/ Ex officio members present: Claude Esperson-St. Jude Alumni Assoc., Dr. Washington Ray-KPC, Marty Green- KOC, Irene Dunlap-Hispanic Community, David Marcella

Fr. Frank opened the meeting with the Our Father. Valerie Williams began with introductions for new attendees. The Parish Council Minutes from October 29, 2015 were reviewed and approved with no changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* Nicole Macedo – Faith Formation~ discussed the need to address the ceiling damage to the 2nd grade classroom from the rain in October. The Drywall is broken and there is a considerable whole in the ceiling. Nicole relayed that several contractors have been contacted to come out and bid on the repairs. However, due to the amount of work needed around Sumter it has been difficult to get contractors to bid on projects. Since the insurance company will not cover the roof or ceiling damage, Nicole asked if it was possible to ask a capable parishioner to complete the work. Fr. Frank agreed. *In November, 30 students from RCIC and the Sacrament program from Religious Ed and St Anne School participated in a Retreat and received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Nicole also reported that The Our Lady of The Skies (Shaw AFB) Youth Ministry has joined with Sumter Catholic Youth. Monsignor Rowen and Volunteers from OLOS provided Burgers and Hotdogs for the Youth Group meal last week.

*Dr. Washington Ray- KPC discussed the upcoming Senior Christmas Luncheon on December 19th in the St. Jude Cafeteria. The Black History Program will be held at St Jude in February in honor of Black History Month.

*Irene Dunlap- Hispanic Community, Discussed the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Celebration that was held in the St. Anne Parish Hall on Friday December 11th. Irene reported that it was a well-attended event. There was standing room only. Despite the late hour, this was a family event where several children dressed in traditional clothing. Fr. Frank asked why the Mariachis did not show up to play the music. Irene stated that there had been a miscommunication between the family who was paying for the Mariachi Band and the committee who was arranging the Mass and Celebration. Fr. Frank stated that the food was nice and the Mass was beautiful, but if there are no songs sung to Our Lady at Midnight, there is no reason to have the event so late at night. Irene stated that this will be discussed with the planning committee at their exit meeting. No meeting has been scheduled yet.

*Marty Green – KOC, reported a busy month, having had a Corporate Communion at St. Jude at the Noon mass. The State deputy of the KOP was there to recognize the Knights. They then had a meeting in the Parish Hall. Marty also announced that Our Lady of the Skies would have a Midnight Mass for Christmas. The KOC are planning to attend the Right to Life March in Washington DC in January.

*Dianne Trapini reported that The Women’s Guild Christmas party was lovely. Both Fr. Frank and Fr. Noly attended and spoke about Christmas in their countries. The Children’s Choir from St Anne School preformed. Fr. Frank stated that he was very pleased with the singing and compliments Linda Coyne and the Choir for a job well done.

*Donna Kearney announced the Women’s Guild Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, January 23rd at St Anne Parish Hall. They will work around the Mass schedule.

*Claude Esperson- Alumni Association, reported that the Alumni Association Scholarship fund continues to sponsor a student at St. Francis Xavier High School. Sharry Williams added that The Ladies of St Peter Claver are looking into starting a scholarship program as well. More information will be forth coming.

OLD BUSINESS:

* Margaret J. Lafoon Trust- College Scholarships- Fr. Frank stated that he is anxious to get this issue resolved with the Diocese. He is hoping to have a meeting scheduled as soon as the Diocese is able.

*Parish Council Elections- Valerie Williams presented the nomination forms that have been returned to the Parish Offices. Fr. Frank stated that because the current council was appointed and not elected, some members should be replaced but, he is not ready to replace all members. He would like some current members to remain. Joey Duggan requested to keep his seat on Parish Council. Fr. Frank agreed. Valerie Williams would also like to continue. Discussion was held to clarify the difference between voting and non-voting members. Non-voting members are employees and Ex officio members. Fr. Frank is not ready to make any changes until more parishioners have a chance to nominate people or step up themselves.

*Fr. Frank again discussed the possibility of changing the name of the parish. He stated that both churches have an impact in Sumter, currently and historically. St. Anne represents the tradition of Catholicism in Sumter while St. Jude, started as a Mission to the Black Community, represents service to others and hope to those in need. Fr. Frank wants to combine the names to represent ALL of our present and history in Sumter. Fr. Frank reported that he has already discussed this with Bishop Guglielmone, but Fr. Frank wants the Parish Council's agreement before proceeding. He opened the floor for Parish Council discussion. Valerie Williams stated that she feels "Saints Anne and Jude" is not respectful enough. She would prefer "Saint Anne and Saint Jude" Dianne Trapini thanked Fr. Frank for his detailed explanation of this thought process for the name change and motioned to put in a requested to Bishop Guglielmone that the name of the church be changed to Saint Anne and Saint Jude Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Washington Ray 2nd the motion. Sharry Williams asked about the cost of a name change and what would be the legal ramifications. Fr. Frank stated that the first step is to request the change and then the signage for both locations would be changed as well as the school sign. "We are one church with two places" the signs will be unified. Fr. Frank thanked Parish Council for their cooperation and feels this is a positive step.

*Valerie asked Fr. Frank for an update on the "clean-up" at St. Anne. Fr. Frank stated that the Engineering report showed that the Church needs a new roof. The Water from the amount of rainfall was absorbed by the bricks and released slowly into the walls of the church. The humidity level is still high. The solution at this point, is to reduce the humidity and re-do the plaster walls. A company from Columbia came out last Sunday to do an assessment. The east side of the church is still wet but the west side is drying out. More information will be given about what can be done and a time frame. Air quality tests are still being done to check spore levels.

NEW BUSINESS:

*Fr. Frank reported that he recently met with the 521/ FCCC committee and gained more insight into the plan for a new church. Fr. Frank stated that he reviewed the architects building plan. He stated that we need far less space than the 521 land but the acreage at St. Anne and St Jude is not large enough for our needs. No matter where we go, someone will be upset. "But, if we don't get together, all of this talk is useless." Fr. Frank stated that he does not feel that we need to be under the same roof to be a unified community. Fr. Noly stated that whether we are on 521 or remain downtown, good options are there. We need to pray for God to lead us in time.

*Valerie relayed a question that was asked of her by a parishioner. Why was the Thanksgiving Mass held in the Parish hall at St Anne instead of in the church at St. Jude? Fr. Frank stated that the Hall holds more people and he was expecting a larger turnout. Valerie stated that some parishioners do have issues with kneeling on the floor or not having stable chairs in which to sit. Valerie asked for

opinions of the PC members of whether having mass in the parish hall was a hardship. Parish council agreed that for most parishioners, there is no reason why mass should not be held in the parish hall.

*Fr. Frank stated that the Adorno Fathers will be in Sumter to renew their religious vows. This is a 400 year old tradition. This year it will take place at St Jude on January 5th. All of the Eastern Adorno Fathers have been invited. The Parish will host a reception in the hall at St. Jude. The Women's Guild along with all of the groups of the church are asked to participate in the reception. Fr. Frank will make 20 quarts of sauce and meatballs for the event.

Closing Comments: Fr. Frank and Fr. Noly thanked Parish Council for their patience in the long discussions and for working together to solve issues of the church.

Valerie Williams closed the meeting with a prayer and dismissed Parish Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary