

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

New Freedom, Pa. 17349

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Date: June 8, 2021**Attendance** **Present:** Father Robert Yohe, Brian Sherman, Dennis Sarpen, ,
Janice Elsen, Mary Glass, Sister Jane Keller, Patricia Wilding,
Diana Morrison, Deacon Fred Horn, Rosemary Hartman,
Barbara Bittner, Karla Coombes,**Absent:** Anthony Carlton, Bo Gifford, Bobby Campbell, Chris
Wood, Tony Forella, Father Josh Cavender, Tom Young,**Excused:** Gary Grant

The meeting was opened by Dennis Sarpen at 7:10 pm

Opening Prayer: Offered by Father Robert Yohe**Review of Minutes:** Motion by Diana Morrison, seconded by Janice Elsen to
accept the May 11, 2021 minutes as submitted. Discussion. Vote: All in Favor.
Motion carried.**PARISH MANAGER REPORT/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE:** Father Yohe

Have signed the contract for replacement of the social hall floor. Removal of the present floor will take up 1 to 1 ½ days. Company will test for moisture level and install all commercial flooring. Bill is \$41,000.00 and this is down from \$60,000. +. Company is bonded and insured and once begun the project will take 7 to 10 days with two weeks being the longest time. Once the flooring is completed, the waxing will begin and this will be coordinated with the school. Entire project including waxing should be completed by mid-July.

The Festival is scheduled for July 31st weekend. There will be food trucks, kid's games, Beer truck and a band. The games vendor is fully insured so the parish is covered as our insurance would not cover this.

Council and New Elections – Father Yohe stated that elections which had previously been done by a one-time meeting with parishioners - now will move to elections following each Mass. Because of COVID, this was not done in 2020. Each council member serves either a 3-year or 2-year term with one year off and then can return for one more term. Father Yohe will speak with Father Wilke regarding all of this. Council is to be made up of at least 12 but not more than 18. Dennis Sarpen checked his records and it looks as though we will have 3 openings in September 2021 and 3 openings in September 2022. We will have nominating information in the parish bulletin. The candidates will submit a brief summary of their reason for joining the council as well as their past work/social history.

Father Josh has been working on evangelization with Barbara Bittner, Sister Jane and Diana Morrison.

Father Yohe mentioned that he has several ideas given by Joe Delaney "Operation Renew". It encompasses ideas on how the parish can grow in many areas. These ideas would be a great "fit" for the parish council and he will see that everyone gets a copy.

The new paster, Father Mark Wilke, will be installed on 6/24/21. Parish Council, Finance Committee, School staff and Parish staff will have reserved seating. Father Yohe will be installed at his new parish with a tentative date of 6/25/21.

Bazaar Committee is up and running and are busy taking in inventory for the 2021 bazaar.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT: Patricia_Wilding

School is out.

1. We are waiting for Diocesan guidelines for next year's school COVID safety plan.

2. We are currently registering students for our 2021/2022 school year. We currently have 125 students registered in the elementary school and 38 students registered in preschool. The number is fluctuating daily as families opt to return to public schools and new families move into the area.
3. Interviews are going on constantly to fill vacant staff positions. Six total staff members will not be returning next year. One full time and five part-time. One staff member retired, one left for a full-time librarian position and four staff members left the field of education. At this time, we have strong candidates for all staff positions.
4. The last day of school for preschoolers was 5/26, for distance learners was 5/28 and for in-person elementary students was 6/4.
5. We were able to have a graduation ceremony for our preschools 4's as well as our 6th graders. All except 1 of our 6th graders will be continuing their education at York Catholic next year. The 1 student will be attending an family alma mater school in Maryland.

The School Principal position still has not been filled and interviews will be held this weekend in conjunction with Father Wilke.

