

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY TRANSITION TEAM MEETING MINUTES

The sixth meeting of the Catholic Community Transition Team was held on January 3, 2018 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Constable, NY at 6:00 pm.

Present: Father Tom Kornmeyer, Deacon Brian Dwyer, Angie Bashaw, Jay Brockway, Paula Boyea, Cherie Jock, Lynda Jones, Jack LaCroix, Joelle Lamica, Rod Lauzon, Lucien Leroux, Peggy Lester, Sharon Mallette, Karen Matthews, Pat Mathews, Dick Onufer, Dale Selkirk, Lori Tulip, Brenda Chatland

Father Tom opened the meeting with a prayer. He felt that the total attendance of 130 parishioners was poor considering there were three Christmas Masses offered at three different churches. Fr. Lamica was hired and presided at one of the Masses on Christmas Day. Next year there will be only one Christmas Mass.

There were no sub-committee reports submitted.

Deacon said there was a good crowd at St. Patrick's for Christmas Mass and he noticed there were people in attendance from other churches also. He further noted that there will be only three Masses on Palm Sunday.....one anticipated and two on Sunday. This is recommended by the Diocese in an effort to have more people attend and to be able to hold better celebrations of the Mass. Father said he increased the order for palms this year. The total schedule for Holy Week is not complete at this time.

Parish Council Meetings will be held as follows: Chateaugay/Burke – Monday, 1/8; Ft. Covington/Bombay – Tuesday 1/9; Constable/Westville – Wednesday 1/10. Father would like to have one Financial Committee made up of some members of this Transition Team (representatives of each parish included) that would report quarterly to the Pastor on the financial standings of each church.

Father will be appointing a committee to work on compiling the Pastoral Plan. The committee will complete the plan and it will be distributed and posted for all Parishioners to review well before it is submitted to the Diocese. The Diocese is specific on having it reviewed by all. The one plan will be inclusive of the six parishes. The Plan will include copies of all committee minutes (including sub-committee reports), bulletin announcements relative to the subject, etc. Fr. Tom wants everyone to know what has been discussed during this process.

Fr. Introduced the subject of the possible closing of some of the churches for the winter.
General Discussion: There are a lot of buildings that require a lot of heat. There was discussion on the churches that are not insulated because they are stone structures. Committee members again recommended that energy audits be done on all structures. Deacon noted that one new boiler was installed at St. Patrick's. It was stated that we should close as many buildings as possible during the next three months. Which churches are the most energy efficient? Answer: St. Francis & Our Lady of Fatima. Which churches are not energy efficient? Answer: St. Mary's & St. Patrick's.

The Transition Committee members agreed that priorities need to be set. There are too many issues involved. A suggestion was made to appoint a committee (representatives of each parish) to list the many items that should be prioritized and make a master list. The individual Parish Council members should also be consulted.

Those present were reminded that the Priests and Deacons are charged with caring for the spiritual needs of the parishioners while also considering the financial needs of each parish. Both these issues are paramount in any decisions made.

Daily Mass Issues – (1 Priest).....At the present time, Fr. Tom's daily Mass Schedule is Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Fr. Looby's is Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

Fr. Said the daily Mass Schedules with only one Priest will be discussed with the Parish Councils.

Joelle reported that the **Outreach Committee** will be speaking directly to the parishioners at the end of Mass, explaining the volunteer needs of the churches, ie, lectors, EM, altar servers, etc. They plan to do this during Lent. Father asked that her committee go ahead and organize a presentation for all the churches to use.

When Father meets with the Parish Councils next week, he will give them a synopsis of what this committee has done and where help is needed for spiritual reasons. We want to motivate the people and let them know the Church is alive! Some future plans were discussed such as a Children's Liturgy, an Outdoor Mass & picnic next summer involving all six churches.

Deacon Brian closed the meeting at 7:15 PM with a prayer. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 23 at 6:00 pm at St. Francis.

Father Tom Kornmeyer
Pastor

Lynda Jones
Recorder