

PPC MEETING May 4, 2016

Present: Ann Marie Rosa, Fr. Vinnie, Jim Spoto, ME Herx-Morrill, Edward Poole, Mike Kiernan, John Glancy, Carol Roberto, Claire Ramsbottom, Deacon Frank Tremblay, Lynn Jacobs, Mike Jaillet, Owen Devlin, Kate Mason, John Flaherty

Absent: Leo Donovan, Nigel Timothy, Mark Dudziak, Joe Watson, Allen del Rosario

Check In

Opening Prayer, Deacon Frank

Finance Update

Jim Spoto distributed the latest Parish Finance Summary (as of March 31, 2016) to review with the PPC. The bottom line looks pretty good: we are ahead of budget. Weekly offertory is “messed up” by \$10k due to weeks of March/April. We are up income by 5%, as Jim had budgeted. Annual Collection is above what expected and budgeted for. Religious ed. has been flat; this year, better collection efforts. Salaries are a bit over budget due to overlap (Chris Muldoon and Lynn Jacobs overlapped; Kerry Payson and Teresa Coda overlapped; Susanne Osberg and Allen del Rosario overlapped) when hiring.

The Facilities Commission disbanded during the Collaborative (2015-16) and needs to be reinvigorated. Things have not been attended to as quickly as we would like. Due to rain, a “walk through” was cancelled.

Priorities do need to be established and then coordinated with what is possible within the budget. A budget template is being set up by Jim for 2016-17.

Jim gave a “snapshot” of certain areas within the budget:

- Benefits: some savings due to new hirings not taking
- Facilities: some savings due to winter weather being less severe
- Religious ed.: some savings due to no Parish Assembly; still waiting on CSS submitting bill for janitor (Sunday mornings)
- Archdiocese bill: flat 10% of our income (gotten abatements in the past); If there is a shortfall in the Catholic Appeal, then it has to be made up. (History: OLOS had gotten up to \$24K contribution but when Collaborative came, OLOS down to \$13K). Jim is trying to establish a pattern of decreasing abatement (so we can keep at

least a partial abatement) rather than asking for large or 100% abatement request.

- Lynn has done great work to save OLOS money with phones and WiFi networks
- Electronic giving is starting to increase; we would like people to use online giving more than Parish Pay since Parish Pay takes a small percentage.
- Annual collection is back to fiscal 2010 levels; some big stock donations came in , two unexpected; we are building up cash again. March is our peak month traditionally, and traditionally summer is “dry-est”

“Green Team”

Mary and Lynn have begun making changes to make the Coffee Hours more sustainable, in response to the research done by the Stonehill College students’ research and presentation and in response to *Laudato Si’s* mandates. They sought input from PPC members about how to continue the work of integrating more sustainable efforts into our parish life. Claire and Ann Marie suggested creating a short term advisory board which could help us figure out how to integrate faith and sustainability into all we do, creating a culture shift. Others commented that “if everybody is doing it, then nobody is doing it, because nobody is in charge”. We would seek to create a dedicated team to keep OLOS “honest” about being sustainably focused.

Church Renovation History

Deacon Frank had a conversation with Mike Kiernan and Dick Martin to learn more about the history of OLOS’ architecture and renovation, which was a result of questions raised by a Liturgy Commission starting. Deacon Frank conveyed the following information: The large crucifix was taken down, and the place where it now is used to be an entrance. The altar was taken down from the nave to be closer to the people. The altar now is placed in the middle of the cross (with shape of pews and aisles). Where chairs are for choir and lector/parishioners, this space previously had pews. Chairs give more room for people. Domino effect occurs; one change leads to another. Everything in architecture has a reason: for instance, the number of steps (one - one God; three - Trinity; seven - perfection). Over time, liturgical directives have shifted. GIRM has very specific instructions; however not always followed, cite ENT.

Deacon Frank has more education to now bring to Liturgy Commission. We do need to write this information down. Oral history is not enough

Faith Formation Update

Listening Sessions: Mary and Teresa held Listening Sessions to gather input from parents, students and parishioners about their programs. Students filled out evaluations during their final classes. There was very poor attendance by parishioners at Listening Sessions unfortunately. Those who did come gave positive feedback, particularly about Teresa's strong, skilled and Spirit-filled work during her first year at OLOS. Small group facilitators and catechists also gave positive feedback and helpful suggestions. In the future, Mary and Teresa anticipate more personally inviting parents and parishioners to attend Listening Sessions and/or sending out online surveys in an attempt to gather more feedback.