RELIGIOUS ED REPORT: Sister Jane

1. Rel. Ed classes have concluded for this current year.
2. Many thanks to all our generous Catechists and Aides who faithfully met in person each week while also communicating weekly with our remote students.
3. We're grateful that most of our Catechists and Aides will be returning on staff for our 2021-2022 catechetical year. However, we are in need of a few team members for some of our grades and sacrament programs.
4. A special Bulletin insert was posted in our 5/23 Parish Bulletin noting the names of all who celebrated Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter season.
5. Registration is going well for our 2021-2022 Rel. Ed program. Many families took advantage of our early registration offer.
6. Calendaring for 2021-2022 is currently in process for all our programs and classes.

7. St. John's is currently hosting a Good Shepherd Formation Course for Catechists throughout the Diocese. Upcoming weekends include July 24-25 and August 7-8.
8. Rel. Ed continues to join with the school in support of all fundraisers.
9. Rel. Ed hopes to participate in the school's mission projects more faithfully next year.
10. We're also working with the school in reorganizing and sharing classrooms, storage space, technology etc. as we prepare for a new academic year.
11. Our Rel. Ed staff works together with the school in setting guidelines for the safety and well-being of all our students.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT: Father Yohe

Chris Wood spoke at all Masses last Sunday. His new program is working well and membership has increased. New program is good and is being well received.

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE: Barbara Bittner

With the lifting of the COVID restrictions, we are in the process of restarting all programs. Father Yohe stated that the Committee space has been plastered, repainted, and a new tile floor installed with the help of Phil and Chris Wood's brother.

PASTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT: Karla Coombes

LOANS

Balance on Education Building loan as of 5/31/21 is \$200,967. (only one currently being paid down with the monthly second collection envelopes).

Balance of 2019 YE Deficit loan as of 5/31/21 is \$520,967. (only being paid down by any additional donations for the Magi Project)

Total loan debt \$251,933.

CASH BALANCE

Estimated G/F Cash Balance as of 6/8/21: Positive cash balance of \$40,988.

- This is high because of the 2nd SBA PPP loan that was received on 3/2 in the amount of \$239,690.
- We are essentially done receiving Tuition for the year

UNSEIGNATED SAVINGS

Parish General Savings as of 5/31/21: \$26.02

DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN (DAC)

- Goal for 2021/22 is the same as last year - \$192,003.
- The actual payments collected are \$80,444.
- Outstanding pledges of \$14,952.50
- If we are able to collect all the outstanding pledges, we will still be \$96,456. short of the assessed amount.
- I had budgeted a shortfall of \$71,184.
- The donations have come from 205 donors.
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FAITH DIRECT (no change since the last meeting)

- Enrollment is the same as last reported with 184 families with average weekly collection at \$7,450.54

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Discussion of the ensuing deficit to DAC. The increase over the prior year was due to the fact that the Magi Project was included in income because it was not pre-approved by the Diocese prior to its inception. Dennis Sarpen asked if the updated census would have any effect on DAC next year. Father Yohe replied he did not feel it would make much difference. Any Capital Campaign has to be pre-approved by the Diocese to make it exempt from ordinary income for DAC.

Father Yohe thanked the Parish Council for the great relationship during his tenure as Pastor. When he looked back at all of the good things that had occurred in the Parish, he gave the Council a “thumbs up”. He hopes to return for Forty Hours, the Festival and Knights of Columbus affairs. His new parish has about 1300 families and he will have one deacon. The Chaplin of UPMC will be in residence, and Father Yohe will be on call to UPMC.

Father Capitani has promised to donate his house to the Church and Father Yohe stated when he retires, that would be a good place to live.

Council members expressed their thanks to Father Yohe for his excellent leadership in all facets of his pastorship and especially for getting us through COVID.

Next Meeting: September 14, 2021

Closing Prayer: Janice Elsen

The meeting was closed at 8:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Mary Glass

PRAYER LEADERS:

October – Gary Grant

November – Brian Sherman

December – Dennis Sarpen

January – Bobby Campbell

February – R. Hartman

March – Anthony Carleton

April – Diana Morrison

May – Tony Forella