

# **St. Mary's/St. Joseph's Parish & Finance Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, 1/9/18, 6:00pm**

Present: Alison Benedict, Faylene Chapman, Danielle French, Cindy Healy, Pat Niles, Chris Smith, Shirley Therrien  
Fr. Tom, Deacon Brian.

Absent: Ray Brosseau, Shilo Leduc, Jerry Mahoney, Jerry Rufa, and Kay Spinner

Father Tom opened with a prayer.

## **Planning:**

Father Tom reported that the Planning Committee has met six times. Members of all six parishes are serving on the sub-committees. The final plan will be submitted to the Bishop at the end of January.

Father Tom gave a synopsis of all the positive things that are happening in our churches;

- 1). Food Pantry
- 2). Vacation Bible Schools
- 3). Religious Education Programs
- 4). Music Ministers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors in all parishes
- 5). Thrift Stores
- 6). Communion being brought to the Shut-Ins, Nursing Home and the Hospital
- 7). Servers in most parishes

Father Tom and Deacon Brian mentioned the success of the Country Patch Store and the new thrift store that was opened recently in Chateaugay. Father Tom suggested the possibility of opening a thrift store in St. Mary's Parish Center. It would provide the community with a decent place to buy used clothes and household items. The income generated could help meet the budget needs of the parish. Father said that two people would need to Co-Chair the project.

The Finance Sub-Committee has been discussing ways to cut expenses. One area they are looking into is outsourcing the bookkeeping for all six parishes.

Father Tom read a statement listing the benefits of merging St. Mary's and St. Joseph's parishes. A merger would result in simplifying the administration; one checking account, one set of books and reports, one pastoral/finance council. The merger would further increase the bond that has developed among the parishioners and the sharing of resources.

## **Finance:**

Father said that the upkeep of the buildings and the grounds, heating systems, roofs and wiring are top priorities;

- 1). Boilers at St. Joseph's, St. Patrick's and Our Lady of Fatima need to be replaced
- 2). St. Francis Church needs a new roof and the septic system and the elevator need to be serviced
- 3). The back steps of St. George's need to be replaced
- 4). St. Patrick's needs new wiring in the church
- 5). St. Mary's stained glass windows are bowing and allowing cold air to come in.

A suggestion was made to cover the windows with plastic for the cold months. It was also suggested to ask the parishioners for donations to cover the cost of repairing the windows.

Father Tom passed out copies of the profit and loss budget vs actual statements for both St. Mary's and St. Joseph's for the period July 2016 through June 2017 and for the period from July 1, 2017 through January 9, 2018. It was noted that the budget column for the cemetery expenses was all zeros. Father is going to find out the reasons for the zeros.

Chris Smith will be doing an analysis on the cost of mowing the building grounds and cemetery to see if outsourcing would be less costly.

Father Tom said that the Diocesan Capital Campaign will help us. Seventy-Five percent of the money collected will remain in the parish. Twenty-Five percent will be sent to the Diocese.

**Ministry/Faith Formation/Evangelization:**

Father said that the Religious Education Programs in Fort Covington, Chateaugay and Constable will stay the same.

The celebration of Confirmation will be held in only one church. No decision has been made as to which church it will be. There will be more Confirmandees all worshipping together along with the combined choirs and hospitality which will provide a fuller, richer experience.

With the decline of priests and parishioners, we need to find ways to help each other out in all of the parishes;

- 1). More Lay Ministers to meet the needs of the people
- 2). Outreach to the shut-ins
- 3). Try to get families to come back to church.

**Open Discussion:**

St. Mary's is forming an events committee which will be meeting next week to plan the next fundraiser.

The mass schedule will stay the same as long as Father Looby is able to help out. When we are only down to one priest, three of the churches will become worship sites. In the event that a church closes any donated items could be returned to the donors.

Thanksgiving was extended to our priests and deacons who are doing an excellent job.

Deacon Brian concluded the meeting with a prayer.

The next meeting will be at St. Mary's Parish Center on Wednesday February 7 at 6:00pm.

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Father Tom Kornmeyer    Pastor

Recorder: Carol Pulsifer