

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2019

The meeting began with prayer offered by Fr. Mike and Dave Boyle. Meeting minutes were approved.

The St. Patrick's Day party was a success. There was a nice crowd, with new faces. The food and drink stations worked well, and the lines weren't too long. Special thanks to Carol and David Johnston for their work in preparing the food.

Parish picnic update—Cindy Hassan called to reserve the picnic grounds at St. Walburg, but she was not able to connect with anyone. She believes we have a standing reservation but wants to make sure, since the grounds are now under new management.

Holy Thursday dinner—Mary Ann Kelly has agreed to coordinate. We will try to identify someone who can work with her to mentor new people in planning future events. It was suggested that an effort should be made to personally invite new parishioners to the dinner.

Mary Ann is also coordinating a potluck supper on April 1, at 6:30 pm, for people who want to work on hospitality events. The hope is to get more coordinators who can take over planning these celebrations so Parish Council members can be freed up to do more big-picture work.

Emmet Cahill concert—Ticket sales for the concert are going well. St. Henry District High School students will be helping out again this year taking and selling tickets at the door. Diane Gripshover will be interpreting again for the Deaf Community. Parish Council members offered to help by greeting guests and directing them to additional parking across the street and around the corner in the Bexion lot.

Rebuilt—As follow-up to the January Parish Council retreat, council members agreed to purchase copies of *Rebuilt*. Fr. Mike will assign chapters for us to read and discuss at future meetings.

Communications—Cindy Duesing will post Parish Council meeting minutes on the website, once they've been approved. We will also try to post a quarterly Finance Council report. Fr. Mike expressed his willingness to get more active on social media, but he will need some coaching. The parish has Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter accounts that he can access.

Bereavement Committee—In response to Harold Trouten's concern about being understaffed for receptions after funerals, it was suggested the Bereavement Committee should be organized to make the most efficient use of its members.

Coffee and donuts—We need a backup plan for picking up donuts. The Deaf Community usually does this, but one Sunday the person scheduled to pick them up couldn't do it due to a death in the family.

Michael Sketch suggested that we do some cross-training. Too many people only know how to do one thing, and when they're not here to do it, it's chaos.

Mary Jo Schuerman will talk to Harold and Maxine about the funeral receptions and coffee and donuts to see where they need help and get a better understanding of the process.

Young Adult Ministry—Jerry and Bridget Otto are very enthusiastic about starting up a young adult ministry. They would like to draw young people from the community, inviting them to Fr. Mike's talks and then going to Braxton Brewery afterward. More meetings with them are planned to brainstorm ideas.

Parish database—We have 600+ families on the books as registered members. There are about 200 with whom we don't have regular contact. The list needs to be updated, and we need to come up with a good way of regularly collecting and maintaining current contact information, e.g., email addresses, cell phone numbers, etc.

Parish banner—The parish banner we use at the Chrism Mass is large and unwieldy. A parishioner received a Christmas gift in the form of a check made out to Mother of God that could go toward a special project. Could this be seed money for a new banner or an electric sign in front of church? Fr. Mike suggested that since the banner is only used once a year, the money might serve the parish better going toward something that is used more often.

City-wide meetings—The city of Covington is hosting small groups at dinner to discuss what to do with the land the IRS building occupies. They are targeting people who have a vested interest in how the land is developed. Fr. Mike asked if we could host one of those dinners in the hall, since we as a parish have such an interest. Michael Sketch volunteered to follow up on this.

Mission Statement—Parish Council spent the last 15 minutes of the meeting discussing a new Mission Statement. It should reflect inner and outer aspects, e.g., to know, love and serve God, and to go make disciples of all people. Bridget Kaiser and Mark Rosing brought examples of statements from other parishes. Cindy Duesing gave an example from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where they have a vision statement that is one sentence, supported by a mission statement with three bullet points that explains how the vision will be accomplished. Any marketing or communications plan we develop, as well as a "brand identity" will be dependent on the vision and mission statement we come up with.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.