



St. Mary's Parish Council Minutes – September 12, 2018

7:00 pm meeting called to order by Tom Rechen

In Attendance: Father Matera, Tom Rechen, Sean Hughes, Meg Keating, Daria Mauro, David Croke, Larry Christian, Leon Rippel, Betty Bible, Tim Sullivan, Gavin Hughes.

Absent: Chris Becker, Lily Fleming

Opening Prayer by Fr. Matera

Welcome New Members of Parish Council: Daria Mauro, David Croke, Tim Sullivan, Gavin Hughes, Lily Fleming

PASTOR'S REPORT

1. The foundation for the Campus Connection Project has been laid and the steel has arrived. We are on schedule and the building should be closed in by Thanksgiving. We have begun the process of selling the Parish Office. To date parking has gone well thanks to Dan Carr and his team.
2. This theme for our parish this year will be "Witnessing to our Faith." The third Sunday of every month four parishioners will give a witness to their faith. This will begin on the weekend of Sept 15-16. Sean Hughes, Joanne Russell, Margaret Williamson, and Dennis Duff will be giving witness to their faith. This will culminate in a service of Music and Witness on Sunday, March 31. Susan Faulkner will coordinate this project.
3. The parish need to make progress in the following areas: Welcoming new parishioners, reaching out to young families, developing a vibrant men's group, and on-going evangelization
4. The Sexual Abuse Crisis continues to be a source of continuing sorrow and distress, and its shows no sign of going away soon. We will need to continue to address it.

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

- 66 parishioners attended the Listening Session on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.
- Three recurring themes: 1) sex abuse crisis 2) church closings 3) communication, transparency, and accountability
- Trust needs to be rebuilt
- Fr. Matera, Tom Rechen and Sean Hughes will meet to discuss possibility of amending By Laws to add new member to Parish Council to represent St. Bernard.

- At a later date, possibly have a Listening Session with same three questions used by the Archdiocese for St. Mary's Parish. Will check use of social media.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Father Matera would like to feature one committee each month to Parish Council for a deeper discussion on that committee's upcoming plans and brainstorm together on what can be improved. This is not about the effectiveness of each committee but rather the quality within our parish. Father asks that each committee prepare a report in advance. Liturgy Committee will be featured in October, 2018 Parish Council Meeting.

LITURGY COMMITTEE—Larry Christian

- Preparations for Advent are being planned.
- Use of social media: Facebook, Simsbury Moms Unite, E-mail
- Music: youth as cantors; all or most verses are sung for entrance & recessional songs
- Recruit more altar servers

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION--Chris Becker was absent; no report given.

SOCIAL ACTION AND OUTREACH –Leon Rippel

- September 23, 2018 collection for House of Bread
- September 30, 2018 canned food collection for Simsbury Food Pantry

ADULT ENRICHMENT AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT –Betty Bible

- Conducting an inventory of Library books.
- Sandy Everett will speak in October on the meaning of the stained glass windows in our church.
- Speakers for November and December will be confirmed.

FINANCE COUNCIL REPORT

Finance Council last met on August 20th and will meet this month on the 17th. Agenda items discussed in August included the following:

- Upcoming financial audit of the parish and school by the Archdiocese the week of September 24-28
- Construction update (no major issues to date with parking or foundation and road work)
- Facilities issues, including: temporary repairs (\$5,000) to an A/C unit during the summer and the need to replace that unit during the Campus Connection project at a

cost of \$20,000; and clean out of the leaking church gutters on the south side that caused some water damage to the library.

- Monthly and YTD financial results through July, which continued to be positive overall. Offertory for the month of July was on budget and \$6300 better than budget for YTD. Total revenue is \$8800 ahead of budget through July and total expenses are \$25,800 below budget, giving us net income through July of some \$34,700. (Latter figure will obviously be impacted by the A/C repair mentioned above.) That YTD net income figure is some \$27,100 better than the prior year at the same point
- Updated financial projections for the Campus Connection project and securing Archdiocesan approval for the eventual sale of the parish offices on Massaco Street

SCHOOL BOARD – Tim Sullivan

- Recruitment is a focus at St. Mary's School.
- NEASC Reaccreditation – SMS received rave reviews.
- Blue Ribbon Award by Federal Government is possible.
- Back-to-School Night was well attended.
- School Board met Wednesday, 5, 2018.
- Busses are moving well, even with construction.

PRESENTATION RE: GOVERNING DOCUMENTS – Tom Rechen

Constitution, By Laws, Vision, and Mission Statement were reviewed. Parish Council members were asked to read these documents carefully.

PARISH COUNCIL GOALS 2018 – 2019

- Support and advocate for the Parish Connection Project.
- Creation of Men's Group –Father Matera, Tom Rechen and Sean Hughes will meet.
- Promote Listening Session for St. Mary's Parish

YOUTH REPORT—Gavin Hughes had nothing to report but will be in touch with Kathleen Keating.

CLOSING PRAYER—Led by Father Matera

