

**The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting June 21, 2016 –**  
**amended**

Members present: Fr. Frank Palmieri-Pastor, Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary, Valerie Williams, Andrew Williams, David Marcella, Dr. Jan Neuner, Colleen Yates, Chris Hilditch, Joey Duggan, Paul Dunlap, Dee Reiter, Dr. Mark Crabbe, Harvin Bullock

Fr. Frank began the meeting with the Lord's Prayer and an introduction of newly elected and appointed members of The Parish Council. A copy of the Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines (DOC) was given to each member.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No Committee Reports

**OLD BUSINESS:**

\* Margaret J. Lafoon Trust- College Scholarships- Fr. Frank stated that we must decide how to use the Margaret J. Lafoon Trust.

Andrew Williams asked for an explanation of the history of the Trust. N. Macedo gave a brief history of the trust and that it was left for the college education of Catholics. A copy of the Trust was passed around for review. Fr. Frank stated that the Diocese of Charleston has contacted the remaining relatives of Margaret Lafoon about changing the use of the Trust Money for catholic school education. The family responded, to use the money as the Diocese sees fit. V. Williams also discussed **previous parish council meetings where this issue was discussed** as well as a previous meeting with Michael Aquilano, from the Diocese of Charleston, where she felt a decision had already been made to keep the use of the money for college scholarships. V. Williams feels 'it is important to honor the intention of the trust'. A copy of the minutes from the meeting with Michael Aquilano (2-26-2016) were read aloud and passed around for review. N. Macedo stated that per the 2-26-16 meeting, there was the option to merge the Lafoon Trust Money with the St. Anne Elizabeth Ann Seton Fund. Doing this would create an endowment that would pay out to Saint Anne and Saint Jude School a yearly amount of \$34,000. This would allow for a good deal of scholarships to our local catholic school but, it would take the principle amount of money out of Sumter. C. Yates stated that we definitely do not want to open the money up to the rest of the state and lose the use of it for Sumter. Fr. Frank stated that he does not want to take a vote on the Trust at this time. There are still too many questions that he needs the Diocese to answer before a decision can be made. The Margaret J. Lafoon Trust is tabled until next meeting.

\* List of Finance Council Members – Fr. Frank stated that the Parish Council and The Finance Council are separate and have nothing to do with each other. The Finance Council is appointed and discusses financial matters with the Pastor. They do not make decisions, they discuss and advise. The Parish Council can approve the fixing of the roof (for example) and the Finance Council approves the money to do it. A. Williams stated that the Parish Pastoral Council guidelines stated that the Parish Council and the Parish should be made aware of the member of the Finance Council. Also there should be a financial report made at least yearly to the Parish and Parish Council. Fr. Frank stated that the end of the Fiscal year is coming and that the reports would be done. The Adorno Fathers have not yet been in Sumter for a full year. V. Williams stated that there should be a member of the finance council present on Parish Council to answer financial questions. She read a passage from the Diocese Financial Council Regulations regarding the interaction and information sharing between the Finance Council and the Parish Council. J. Duggan asked if the names of Finance Council members could be published in the bulletin. Fr. Frank stated that he would make the names available for the next Parish Council Meeting.

## **NEWBUSINESS:**

\* Elections of Parish Council President and Vice President. The PC Parish Council reviewed the Parish Pastoral Council guidelines and discussed how a President should be chosen. Dr. M. Crabbe stated that it would be helpful if the President had prior experience on the Council. Fr. Frank stated that we should vote. Done by writing in a name, all members of the council voted (except N. Macedo). N. Macedo tallied and reported the 3 names nominated. Then a second write in vote was taken. V. Williams, received the most votes and is therefore the President. J. Duggan, received the second most votes and is the Vice-President.

\*Fr. Frank Welcomed everyone to the first Elected Parish Council of Saint Anne and Saint Jude Parish "You are the voice of the parishioners." "I intend to listen to the parishioners". The PC is an advisory body to the Pastor. The Pastor has the authority to disagree.

