

The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting January 27, 2015

Members present: Fr. Tom Burke-Pastor, Valerie Williams-President, Nicole Macedo-Recording Secretary, Mark Mossell, Donna Kearney, Dianne Trapini, Chris Hilditch, Joey Duggan, Sharry Williams, Mitch Williams

Additional Parishioners/ Ex officio members present:, Sonia Taylor-Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Aux., Claude Esperson- KPC & St. Jude Alumni Assoc., Irene Dunlap-Hispanic Ministry

Fr. Tom opened the meeting with a prayer. The Pastoral Council Minutes from November 18, 2014 were reviewed and accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/OLD BUSINESS

***Fr. Tom announced that he will be leaving again for Florida to attend Redemptorist meetings. He has been elected Vicar of the Vice Province. This will require him to travel more frequently.**

*** Paul Burchell (absent) requested the council be given the flier for The Diocesan Men's Conference. The Knights of Columbus will be taking a group to the meeting.**

*** Chris Hilditch asked about the possibility of scheduling at least one Virtus Training per quarter in Sumter. This would allow the youth Programs and Religious Ed. To more easily involve parents and volunteers. The need for Virtus Trained and Diocesan cleared Drivers with a CDL license. Currently there are 6 volunteers/employees cleared to drive and only 2 with a CDL. We have 2 individuals who are trained to provide the Virtus Program.**

*** Nicole Macedo explained the process of training and paperwork to become a Virtus trained volunteer. Once a volunteer attends the Virtus Training, there is a set of paperwork that must be read and signed. Then a Background Screening/SLED check is completed at the Diocesan level. Once the 3 components have been successfully completed (Virtus, Paperwork, Background Screening) the volunteer's name is added to the "Master List" for the location or school the individual volunteers for. March 1st of every New Year, all of the churches within the Dioceses furnish a completed "Master List" to the Office of Child Protection in Charleston. These lists will be used by the Diocese to complete location audits.**

*** Mark Mossell requested clarification on where the remanding money from the 75th Anniversary celebration. - 650.00 went to the Youth Group for a new TV and supplies. 600.00 was allocated to St. Francis Xavier High School as a donation. 300.00 has been set aside for a Community Easter celebration at the St. Jude location. This is a celebration for all of the Youth of The Catholic Community to make up for having to cancel the Halloween Celebration.**

*** Claude Esperson, representing the St Jude Alumni Association announced that Applications for their Annual Scholarship to St. Francis High School (\$1000.00) have been given to Sue Lavergne, SFXHS and Kristi Doyle, SAS. Applications are available through both school offices.**

*** Donna Kearney, discussed the Woman's Guild Yard Sales. \$3600.00 was raised which will get distributed to various charities to be determined. Donna wishes to thank all of the Ladies who participated and all of the parishioners and volunteers who donated items to sell.**

* Sharry Williams, KOPC Ladies Auxiliary reported the Soul Food Fundraiser was well attended and \$700.00 raised. The left-over food was donated to the Youth Group for their Sunday meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

* Fr. Tom and Irene Dunlap discussed the changes to the Spanish Mass and Hispanic Community. Fr. Tom has taken over the 1:00pm Spanish Mass at the St. Jude Location since Fr. Pablo's retirement. A new pianist has been hired and updated music books have been ordered for the Mass. Irene reports that the Mass is still a bit unorganized, but getting better. The 1:00pm Mass is very well attended. A Hispanic Committee has been formed to review and address the needs of the Hispanic Community. Committee members are: Irene Dunlap, Greg Tavarez and Mariel Ferrell.

- Fr. Tom asked Irene to discuss the Bishop's Annual Appeal with the Hispanic Committee. He would like to take up a collection for the BAA twice a month. This way the Hispanic Community can participate without the need to make a pledge with the diocese.

* Mass Schedules for the Easter Season at both parish locations were discussed. Fr. Tom stated that the Sunday 7:30am Mass at St. Anne Location has been permanently removed from the weekly schedule. The Saturday 9:00am is being re-examined and may be cancelled in the near future. Since Fr. Pablo's retirement, some of the "extras" that he provided for the community are not going to be possible. Fr. Tom stated that Fr. Peter Sousa will be leaving on sabbatical soon and the needs of the community will be left to Fr. Charles and himself. The "Extras" will not be possible with just 2 priests. Devotions such as Adoration may need to be re-timed or completely handled by lay people. Fr Tom suggested a Holy Hour instead of all day / all night Adoration. Also, the Friday Mass at Covenant Place will become a Communion Service. Dianne Trapini inquired if it was only a priest that could expose and repose the Blessed Sacrament or if the Eucharist Ministers could be granted permission to do it. Valerie Williams, reported that Tuesday Adoration and First Friday Adoration are mainly handled by the lay people and, after much discussion, asked if they could be continued as long as there is enough interest within the community. Fr. Tom agreed for now. Fr. Tom stated that he wants us to understand that with the shortage of priests in the diocese, we have been "spoiled" in Sumter to have so many priests in the past. He is unsure, at this time, what the future will bring for the Catholic Community of Sumter as far as the number/availability of priests. The Ash Wednesday/ Lent / Easter schedules were discussed and will be published in upcoming bulletins.

Closing Comments: Fr. Tom thanked everyone for their attendance and set the next parish council meeting for February 17, 2015. Nicole Macedo will send out reminder emails to the PC members and set the agenda. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary