

St. George Parish Council Meeting  
Minutes  
Jan 28, 2017  
6:30 pm

Parish Council Meeting Start Time: 6:35 pm

Location – **Lattanzi Room**

Present: Cara, Helen, Colleen, Margo, Donna, Maureen, Father Stephen, Fran, Joe, Amanda, Peer Ministers: Michael, Libby, Hanna, Father Faron Columba

Absent: Tony, Brooke, Meg (peer minister), Kathy and Deacon Bob

**Reflection:** Father Stephen

**Welcome:** Maureen

**Motion to accept:** Colleen approved and seconded by Helen  
Maureen informed the Council of Jess Mularski's resignation.

**Divine Renovation Project** – Fr. Stephen & All

Review Parish Mission Statement – How does mission statement align with our objectives?

Maureen read the current mission statement, then read Tony's, which began the discussion leading up to the creation of the new mission statement.

- Difference between vision and mission. Vision is what we do and the mission is who we desire to be. (Fran)
- Mission statement should be something short enough for you to be able to remember and be able to state to others. (Father Stephen)
- Key words to a mission statement are important (Maureen)
- Used as a discussion or a teaching tool to refer to what we believe as Catholics. (Joe)
- Should be something you can say in an elevator ride. (Helen)
- The shorter the better. (Colleen)

Teach the ways...to carry the words...carry the faith...walking with Jesus. Witnessing and ministering to those in need.

- Father Stephen suggested that we include something about all of the service because at St. George we do a great deal of service for those in need.
- Amanda brought up the point of including something about our own unique roles and to give people the opportunity to feel like they don't have to fit in the "mold" and have their own unique role to play.
- To know God, to love God, to serve God (Helen)

Father Stephen suggested:

At St. George we discover our unique path to discipleship by reflecting on God's word, teaching the nourished by Christ Sacraments and serving those in need.

- We are trying to be a healthy and living parish (Helen)
- 

After much deliberation, the following was agreed to:

*As unique disciples of Jesus, we seek to know, to teach and to reflect Christ by welcoming and serving others through our Catholic faith.*

Our new mission was unanimously accepted!

### **Welcome Packet development:**

Someone expressed to Donna that people visiting Catholic churches in the area do not feel St. George is welcoming and that they didn't care for our website. Donna suggested the idea of developing and handing out welcome packets and then following up with them. The follow up could be an invitation to a meet and greet or invite them for a cup of coffee and give them a tour of the Church.

A suggestion to form a ministry for welcoming of new parishioners was made.

Donna and Joe are both interested in being part of this ministry. It was suggested to put this in the bulletin to reach out to other parishioners who might also want to be part of the welcoming ministry.

Margot said the Legion of Mary welcomed her father in the church here. He still associated with the people who welcomed him.

There could be a welcome card, an email or something on the church app. The welcome packet is a great idea for the initial meeting and a personal visit and then have a follow up where there is a tour of the church. Include the stewardship book with the welcome packet.

Margot brought up the point that people who are trying to get into ministries are having a hard time getting involved. There was a suggestion of having a ministry leader breakfast touching base with ministry leaders to revisit the need for inviting people in.

### **Fr. Mallon Conference – Thursday Feb 15, 2018 – Nashua, NH:**

During this conference, Fr. Mallon will touch on the four main points of his book, which are: To Go, To Make, To Baptize and To Teach. It is a 9-5 conference with a fee of \$45. The location is Nashua, NH and is a 2.5-hour drive. Tony will call tomorrow to see if people who are interested can still join this conference because the deadline was last week. Margo suggested listening to some of Fr. Mallon's talk on YouTube for those who are unable to attend.

### **Reports -**

#### **Pastor's Report – Fr. Stephen**

Fr. Stephen informed the council of the closing of OLM. Father reviewed what the

process has been to try to either, retain the current building, building a new school or using an existing school building.

Father Stephen would like to have a Q&A meeting on Feb. 15 for the families of OLM and SMS. Regional parochial school made up of the parishes of St. George, St. Margaret and St. John Bosco Parish, which will be called East Shoreline Catholic Academy that will be under the patronage of Mary.

ESCA will be a STREAM school (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math)

Mrs. Cheryl Panzo (current principal of OLM) – new principal  
Sr. Annette (current principal of SMS) - new vice Principal

The bequest: The money was to be given to OLM or its successor and to be used for general use and purposes.

Fr. Stephen also expressed the need for a ministry to identify and prioritize repairs and maintenance to the buildings on our parish property. The Ruiz center will be painted in the spring. Father Stephen will put a notice in the bulletin, seeking members of our parish with expertise in the various trades.

### **Abraham's Tent – Fran**

Our parishioners donated over thirty move-in kits. Parishioners also donated 298 gift cards. 125 parishioners helped out in one capacity or another. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade CCD students served dinner on three nights. Nine men were our guests from Columbus House.

There was one evening where there was a bad snowstorm. Because of this, the men returned to Columbus House. The reason for this decision was because there was a concern of a loss of electricity in our Church Hall that would then mean there would be no heat. The Abraham's Tent Committee will be working on a Plan B to offset this event in the future.

### **Ministry Minute –**

Bulletin Program has begun. Fran wrote the first submissions for the ministries that she is the Lead. However, she has not received any inquiries. She is looking for altar servers.

Fran suggested we all read Fr. Stephen's reflection on Haiti.

### **New Projects:**

#### **John Michael Talbot Concert – Maureen**

Bonnie McManamy and the Parish Life Committee are organizing this concert, which will be in the fall of 2018. She is looking for volunteers to assist in this effort. If anyone is interested please contact Bonnie.

- Kevin Buno is beginning to introduce his music into our Masses.

- Helen suggested announcing the Eucharist prayer at mass so that the parishioners can follow along to the perfect words.
- She also suggested that the peer ministers stay connected with the church through the sacraments.

**Closing Prayer-Song:** Go Light Your World - Colleen

**Meeting Dates:**

2/25/18, 3/18/18, 4/29/18, 5/20/18, 6/24/18