

St. Leo Parish Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2019

Present: Father Grosso, Christine Green, Judy Sarnelle, Charlene Heffernan, Eileen Towne, Joe Baranowski, Raffaella Iovieno, Mike Nicholson, Mike Carlon, Ann Hogan, Marie Cordeiro, John Kennedy, Brenda Jegier, Gail Hofmann, Chip Howe and Lisa Musilli.

Mike Nicholson called the meeting was called to order at 7:28pm. Fr. Grosso opened with a prayer. The minutes of the November meeting were accepted unanimously.

Pastor's Comments

- Father Grosso opened with a recap of the diocesan *We Stand with Christ* campaign. Several get-togethers were scheduled for the month of January by the diocese including one at Giovanni's on January 13th and one at St. Mary's on January 30th as the Bishop continues to educate people about this capital campaign which will set up three foundations – one for education, one for charity and one for capital improvement. Each parish was given a goal and is promised by the diocese to be able to keep half of what they receive for their own projects. Bishop Caggiano created this campaign to try and help the diocese not rely so heavily on the yearly campaign as well as create endowments that will grow in time as the number of people who donate to the church shrinks. Mike Nicholson encouraged the council members to visit the link in the diocesan website that goes over the campaign and attend the meeting on the 30th and ask questions.
- Father and Joe Baranowski then reported to the council on the meeting that they had with the diocesan real estate manager regarding the replacement of the heating system here at St. Leo (our designated project for the *We Stand with Christ* campaign funds). The meeting was to go over the bidding process as well as a timeline for the project which includes installation of a new gas line; removal of old tanks; asbestos abatement; and installation of new boilers. Father and Joe were very pleased with how the meeting went. If all goes according to plan the work will begin on May 1, 2020 as it MUST be completed by the second week in August in time for the annual fair. The diocese was impressed by Father and Joe's knowledge of how the project must be completed and by the fact that the parish is all set to fund the project.
- Father Grosso reported that the annual Mardi Gras celebration has been changed and now will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner (St. Leo style!) The event will be on Tuesday, March 5th and all are excited about the change.
- Mike Nicholson and John Kennedy then asked Father Grosso (for the benefit of the new council members) to go over what he sees the role of the Parish Council to be. Father was happy to oblige and said that he sees the council as his sounding board for the things that he needs to look at in the parish. He also asks the council to continue to listen to the concerns of the other parishioners and bring them to him.

Reports

Committee Reports

Youth Group

- Lauren reported that 15 members went to the New Covenant House to decorate for Thanksgiving but unfortunately were unable to get in due to the locked door. St. Leo youth have been doing this for years and were disappointed that they could not enter.
- Wreath sales were slow this year – the you group had 25 left over which they gifted to Brighton Gardens but poinsettia sales were very good
- The Christmas meeting included a Secret Santa which was fun along with ginger bread house building
- Very encouraged because each meeting brings new attendees and the group gets larger!

Seniors

- Meeting January 15 – lunch and program – usually a quiet meeting because many members have gone away for the winter
- Irish soda bread sales will be in March – this is the groups only fundraiser so please be generous!
- General meeting Tuesday, February 19
- The group continues to try and expand its offerings and think of new ideas for the year as well as encourage new members

Social Concerns

- Brenda and Gail reported that Thanksgiving food drive went very well with 125 people served dinner with so much left to spare which was packaged up and sent home with the people
- The Christmas drive was a huge success with 900 gifts, 2000 toiletries and 100 food cards collected. Sorting day was well-attended and went smoothly.
- Brenda and Gail are now concentrating on the clothing drive – March 30/31. They will be particularly looking this year into where the clothes are delivered. Although they are happy with the place in New Jersey they are looking into other sites but it is difficult because of the large amount of clothing St. Leo collects – only certain places will accept that many clothes.

Ex Officio Reports

Religious Education

- The First Communion parent meeting was on January 14th – 33 children will be receiving the sacrament on May 4th at 11am
- All classes are going along well

Music Ministry

- Lessons and Carols was lovely, and Christmas Masses all went fine
- With Easter being so late there is a bit of a lull and gives the ministry time to plan for that busy season

New Business and Miscellany

Denise updated the council on the introduction of the new Liturgical Norms sent down from the diocese. All EHMHC and lectors are asked to do one on-line session as well as one face-to-face session here at St. Leo. The norms have also been distributed to all ministers to look over.

Father Grosso will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, May 19 with a Mass at noon followed by a reception in the Parish Hall – all are invited and welcome.

The February meeting will be on Monday, February 11 at 7:30pm.

Fr. Grosso led the council in a concluding prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Green
Council Secretary