

**The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting March 23, 2015**

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

Additional Parishioners/ Ex officio members present: Claude Esperson- KPC & St. Jude Alumni Assoc., Tina Couture- Religious Education, Sonia Taylor- KPCLA, Irene Dunlap- Hispanic Ministry, J Seth- Future Catholic Community Committee

Fr. Tom opened the meeting with a prayer and The Pastoral Council Minutes from February 17, 2015 (previously emailed) were approved with no changes.

*** Fr. Tom began the meeting with a report of a parishioner who passed away.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS/OLD BUSINESS.

*** Chris Hilditch provided the committee with a report on the Youth Group.**

- They are currently practicing for the Living Stations of the Cross. This will be held at the St. Jude Location.
- The Youth Group is still in need of volunteers to provide meals, snacks, etc..
- N. Macedo will be volunteering with the Middle School Youth Group twice a month. This will allow the High School and Middle Youth Groups to be separated for age appropriate activities and discussions.
- Community building activities continue to be a priority for the Youth Group.
- A Catholic Community of Sumter LOGO should be developed to be used on T-shirts and Banners.
- Chris announced that he and his family will be moving from Sumter. He will resign his position as Director of Youth Ministry and Confirmation Coordinator at the end of the school year. He will continue until June and help in identifying a new Youth Minister to continue the Youth Group Programming.

*** Sonia Taylor, Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary- reported that they will have a Meet and Greet on March 29th at the St. Jude Location. This is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Knights of Peter Claver.**

*** Irene Dunlap, Hispanic Community – reported that the Hispanic Community has responded extremely well to the changes to the 1:00pm Mass.**

- Ann Caldwell, pianist is spearheading the music ministry and meeting with for practices with the Choir on Thursday and Friday evenings in the church.
- Planning is underway for The Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe in December.
- There were 10 baptisms in March.
- The Hispanic Community Committee will meet with Fr. Tom on March 30th to discuss the positive changes and the future direction of the community. The members of the Hispanic Community Committee are, Irene Dunlap, Mariel Ferrell, and Greg Tavarez.

Chris Hilditch asked Irene to reach out to the Youth of the Hispanic Community and invite them to the Youth Group. Irene requested that we look into finding a Spanish Speaking Youth Member that would be a peer to the Hispanic Youth.

Tina Couture, DRE- asked Irene to help identify a Spanish speaking adult to help translate in the Religious Education Program. This is a definite need especially at the St. Jude Location. There is a significant language barrier between her and the parents.

*** Claude Esperson, Knights of Peter Claver – The Knights will host a Lenten Fish Fry at the St. Jude location on Friday March 27th.**

*** Claude Esperson, Alumni Association – Applications for the St. Jude Alumni Association Scholarship to St. Francis Xavier High School are due in April 1st.**

OLD BUSINESS:

*** Margaret J. Lafoon Trust- College Scholarships- Valerie Williams contacted the Diocese of Charleston Finance Office and was told that the paperwork had already been returned to the Office at St. Anne. Fr. Tom is not aware of any new paperwork or decision from the Diocese. The last report stated that the Trust was up for Canonical Review. Fr. Tom will check with the Diocese to get definitive answers on the use of the Trust.**

NEW BUSINESS:

***Mr. J Seth gave a report on the current status of the One Faith One Family Campaign. He stated that overall; the financial outlook of the economy in Sumter seems to be turning around. The Property on 521 is completely paid for. As for the progress of building the new church, there has been no significant change since the Parish Briefing of May 2011. We have a financial chasm of approximately 4 million dollars to overcome. We currently have 2.2 Million Dollars in the bank. There is a possibility of borrowing 2 million from the Diocese, but they have very strict borrowing guidelines. We need 4.4 million to build the Church and an additional 4 million to build the “COFFE” building (Center of Faith Formation and Education). 8.4 million total. Mr. Seth reported that in order to get over this financial chasm, we will need to sell St. Anne Parish Location. The Complex is currently on the market, but we have no offers at this time. Until St. Anne Location is sold, we are in a holding pattern. Mark Mossell asked about the feedback from the listing agent. Since there have not been any results, can the property be more heavily marketed. Shari Williams asked who is responsible for checking on the progress of the listing agent and what are the barriers to the property selling? Fr. Tom stated that the listing agent is ReMax.**

Mr. Seth reported that the FCCC (FC³), Future Catholic Community Committee’s current plan is to build the Church and the CoFFE building at the same time. The reason for this is that some parishioners feel that building a Church should be the main focus. While others feel that the CoFFE building should be built first. Nicole Macedo asked about the past visit from Lydia Doyle, Diocesan Representative. After viewing all of the properties and meeting with the committee, Ms. Doyle recommended building the CoFFE building first and then building the Church. The concern is that without a building for the children and youth of the Catholic Community to meet and be educated, we won’t have enough Catholics in Sumter to warrant a new Church. Due to the in-depth nature of the subject matter. The following items will remain on the agenda for future discussion:

- One Faith One Family Campaign Finances**
- ReMax listing agent**
- FC³ plan to build a Church and CoFFE building concurrently**

*** Tina Couture and Nicole Macedo discussed the need to merge the Religious Education Programs for 2015/2016. Tina and Nicole reported that running Religious Ed programs at the two locations is becoming increasingly difficult due to decreasing numbers of volunteers at both locations. Both programs are using the same curriculum and following the same yearly calendar. Since we are canonically one church, we should be moving our programs toward togetherness in order to build one Catholic Community. The question is which location is best suited to house the Religious Education Program. Tina and Nicole presented a pros and Cons list for both locations Both Tina and Nicole feel that the program could be efficiently run from either location, but the St. Jude location is a dedicated space for Religious Education. There are eight outer classrooms and three classrooms inside the Parish Center that would only be used for Religious Education and the Sacrament Programs on Sunday. The space is large enough to house 160 students and would allow the program to run on fewer volunteers. Also, the teachers would be able to keep all of their supplies in their classrooms. While the St. Anne Location is bigger and in better condition, the classrooms are shared with the School. Although the school has always been very gracious and accommodating to the Religious Education teachers and volunteers, the RE classes cannot leave their books or supplies in the classrooms and are limited as to the activities they can do because of this. Please see the complete Pros and Cons list Attached. Parish Council agrees that the Religious Education program should merge. Valerie Williams stated that although some families will be upset and against a move, it is up to the parents to make religious education a priority. Valerie Williams requested that the Parish Council Meeting for April be moved to the Library at St. Jude location, so the PC could tour the classrooms before making a decision.**

***Nicole Macedo – Possible changes to the Mass Schedule. Nicole presented 3 possible changes in the times of the Masses at both St. Anne and St. Jude to accommodate the Religious Education Program at only one location and in the event that we only have one priest in Sumter. Valerie Williams asked Fr. Tom for an update on what priest would be coming to Sumter and will we have one or two priests. Fr. Tom stated that there has been no decision that he is aware of. Because we don't have enough information yet, the issue of changing the Mass Schedule is tabled.**

*** Valerie Williams discussed the need to have elections for Parish Council seats. She would like to put a notice in the bulletin and have it announced that we are looking for willing candidates. Fr. Tom stated that Parish Council does not need to have even division of members between the two locations. It just needs to have willing participants. Fr. Tom stated that by July, a lot of these issues will be resolved. Parish Council agreed to table the discussion on elections until the June meeting.**

Closing Comments: Fr. Tom thanked Mr. J Seth for his report and everyone for their attendance. The next parish council meeting will be held in the Library at the St Jude Location at 7:00pm on April 21st, 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