

January 29, 2024
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Spiritus Christi Parish Community Forum

Minutes

Meeting Start Time: 7 pm

Opening Prayer - John O’Gorman

Introduction of Staff - John O’Gorman

Staff Present:, Rev. Myra, Mike Ramich, Rev Celie, Mark Bennett, Aaron Lynch, Ruth Cowing, Lauren Urzetta, Eileen Hurley, Amy Durkey, Ruth Cowing

Meeting Overview, Framework - Trevor Carney

Numbers attending: 31 on zoom, 44 live = 75 total

Pastor’s Report

- Dec and Jan updates
- Dec busiest month
- Invest in Spiritus Campaign rolled in Nov
- Invited Parish to consider 350 people giving \$25 more than they would
- We would normally would have collected for Haiti but since the hospital was closed we did Invest in Spiritus
- Concert for Haiti
- December Updates
- Christmas liturgies
- Christmas party for asylum seekers
- Food from parish and gifts for them
- Began Spanish translation for mass. When Rev Myra was in Chiapas they said that they watch us every week but don’t know what we are saying. Trying to find adequate software to translate during Mass for Spanish. Lydia will do translation
- Opened Lydia Closet for asylum seekers

- New Year's Eve reflection mass
- MLK Jr liturgies with Lydia Rodriguez
- Family Mass with family sharing

- Rev Myra celebrated her 7 year anniversary - she was out of town due to a death in her family.

Future Home Volunteer Committee Update

- Moving from leasing to ownership 88% yes, 12% no
- Leave musician in place set up is a benefit of having our own place
- Address all of our storage and wedding and funeral items
- Be able to have children and parents in same building
- Will find room to grow as a parish
- The parish is growing with new people and families as well as others coming back. Need to have room for that growth
- Created process of parish lead committees. Posted in the bulletin, 6 of them. Offered opportunities to sign up for one or more. Committees are:

- **Home Coming Advisory Board**

- Oversee and lead working subgroups
- Set regular meeting
- Assign sub committees
- Discuss the entire process
- Looking at timeline and benchmarks from signing to closing
- Provide monthly updates to parish
- Keep track of what is needed from parish update

- **Future Facilities**

- Work with Brian Timmons, our real estate agent and staff
- Identify sites and needs for that site
- Conduct potential walk through
- Work with Lauren to set up professionals
- All needs identified

- **Budget team**

- Work with Mike and stewardship

- Work on timeline for repairs and renovations
- Work on costs and budget
- **Finance Team**
 - Present fundraising ideas
 - `Garage sale
 - Movie screening of women ordination
 - Work with mailstream for book
 - Research for green renovations
 - Other ideas
 - Buy a brick
- **Holy Helpers**
 - Non license helpers team
 - Work on space in now
 - Packing
 - Organizing rooms
 - Throwing or donating things that we don't use
 - Painting
 - Moving
 - Decorating
- **Renovations**
 - Lots of talented people in parish
 - They need to be license in NYS and Rochester
 - Work with general contractors as subcontractors
 - Engage Holy Helpers to work alongside them as needed
- Ask for patience as we will need a property to get some committees started
 - We need a building to renovate before getting renovation started
 - Started CCB a platform that parish uses to be able to communicate to teams
 - Lots of groups tried to move groups onto the platform
 - Each group and members will be listed on CCB so they can communicate
 - Need to get a chairperson to do minutes and report to staff
 - Meeting space can meet on zoom or in person

- Can guide you to set up zoom account if want or to meet in person need to ask office to choose a room that is available
- We need to remember we are a team together in this vision
- We will work together to walk forward

- **Questions**

- Have a worksheet about each group as there is a lot to hear and will have a copy in the minutes
- Can we put it on the web page on homecare - Yes
- Where do you sign up
 - Go to home coming webpage and it will have a page that you can sign up on or email Lauren
 - Encourage form as it has details
- How are we going to search for properties
 - Future Facilities team and they will work with Brian, our real estate agent
- Should we change the name of Finance to Fundraising?
- Is there a timeframe that has been discussed
 - We decided we needed to get through December as it was packed with events, special Masses, etc.
 - Realtor has been looking all along
 - One property that want team to look at and come back and say if they are excited about
 - If this becomes a “Rev Myra is excited about this property”, then it won’t succeed
- Notice DUPC advertising rental space - Are they trying to get rid of us
 - They are always advertising for rental space
- Is there a realtor that is looking at properties
 - Yes
- Decision making process
 - It is collaborative - we are empowering teams and trusting that we will look at right properties
- Did we gain any lessons from Child Street experience
 - We need more help
 - We need many more parishioners as we move forward

