



Saint Bartholomew Church

Faith. Fellowship. Service.

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PASTORAL COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes Nov. 21, 2024

Present: Fr. Ronald Haft, Jerry Yox, Ken Radziwon, Joe Arnold, Joanne Hauser, Joy Niehaus, Ashley Evans, Jon Tobin, Colleen Wietmarschen, Kathy Rothschild (Dir of Admin and Finance), Charlie McDonald (Pastoral Council Secretary)

Absent:

Guests: Bill Mauntel

Opening: The meeting was opened at 7 PM in the Board Room by council chair Jerry Yox, with Fr. Haft saying the opening prayer.

Approval of 8/21/24 Council Minutes:

Ken made a motion to accept the minutes as revised; Joe seconded, and the motion passed.

Note: this was Father Haft's first St. Bartholomew pastoral council meeting as Temporary Administrator of the OLODP family. All council members gave a brief introduction.

Festival Update:

- Bill Mauntel said net income for our 2024 St. Bartholomew festival was \$62,682, which was our best year since 2022. After checks were sent to the two OLODP family parishes that participated with booths, a check for \$59,041. was sent to St. Bartholomew.
- This year a little more was spent in administration than in some past years, including new security radios and a few other items. However, we saved about \$500 by using Assumption's garbage cans.
- Income for all booths was up compared to 2023. The Bid and Buy/Basket Raffle tent brought in the most income, which is normally the case.
- Since we started using the Ohio Carnival Co for rides, ride income has greatly increased.
- There have been no security issues since we gated the festival and charged admission, which started about 10 years ago.
- Bill said he stepped down as the main festival chairperson this year and became one of 3 co-chairs, along with Ken Radziwon and Jerry Yox. He will continue to help in this manner, or in another capacity, but no longer wants to be the overall chair.
- Jerry Yox said we asked several of our family parishes to help a few years ago and they came thru again this year.
- Fr Haft said the festival numbers look great and he thanked all involved for their hard work to make it a success.

Air Conditioning Update:

- Ken distributed a handout with info about the A/C project and discussed it. He emphasized that we are not having a capital campaign but an appeal for money to replace an existing A/C.
- The A/C system quit working earlier this year and Kathy Rothschild had several individuals knowledgeable about HVAC systems look at it. A determination was made that the 38-year-old system cannot be repaired, so the staff solicited bids from HVAC companies several months ago.

- Fr. Haft met with 30 parishioners on 11/25 and said a new A/C will likely cost more than originally anticipated, up to about \$300,000 (or closer to \$330,000 when the archdiocese assessment is added). He said there were several appeals by Fr Umberg for donations in the previous months and about \$78,000 has been raised. However, this is far short of the amount needed and we're running out of time if we want an A/C by next summer, due to up to a 6-month equipment lead time. Fr. Haft asked if anyone in attendance was interested in putting together a team to move this project along quickly and Eric Hankins volunteered.
- Eric Hankins organized a team and had their first meeting on 11/30. Three sub-committees were formed, fund-raising, communication and technical. It was stated at the meetings and pulpit announcements that there is no guarantee a new A/C will mean St. Bartholomew will become the primary family campus. However, the understanding is that if St. Bartholomew does not have a functioning A/C, it will be difficult to become the primary family church.
- A/C donations are now at \$233,000, including festival funds and initial capital account money. Ken said there needs to be transparency in sharing the numbers. Kathy said she has an updated amount, which she gave to Fr. Haft, who announced it as \$429,000, including festival funds and original capital account money. Since this puts us over the goal, it was decided to back out the festival funds and original capital amount, leaving about \$351,000 for the A/C fund. Fr. Haft said anything over the original goal amount can be put in a capital improvements fund for other needed improvements.
- Jerry asked if we actually have \$351,000 or is some of the money in the form of future pledges. Kathy said we have the money.
- Kathy said there are other items in need of repair/replacement such as a collapsed drainage pipe from the church basement to the street and new roof for the parish office.
- Jon Tobin said he is scheduled to do talks with A/C updates at both Masses this coming weekend.
- Kathy said we cannot advertise that the A/C donation is tax deductible. It "may" be deductible in some cases but not all. Wording will need to be changed to reflect this.
- Fr Haft said he will be the celebrant at both St. Bartholomew Masses this weekend. Ken asked Father if he could announce the new amount of \$351,000 at the Masses and he said he will do so.
- Bill Mauntel said we need to emphasize during the pulpit announcements that we have other capital needs which will require additional money.
- Ken asked Father and Kathy about the bid decision making process and said the A/C committee can offer a team with technical knowledge of HVAC, engineering and quote evaluation to review all bids and make their recommendations. Father and Kathy said it will be OK to use this process. Ken said two individuals on the evaluation team would be Paul Petronio and Mike Hauser.
- Ken asked who will make the final decision. Kathy said the A/C team can make recommendations, but the staff makes the final decision.
- Ken said he has heard it can take weeks or more to get approval from the archdiocese once a final bid is submitted. Kathy said she has a very good relationship with the person who approves the expenditures and expects approval within a day or two, based on other requests she has submitted in the recent past.
- Father said one challenge concerning communication of the A/C situation in our bulletin is the fact that it's shared with St. Vivian. Because of this, the A/C cannot be made a "centerpiece" but it's OK to include a small amount of information
- Ken said he has spoken with a lot of parishioners who were skeptical we would be able to reach the goal, but the A/C committee generated a lot of energy and excitement among parishioners and the donations came in.