\* Fr. Frank gave a background on the Adorno experience since coming to Sumter in 2015. He discussed not having much information on either location before coming here and then the rains in October and the 6 month process of getting Saint Anne fixed. Fr. Frank stated that walls at Saint Anne can't yet be sealed because they are still wet. We have to wait for the brick and the plaster walls to dry before sealing them. He feels that the company used was very good for the clean-up. Fr. Frank thanked C. Yates for her suggestion of the company that was used. In the future, we need to be able to prevent water from intruding into the building. The towers were in bad shape but they are now fixed. We are still planning on selling the Slate tiles from the towers. For now they are being stored. Saint Anne has excavated a new well that will hopefully have less iron content. Fr. Frank discussed having met some of the Sisters of Mary Namur, which were previously at Saint Jude. He stated that there is obvious pride at having been a part of Saint Jude. As there is with Saint Anne. Between us there is 170 years of Catholic presence in Sumter. This is where the changing of our church name comes in. Fr. Frank stated that some parishioners were not in favor of the name change at first, but it has proven to be beautiful blending of the two histories. The question is "Where do we go from here?" "We must work together as a family" Fr. Frank state that he met with the 521 committee/FCCC committee a **couple of** times and there has been no change in position. We have to decide, do we want to build something there or here. Do we want to sell 521 or Saint Jude or Saint Anne? There are problems with building in each place. Parking would be an issue downtown. These are issue that will need to be discussed and decided. Fr. Frank stated that there is good usable space in both current locations. The Saint Anne Convent has rooms upstairs that are currently storage. The Saint Jude location has outdoor space and a basketball court that he would like to fix up for the youth group and religious education programs to use. Also, it could be used for community gatherings. The approximate costs for the basketball court would be \$30,000. These are ideas Fr. Frank would like to explore. H. Bullock asked if we wanted to put that kind of money into the Saint Jude property or either current location. Fr. Frank stated that it all depends on what we are going to do with the 521 land. It is difficult to approve money for improvements when we don't know how long or where we are going to be. C. Yates feels that the FCCC should be able to tell us where we are heading and if there has been progress. Dr. J. Neuner agreed and asked for a report from FCCC. Also, the money collected through the One Faith One Family campaign should be reported with the amount of interest collected. V. Williams and D. Marcella both agreed with this and stated that the Finance Council should report these amounts to the PC quarterly so the community can see our progress and know where we stand. After much discussion among the PC members, Fr. Frank agreed to a FC report.

\*Faith Formation - N. Macedo requested permission from Fr. Frank and PC to purchase the Lifeteen Program for both the Middle School and High School Youth Ministry. The yearly cost would be \$1400 per year. But, this is a web-based program that can be used across Youth Group as well as parts of Religious Education. Fr. Frank and PC agreed. The Confirmation Program will continue to use the Decision Point program but will also incorporate the Chosen program into the curriculum. These too are web-based programs. Due to the need for internet access and the size of the upcoming Confirmation class, Confirmation will begin meeting in the Youth Group Building for the 2016-17 year.

**\*The parish has moved to a new bulletin printing company. Beginning in August, we will have an 8 page full color bulletin. Along with this move, we will have access to a new Parish App for smart phones. At this point the bulletin will continue to be translated into Spanish for the 5:00pm Mass. The amount of pages we have is determined by the advertising revenue generated by the space on the back page of the bulletin. Selling ads is the responsibility of the bulletin company.**

**\*Fr. Frank discussed the possibility of moving the Spanish Mass to the 12noon time slot at Saint Jude. This would be a better situation for both the Hispanic Community as well as himself. This is not decided just a thought.**

**\*Parish wide meeting to discuss the direction of the church: Fr. Frank stated that the Adornos are still very new to Sumter and these discussions and decisions will come in time.**

**Closing Comments: Fr. Frank thanked Parish Council for their service and closed the meeting with a prayer.**

**Parish Council was dismissed.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary**