

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
New Freedom, Pa. 17349  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

**Date:** April 13, 2021 (virtual meeting)

**Attendance** Present: Anthony Carlton, Brian Sherman, Dennis Sarpen, Fr. Robert Yohe, Gary Grant, Janice Elsen, Mary Glass, Rosemary Hartman, Sister Jane Keller, Patricia Wilding, Tony Forella, Karla Coombes, Carol Karotko, Barbara Bittner

Absent: Bo Gifford. Bobby Campbell, Deacon Fred Horn, Chris Wood, Dianna Morrison, Tom Young, Fr. Josh Cavender

The meeting was opened by Dennis Sarpen at 7:05 pm

**Opening Prayer:** Offered by Janice Elsen

**Review of Minutes:** Motion by Janice Elsen, seconded by Gary Grant to accept the March 9, 2021 minutes as submitted. Discussion. Vote: All in Favor. Motion carried.

**Carol Karotko –** Committee's mini bazaars at 2 of 3 Lenten Dinners has realized a \$3,000. Profit. Through 2019/2020 we have been able to secure \$80,000 for the parish. Next effort will be Christmas in July at the Parish Festival. Father Yohe interjected that the Parish Festival is just for parish families without fund raising though a table with small items to sell or small raffle would be acceptable. Finders/Keepers have items on consignment. Carol will be taking a short hiatus from activity, but the committee will be accepting bazaar donations. Women's Club start up will be 4/21/21 at 6 pm in Neumann Hall. Intention is to team up with other church groups for fund raising, etc. with a focus on community action. Membership project will have wrap up meeting on 4/14/21. Father Yohe has sent letters to all not reached by phone and we are finalizing replies. Church Mini Store is still seeking a space and could be part of the new Women's Club. Father Yohe responded that with regard to the Abbey, it would have to remain as is

because Father Capitani had set it up with its own tax ID number. It is set up this way due to the blessing of the items. Presently the Abbey is closed due to COVID. Carol asked for the net income of the Abbey and Father will see that she gets that information.

With regard to St. Elizabeth Hall rental, Father will also get the financial information to Carol but stated that he thinks it is minimal as rentals are more often for the social hall, Father Capitani Hall and the Neumann Hall. Carol would like to see “coffee” after Mass reinstated to welcome new parishioners and to be a gathering place in a casual setting. Barbara Bittner stated that the Evangelization Committee often sponsored these on a monthly basis, but this has been shelved for now due to COVID.

With regard to the make-up of the Parish Council, Father Yohe stated that Diocesan Guidelines require 50% elected; 25% appointed and 25% ex-officio staff. The ex-officio/staff attendees do not have a vote. Father stated that he has not appointed any member and that all non-staff members are elected. Plans are in place for nominations, with short resumes being placed in bulletin, and voting after each Mass on a specific Sunday. Due to COVID, this was not followed this year, but as things ease and re-open, this procedure will be in force.

**PARISH MANAGER REPORT/BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE:** Father Yohe Replaced HVAC unit (already paid for). Work is being done on baseball fields and money for this was donated by a parishioner. Plans are under way to spruce up the little Eucharistic Chapel with replastering and repainting. Chris Wood’s brother is spear-heading this. Had some leaks in the Historic Church even with the new roof and again replastering and repainting is needed. New policy in cemetery with regard to decorations is going well.

**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL REPORT:** Patricia Wilding

1. plan under the guidelines of the Diocese. We are waiting for the latest CDC guidelines to be adopted by the Diocese.

2. We continue to offer both in-person and distance learning at each grade level. This is not sustainable, but we are making it work for now
3. Four classes a week are attending mass in-person while the rest are watching online. The classes rotate who can attend in-person, and the students get so excited when it is their turn
4. Our school families donated boxes of cereal in April. We were able to donate 310 boxes of cereal to the Southern York Food Pantry. We first enjoyed setting up the boxes like dominoes and all of the school students watched them fall.
5. We are currently registering students for our 2021/2022 school year. Enrollment is going well! We have 128 students registered in the elementary school. Three of the grade levels are now filled and have waiting lists. Preschool registration has also started and we are pleased with how quickly the classes are filling.
6. All school staff members who wanted to receive COVID vaccinations have now been vaccinated.
7. Staff members have shared their intentions to return next year. We are currently accepting applications for 2 classroom teachers and 1 aide.
8. Our auction opens tomorrow morning at 8 am. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we are praying that we receive lots of bids. The auction will run for one week and we have over 200 items available. Please check out our auction at:

<https://stjnschool.betterworld.org/auctions/spring2021>

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT:** Sister Jane

1. Rel. Ed Classes are in session and are offered for both In-Person and Remote attendance. Our In-Person Classes follow all CDC and Diocesan Guidelines and protocols.
2. All Families receive a weekly communication and have access codes and websites accompanying the curriculum per grade level.
3. Registration is open for our 2021-2022 Rel. Ed program. Electronic forms have been sent to all currently registered families and to all those known in-active families.
4. We welcomed 15 RCIA/RCIC Candidates into full membership at our Easter Vigil on Sat. April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

5. Confirmation was celebrated with our 36 Candidates on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Both Fr Bob and Fr. Joshua were our celebrants.
6. First Communion will be celebrated on Sat. May 1<sup>st</sup> with our Second Grade students.
7. Both our school and Rel. Ed students joined together in collecting "Lenten Sacrifice" donations for the good of the parish. We collected over \$700.00.
8. Our Grade 2 -Sacrament Prep students will meet in-person for their Retreat day at 2 different time frames on Sat. April 24<sup>th</sup>.
9. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation Candidates participated virtually in their Retreat Days.
10. Calendaring for 2021-2022 is currently in process.
11. St. John's will be hosting a Good Shepherd Formation Course for Catechists throughout the Dioceses, during the weekends of June 5-6, July 24-25 and Aug. 7-8.
12. Rel. Ed continues to join with the school in support of all fundraisers.
13. Our Rel. Ed staff in conjunction with our School staff continue to work together to comply with the Diocesan and CDC Guidelines to offer the best possible safe environment for all our students and staff.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT:** Chris Wood

REVIVE is continuing to do well throughout this pandemic. We have a great core group of teens showing up to every meeting and event. Bob Menefee and I are currently working on plans for the summer. We plan to have a good mix of spiritual and faith building meetings with some special outings mixed in. We are looking at some zip lining, paint ball and other outdoor events that the teens have suggested.

We are currently looking into some possible programs to use but are not sure yet if we want to lock ourselves into something. It has been nice recently to teach and discuss topics that seem relevant in the moment or that line up with the liturgical year. A lot has been going on in the world so we have not lacked for things to dive into.

Upcoming events:

- We are working with the St Vincent De Paul group to take on a home renovation project for a parishioner in need. We will be replacing an exterior staircase that is in serious need of a rebuild. My brother Stan and I will lead the project utilizing our construction backgrounds and a group of REVIVE teens will be there to help and represent the group. This will be in June.
- We are going to Steubenville Main Campus 5 on July 23-25. This is one of the best retreats available and unfortunately it was cancelled last summer. We have 14 teens signed up so far and 3 adult chaperones. We will rent vans for transportation. I would like to do some kind of concert fundraiser like I have done in the past to raise some cash for food/gas expenses.

- We will be moving forward with another series of outdoor movie nights that are open to the parish. I would like to advertise these as “Hosted by REVIVE” and have teens on hand to help run the show. We will begin these evenings with prayer, music and possibly a reflection. I have reserved May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> so far. We may do these events in the fall as well.
- REVIVE will have a more active role in the Parish Festival this year. We plan to organize some group activities for kids that show up to the event.
- We are considering doing our summer car wash fundraisers again this year. In previous years we have done 2 of these each summer with great success.

I am still looking for 1 or 2 adults volunteers to be a part of our core team for REVIVE. This will require a commitment to attend most meetings and events as well as bi-monthly planning meetings. Whoever is interested can email me and I will set up a time to meet with them.

We are currently still meeting twice a month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 6-9pm. We are discerning whether or not we want to meet on another Saturday regularly or just have an extra off campus event each month during the summer. We are also interested in bringing back the monthly adoration we had while Fr Ben was with us. I will lay a guilt trip on Fr Josh about this later...

#### **EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE:** Barbara Bittner

Praying for all petitions in Prayer Chain. Hoping that with the upcoming vaccinations, they will be able to become active soon.

#### **PASTOR'S REPORT:** Father Yohe

Diocese will provide appropriate resumes for Principal by end of April. They will be reviewed and appointments set up for those selected. Father thanked Patricia Wilding and Sr. Jane for all of their hard work. Sr. Angela will be going to Baltimore for another ministry, but Sr. Jane will be remaining in our parish. She is aware she may be alone if another person is not secured.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Karla Coombes

**Cemetery** – No expense to parish – costs of internment are paid by the consumer which leaves surplus of \$23,658. For the 21/22 which is an increase due to COVID.

**Rectory** – Makes no money. Salary for cleaner and cook. \$5,000 for Neumann Hall repair. Property taxes increased. Final deficit of \$38,526.

**Religious Ed** - Salaries, expenses, supplies, utilities, maintenance agreements Split between Religious Ed and School. Budget is broken down as: 75% for School; 15% for Preschool and 10% for Religious Ed. Final deficit of \$52,755.

**Preschool** – Income and Expenses yellow out – Final 21/22 figure is \$0.00

**School** – Receive subsidy which amounts to 21%. Bottom line deficit for 21/22 is \$172,257.

**Church** – COVID caused Easter Collection to be down. Social Hall floor needs to be replaced. Payment on debt averages \$4,500. per month. Lenten shortfall is \$71,184. Set up \$12,500. for bankruptcy payment as each parish can be expected to pay between \$12,500. and \$25,000. Budget shows net surplus of \$168,695.00

Father Yohe stated that the diocese always wants a balanced budget ending in \$0.00. Father is sending actual budget and he feels Diocese needs to know that the parishes are struggling and the budget reflects the true picture.

Budget is due to Finance Committee, then Parish Council and then to Diocese by 4/30/21. We are saving \$15,000. to \$16,000. monthly in interest. We have two loans paid off and per diocese we pay on one loan at a time.

We have received \$2,000. for the Magi Project and it was put on the school loan. If we can keep loan payments at the current rate, we will have the loans paid by 2025. The first PPE grant was \$239,900. and the second was \$239,600. Both of these do not have to be repaid.

Motion by Janice Elsen, seconded by Tony Forella to accept the budget as presented. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried

Question by G. Grant if the budget could be given to the Parish Council a little earlier to give us more time to peruse the document. Father and Karla stated that it was only finalized on 4/12 in the late evening. This was due to last minute

changes that cannot be avoided. Father Yohe stated he will attempt to get the “basic” budget to the PC earlier, but it will not contain the last-minute changes.

Father stated that the Diocese has increased the High School assessment by \$6,000.00. Father also thanked all for the Lenten/Easter services which saw an increase in Mass Attendance since COVID began. He also stated that Maryland residents attending our parish during Easter services have remarked about the friendliness of our parishioners.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** None

**Next Meeting:** May 11, 2021

**Closing Prayer:** Janice Elsen

Motion by Father Yohe, seconded by Gary Grant to close the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed at 8:12 pm

**PRAYER LEADERS:**

October – Gary Grant  
November – Brian Sherman  
December – Dennis Sarpen  
January – Bobby Campbell  
February – Rosemary Hartman  
March – Anthony Carleton  
April – Diana Morrison  
**May – Tony Forella**

Respectfully Submitted:  
Mary Glass