Possible changes to the Middle School and High School programs: Mary and Teresa would like to make changes to the monthly 5 pm MS and Confirmation programs in response to the faltering attendance at the 5 pm liturgy and pizza social time as well as feeling the students would benefit from being in a program that is more integrated. They are proposing to create a new structure for each month which would entail an hour of instruction and activity; a different liturgical experience each month (Mass, Evening Prayer, Taize Prayer, etc) followed by time to reflect and de-brief. They will need the cooperation of the Music Director and possibly Liturgy Commission to make this work. (PPC members responses were positive).

Mary has scheduled a discussion with Jim Spoto, head of Finance Commission to discuss Tuition and Registration. Mary has been researching how much surrounding parishes charge for tuition and will discuss the 2016-17 rate with Jim as well as the use of scholarships for those who cannot pay. Teresa, Lynn and Mary will be going to Parish Soft (database) training and then construct the online registration form for parishioners use.

Social Events Commission

Fr. Vinnie met with Kim Kokkotos to discuss creating a Social Events Commission. She will be in touch with Carol Roberto and Maureen Hamilton to see if they can create the core of a potentially growing group to

organize Social Events. Kim is very enthusiastic and has creative ideas like an outside Movie Night during the summer.

Coffee in the Garden

Discussion was held about possible shifting the date, June 5th, which conflicts with Sharon High graduation. Since graduation is at 4 pm, members decided to keep the date. Mike Kiernan cautioned members to be aware that the Bullock Center is not handicapped accessible, which is an issue especially in winter. Lynn reminded all that the Bullock Center is used for Coffee Hour only during the summer.

Liturgy Commission

Deacon Frank is convening a Liturgy Commission, per mandate by PPC and Fr. Vinnie. At the first meeting, 15 people attended to “come and see.” Some people have informed Deacon Frank that they no longer have interest. Due to many conflicts, a very low number turned out for the May meeting. Frank has plans to have a secretary, hold the meeting on the same day of month, have members read the GIRM, and to create smaller subcommittees to work on various seasons who then present to larger group. LitCom is getting up and going. At present, Frank sees a need to review what we are doing.

Not Locked Policy

Are we opening ourselves to potential vandalism? BC open historically as place of refuge: not being used as “safe house”, community not aware discussion at last meeting Paddy Favazza has written note asking that we reconsider locking the church. They live across the street from the church and see people entering church at all times, we have never had a problem with church being open Lock at night to early AM as a way of compromise? BC, OH definitely need to be locked but maybe just church locked for some hours. Who will lock and unlock church? church is a place of refuge; crises happen at all hours we have never had a problem / you never have a problem until you have a problem Catholic churches are always open around the world (Protestant churches are locked). Comfort comes from access. Lock can be set to automatically lock at night. Lock side doors and leave front door open, which is more open. Has anyone followed up on question: if Archdiocese mandates we lock buildings, what happens with insurance if we don't? If we pay in to insurance, then they are obligated to pay if there is a claim. To what point do we take directive: “Lock the church” Vandalism also creates a

conversation: it brought community together and facilitated (town) conversation. referring to when temple defaced in Sharon Decision is for Fr. Vinnie to make; hear from Paddy and PPC members discussed

Summer PPC Retreat

Members discussed what the upcoming retreat will look like. Old and new members will attend to “pass of the baton.” The meeting is meant to have a spiritual dimension and community building component, perhaps beginning with a mass and some exercises to help us get to know one another. PPC will also need to brainstorm what we want to accomplish in the coming year. Fr. Vinnie suggested using Sr. Pat Boyle as a facilitator and finding an outside venue for the meeting. The date of June 16th and a half-day retreat were determined. Fr. Vinnie will provide an update at the next PPC meeting.

Recruitment of Volunteer Coordinator and Facilities Positions Update

To date, we have received no applications. Larry has a suggestion for Maintenance Coordinator and will call him. Claire will speak with a parishioner about the Volunteer Coordinator position, and Mary will call a new parishioner who may be interested.

Upcoming Town Hall

At the upcoming Town Hall, we should review Faith Formation Programming and Commission updates. Fr. Vinnie will promote the Town Hall and recruitment of new PPC at-large members by speaking about it at the end of masses and through the bulletin.

Carol pointed out the need for an announcement, as church gets more full, for people to scooch together to make more room in the pews.

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