

Parish Council Minutes 031020

In attendance: Amber Hendricks, 9:30 rep, President; Ned Banks, 9:30 rep; Peggy Shouse, 9:30 rep; Craig Thornton, 7:15 rep. Al Reichelt, Liturgy Committee co-chair; John Moore, Education & Enrichment chair; Alana Florio, ALIVE; Jim Casey, Ad Hoc Committee chair; Peggy Meyer, Social Action Committee chair; Anne Freeburger, Corporator; Fr. Ray Chase, Pastor.

The meeting opened at 7:30 with Amber reading the parish mission statement as our opening prayer.

Pastor's report:

- The Park: There has been no meeting since the last parish council.
- There are still problems regarding the evening closing.
- A letter has gone out to known donors requesting online signup to avoid duplication and waste.
- There is now a job description and a search for a full-time custodian.
- The floors in the undercroft are getting a deep cleaning.
- The lighting system in the church is being evaluated.

Education & Enrichment:

- Fifty people attended the program on March 4.
- The committee recommends that all the Lenten meetings be held in the undercroft because of limited space in the classrooms.

Liturgy Committee:

- The liturgy committee decided to attend the Archdiocesan Conference for Liturgical Ministers rather than develop their own retreat.
- The committee will be meeting after the conference for final planning of the rest of Lent and Easter.
- The Seder committee is working.

Social Action Committee:

- New tables for the undercroft were donated in honor of Ed Stoup's birthday (founder of the Friday night dinners).
- The next bishop's peace walk will be 5:30 on March 24 at Holly Cross church in South Baltimore.

ALIVE:

- They have not met since the last parish council meeting.
- Plans are being finalized for the prayer service on March 25. LGBT ministries from several parishes have been invited.

Ad Hoc Committee for Church Reform:

- The committee is working on a charter in order to become a permanent full-fledged committee, dropping the *ad hoc* designation.
- Their report to the parish is scheduled to be distributed on the weekend of March 15. There will be Q & A afterward.
- HB974 extends the statute of limitations on sexual abuse.

Old Business:

- There is a decline in per-person giving. Two reps reported that some parishioners are reluctant to support the institutional church, partially because of the sexual abuse cover-up.
- Fr. Ray pointed out that the *cathedraticum* is frequently misunderstood, and asked us to remind parishioners that it provides us with a variety of services in exchange. It also helps to support poorer parishes that are not so fortunate as we are. The monetary portion that comes back to the parish goes to Sts. James and John School.
- The council discussed the possibility of distributing an abbreviated budget report to the entire parish 2 or 3 times a year.
- The question was raised as to whether we are adequately communicating to the parish what we do with our money. There was a sharing of ideas regarding how to do this. Do we need a wider sacred purpose workshop or a ministry fair?

New Business**The Archbishop's Annual Appeal:**

- Fr. Ray urged that people who are angry with the Archbishop for whatever reason should write directly to the Archbishop and not penalize those people who depend on the funding of the various programs, many of whom are the poor and marginalized.
- We may suggest that parishioners who do not wish to contribute to the Appeal may donate directly to the agency of their choice, e.g., Our Daily Bread, Catholic Charities, etc.