- What areas do we need more help
 - Need more on Holy Helpers
 - Fundraising
 - Renovation teams
- Do we need to be on a team or can we just say “I can paint?”
 - Reach out to the person in charge of the committee to let them know
- Feel like we need a schedule
 - There are computer programs that can help with that
 - Kathy Bailey elected to Homecoming Board
- Buying a brick for fundraising - they would look nice in new property. Sue D’Ambra on fundraising committee and making cakes
- Would we be interesting if we found a building but had real estate property to grow would we consider
 - Yes we would
- The same 3 churches have been for sale forever
 - We have sent to Brian everything that was sent to us and have not been meeting our criteria
- City School Building
 - Future Facilities team looking
- Build a new church
 - If we had the money
- Lottery tickets
- Can we do another parishioner directory
 - We can give that to Fundraising Committee to think about
 - Think it would work better if it was an internal committee that was in charge of the process
 - Could be virtual
 - May be more appropriate once we are home - too much on our plate right now
 - Cookbook - Fundraising Committee

Invest in SpiritUS Update

- Mike Ramich

- Slide telling why campaign was launched
- Over 5 yr period collections have not increased
- Collections went up \$100 weekly
- Annual cost went up 7% annually
- July to June 30 is our fiscal year
- Last fiscal year collections went down 4%
- We fundraise for wonderful ministries, need to fundraise for Spiritus
- We haven't fundraised for the church to keep us going
- We have to have a sustainable future
- Started SpiritUS campaign in November
- We asked for \$450,000
- If we can spread out among a lot of people
- Automatic contributors
- So far we have 40 new donors
- Increased amount 30 donors
- Projected \$48,000 additional revenue
- One time donations
 - \$25,000
 - \$95,000 - Forward bequest
- Bequests are important
- Snapshot in time collections are up from last year \$2,382 weekly
- Never want to pressure people
- It is not too late to sign up and get involved
- Appreciate the generosity of parish

Questions

- Are we starting a capitol collection?
 - Up to Fundraising Committee
- Plan to give update to rest of congregation
 - Good idea can update in bulletin
 - And what the goal is
- Do we currently have a building fund?
 - We don't
- I signed up in November to have increase taken out only came out once
 - Mike to handle

- Can we have people available to sign up for recurring donations
 - Can think about but not as big
- Have we looked at a more formal process about estate planning so we can offer it to a financial advisor?
 - Had a sheet that we handed out
 - Beefing up website on that topic
 - Colgate did a great job of outlining that from bequests to wills etc.
- Do we have an endowment
 - No intentional
 - Daily Bread idea
 - Part of our biblical heritage
 - Pragmatic level people sit back so if down they can take out of endowment
- We had a large increase in 2020
 - We came on radar of more people in other states
 - We were able to live stream
 - We were able to offer Mass to folks that were hungry for liturgy - they found us online
 - When COVID was over and churches reopened they went back to those churches

New Parishioners Update

Lauren Urzetta

- We are growing
- Developed a new process
- Fellowship Fridays - 1st Friday of every month
- Numbers have been growing
- Each month we see new faces come in
- Connect cards
 - Welcome email from Lauren
 - People work, so Lauren meets people for coffee etc
 - Connect with people one on one

- Zoom meeting with families as well
- Those out of town zoom with
- Not just saying that we only have one meeting once a month or sorry we want to meet you where you are at
- She has a binder with all info handy (Lauren loves binders!)
- January connect cards
- List of people 15 people in January
- More than half are couple or big families
- Inputted this in CCB as well
- Family of 5 this weekend

Questions

- Have you gotten feedback of how they heard from Spiritus
 - She asked people to share their faith journey
 - They heard from other parishioners
 - Heard about Rev Myra
 - They get recommendations from community people
- Can we get a section in bulletin introducing new parishioners?
 - Some may not like their name in the bulletins
 - Could put in how many people we met this month
 - If you see good ideas from out of town send them to Lauren
- We are the best church ever
- Impact that the van is having
 - Church van every Sunday brings a full van of parishioners to church, ie. Shire at Culverton
 - Had an impact and people knowing that is available
- Bringing back the Parishioner Pancake Breakfast on February 25th - working with Caring Connection

- New parishioners can come and mingle with establish parishioners
- People from ministry there
- Make a good impression

New Business

- None

Closing Prayer - John O’Gorman

Notetaker: Bridget Casselman

Manage Zoom: Trevor Carney