

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of February 15, 2018

Attendees: Father Tom, Maria Russell, Jeff Mesch, Theresa Mesch, Deacon Papp, Gary Perrydore, Jacob Visovatti, Bridget Galbraith, Emily Shurtliff, Diane Ericksen, John LaRock, Bill Boudreaux. Absent: Deacon Jim Thibodeau, Marie Skrobola

I. Parish Festival – Theresa Mesch

Theresa Mesch spoke of an **Advent or Christmas Market** to replace the prior Parish Festival. She envisions the Advent Market as more than a festival – it would be a culturally-themed, community-building gathering with involvement by several organizations within the parish, e.g. Choir, St. A's, Knights, etc. It would be a source of evangelization. We would demonstrate who we are by having one of our sung Masses and showing the people the beauty of our parish. Theresa suggested that we could ask for the Dominicans or Irish dancers to attend. She suggested that we could possibly have St. Nicholas walking around. This would be outdoors and have a bonfire, mulled wine, possibly have meat smokers, very European style of festival.

John LaRock said that the old volunteers for the festival faded away and no younger folks picked it up. We don't want to do this in the festival grounds, but in the parking lot or in front of the Church. This year it might be for one day. Fr. Tom really likes this as it is very similar to stuff done in the Czech Republic.

The council discussed possible dates in December to have the Advent market. Deacon Papp mentioned that if it is going to be more than one day then we'd need security so we should probably do it one day. The key to success is getting buy-in and cooperation from multiple groups within the parish. Debbie knows about the permits. The inspectors are very strict.

Theresa was named Director of the project and Bridget Galbraith volunteered. We are also going to contact the prior festival people.

II. Update: Pastors & Parish Council Chairs Gathering

The diocese invited pastors and parish council chairs for updates and getting regular minutes from diocese. September 22, there will be a 4-mile event of Eucharistic Adoration from Cathedral to the Breslin Center. They hope to have 100 people from each parish.

III. Witness to Hope

Father thinks we'll make the goal. For a few months we were only ¼ of the way there. Since then, several people came forth and others increased it after participation weekend. We want to get started with the parking lot and a vocations endowment.

IV. Music Director Discussion

Fr. Tom touched base with Jim Renfer but both parties decided to part ways. Father had received several complaints, the biggest complaint being volume but there were also complaints about dissonance to the music. After a lengthy discussion regarding the parish's liturgical vision and Jim's

history and role in the parish, the council agreed that the new Music Director should maintain an emphasis on sacred music and chant. The parish currently has two leads for new Directors and Father is beginning the interviews.

V. Prayer for Vocations

Jacob recommended that the council consider implementing a vocations prayer used with ecclesial approval in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Deacon Papp suggested that the text be amended to include diaconal vocations, and Father Tom agreed to consider the implementation of the prayer, possible beginning in the Easter season. On a different note, the council also discussed possible vocations trip to Sacred Heart Seminary.