Other Discussion Items:

Note: Even though the discussion started as an A/C update, the following topics were also brought up:

- Ken asked why we have not brought back the Finance Committee, which was discontinued under Fr Jerry. Kathy said she is working on putting one together and has two parishioners who have already committed to be on the committee.
- Ken then asked about the maintenance committee, which was also discontinued at some point in the past. He asked if it should be re-formed, and Jon said he feels it should be and made a priority. Joy said she is on the Beacons council and was told that parish staff should be involved with something like this. Is this already being done by staff? If so, we don't want duplication.
- Jon proposed a "school" committee that he and Ann Slone are willing to be on. How do we get it started? What are the next steps? Fr. Haft said he visited the school today and had a great conversation with Norie and tour of school. Father doesn't think we need a school committee since he can just walk across the parking lot and have a conversation with Norie if any issues come up. He said there is also communication between the school and parish staff
- Jerry said our church campus also has other upcoming maintenance needs such as the parking lot and church boiler. Should someone make a list of the upcoming needs and decide a timeline for the most critical items and communicate to our parishioners to give them a heads up?
- Bill Mauntel said he has heard we're currently running at a financial deficit and Kathy said there is a projected budget deficit for next year. Bill thinks this should be relayed to parishioners, perhaps via the bulletin and pulpit announcements, and suggests an appeal be made for parishioners to modestly increase their Sunday offering amount.
- A brief discussion took place about JPll school. Kathy said she has been quite frustrated recently about a lot of questions and misunderstandings from parishioners about who pays for maintenance of the school. She said the current school contract, which is valid thru 2029, specifies that JPll pays all maintenance for the school building. Jerry said we just want an understanding of why we do what we do, and there should be more communication about the school. Fr Haft said he will work with Kathy and Norie to develop a written explanation of the JPll contract and communicate it to all. He also said Norie recently gave a packet to all school board members showing improvements to the school building that took place over the past few years. Jerry said it would be great to have these types of documents to distribute to parishioners looking for more information.
- Fr. Haft said St Clare has had a stewardship committee for years that focuses on time, talent and treasure of parishioners.

Beacons of Light and Pastor's Update-Father Haft:

- Father said Sr Margie has been a tremendous gift to Mother of Christ parish. She said the closing of Mother of Christ at the end of the year will be like a "death" to her. He asked that we keep all those associated with Mother of Christ in our prayers. Father was the Celebrant at Masses at Mother of Christ and St. Bernard last weekend, and Sister Margie developed a homily for him.
- Father said they had a good, open conversation at the last Beacons council meeting. Joe said a discussion took place about how to have more open communication about the Beacons process. Ken asked if there will be a communication strategy about the closing of Mother of Christ but there was no definite answer. Joy said they are planning to post minutes from the Beacons council meetings on the OOLDP web site.

Next council meeting: Jerry asked Fr. Haft how often and when should council meet. Father said some of the other parishes are going with 2 meetings, one in the spring and one in the fall, and he would like to implement that schedule here. The Individual Pastoral Councils will continue to meet until we

combine into one parish. Father suggested either Tues or Thurs nights work best for him. It was decided we will have a special meeting on Jan 28th mostly to discuss the A/C, then our spring meeting will be on Tues 3/25. Fr. Haff said Fr. Henry will start attending the council meetings. Father also mentioned he will be having foot surgery on Jan 10 and is expecting about an 8 week recovery time.

Respectfully submitted by Charlie McDonald.