

**Cathedral of the Assumption
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
April 16, 2015**

Those present:

Margaret Brosko, George Kaissieh, Don Kavanaugh, Paul Kelty, Barbara Knebelkamp, Jack Lydon, Vicki Maruca, Brenda McWaters, Fr. Jeff Nicolas, John Smart, Angela Wiggins, Tom Zimmerman, and guest Jackie Lydon.

I. Opening Prayer

Council Vice-Chair Don Kavanaugh called the meeting to order, and John Smart led the council in the opening prayer.

II. Review of Minutes

The March 19, 2015 Parish Council minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Administration/Finance Report

Tom Zimmerman reported that as of March, the Cathedral is \$17,000 in the red, with weekly offertory collections below the budgeted \$17,500.

It is hoped this year's FeedMyNeighbor fund-raiser effort will net \$81,000.

IV. Committee Reports

Formation – Carollynn Hall

Seventeen people came into the Church at the Easter Vigil; six children received First Eucharist on April 12; ten youth will be confirmed on Pentecost. April 26 is the last day for Children's Religious Education this year. Thirty-five attended Fr. Nicolas' presentation on How to Plan a Funeral; Michael Cirone is gearing up to lead a summer book club. Festival of Faiths Sacred Journey is May 12-16.

Parish Life – Don Kavanaugh

Chrism Mass and Easter Vigil Receptions went well and were well attended. Mr. Kavanaugh thanked all who helped with these events.

Social Concerns – Barby Knebelkamp

At the last quarterly meeting of the Social Concerns Committee, the group reflected on this year's *Conversations* offered in conjunction with Catholic Charities and discussed projects and events for the coming year. At this point, we don't anticipate more representation at quarterly meetings, but that more individuals will take part in smaller groups gathered around specific projects and events. The committee also plans to involve to a greater degree (both formationally and hands-on) the Children's Religious Ed program in the special collections for charities.

Stewardship – Margaret Brosko

The committee is addressing the tithing issue. Next year's stewardship campaign will follow the diocesan schedule, which begins sometime after the

first of the year, as opposed to the fall campaign we have utilized over the past several years.

Worship – Father Nicolas related that Archbishop Kurtz said that this year’s Triduum at the Cathedral was more meaningful and moving than any he had experienced since had been ordained a priest. There were favorable remarks about the purple draping behind the altar for Lent and the cross over the baptismal font for Easter. The choirs were also commended for Holy Week and Easter.

Special Project Reports: Current Activity and Discussion

Mother Catherine Spalding – Fr. Nicolas reported that all is proceeding according to schedule for the dedication of the statue on July 26. The Parish Life Committee will work with the statue team for the dedication event.

Feed My Neighbor – Don Kavanaugh

The fundraising committee is working diligently on getting corporate and individual sponsorships. They also believe future projects should be one event only, rather than the Jazz Night in winter and main event in June.

VI. Old Business

(a) Tithing Strategy

The Cathedral’s tithing is on a downward trajectory. For the last three years, \$17,500 weekly was the amount projected, but for this fiscal year so far, our average is \$14,600, and this may go lower before the fiscal year end on June 30. There are many contributing factors, and these have been discussed at length in both Finance and Council meetings. On May 7, there will be a joint meeting of the Finance Committee and the Parish Council to address the financial crisis in light of both mission and income/expenses. The “group of seven” will also be meeting to develop strategies for increased giving in the parish.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 21, at 5:30 pm, in the Cathedral Undercroft.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Wiggins, Secretary