

# Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2015

6:30pm

Notre Dame Parish Center

**Members Present:** Fr. Joe Giroux, Fr. Scott Belina, Jen Champagne, Madonna Champagne, Ruth Demarse, Judy Pelkey Deacon Bryan Bashaw, Molly McKee, Pam Leduc, Neil Seymour, Linda Sprague, Jim Coughlin, Darlene Livernois

**Members Excused:** Andrew Duso, Mary Hart

**Opening Prayer:** Prayer for the World Meeting of Families was led by Fr. Joe.

**Welcoming to New Members:** Fr. Joe welcomed all the new members of the council to their first official meeting.

**Review/Approval of Minutes:** The meeting minutes of June 22nd was reviewed. A motion was carried to accept meeting minutes by Neil Seymour, seconded by Molly McKee, and all in favor.

## Old Business:

**a. Parish census:** The census in the Spring had only produced 45% of the canvassed segments. When it was revisited recently to get more volunteers, there was only three more segments that were taken. The deadline to complete the census for the Diocese was August 1st. There was much discussion on how to try and complete the census with the outcome of having tables set up before and after Masses on the weekend of October 17/18 and October 24/25 to try and get the parishioners that weren't visited. Ruth volunteered to coordinate getting the volunteers to help out those weekends. Once this process has been completed, we would then put together a mailing of the remainder parishioners who hadn't been visited or filled out a census card during the scheduled dates.

**b. Holy Harvest Festival:** The day was very positive with the biggest crowd for Mass. There were about 30 teenagers who volunteered throughout the day, with 254 paid meals and about 60 take outs. The only issue that was brought up was the raffle tickets. It has been asked that there needs to be different prizes for next year. There was a discussion about it and the suggestions include have cash prizes of \$1,000, \$250 and \$100 for next year's raffle.

**c. Malone Adult Center:** The new council member were brought up to date on the previous discussions about the Adult Center. St. André's isn't the only ones interested in buying the property and they currently have someone renting the building, but we have a vested interest in buying the building. There have been discussions with the Trustees about buying the property and has also received the approval from Bishop LaValley. There has been an unofficial offer put in by St. André's, but prior to investing in the property there needed to be testing for asbestos. The results of those tests have found that there is asbestos in the roofing, which is in need of replacing, and in the old plaster left in the building. The plan, if purchased, is to tear

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down the building and use it for some more parking area. There have been two local contractors who put bids in for the destruction of the property. Out of the two bidders, one of them is licensed to remove asbestos. There was discussions on where the money would come from and if it would be in our best interest to buy the property. If we can keep it affordable, then the census is to buy the property.

**d. Frassati House:** There was approximately 32 applicants who applied for the positions offered. The ministry will consist of a one year agreement. We currently have three young ladies who have started, and will have two young men also. One has accepted and will be coming in the next week or so, and the other one will make his decision by the end of the week. The three young ladies have already been involved in many things with the parish. Some of their responsibilities/goals is youth ministry, young adults, bible studies. They will also be looking into putting together a parish retreat in the future. There is a plan for an Open House in the near future once all of them arrive.

**e. Hospitality Committee:** Nothing new to report.

**f. Buildings & Grounds Committee:** Nothing new to report.

**New Business:**

**a. Grief Support Group:** There were about five parishioners who attended a presentation in Massena recently on forming grief support group in their parish. Molly gave a brief overview of the presentation was about. The team plans on meeting within the next few weeks to start the process and coming up with some plans of what will be next. They would like to name the support group "St. André's Caring Friends".

**b. Holy Year of Mercy:** Discussions on doing another 40 Hours to start the Year of Mercy. It was discussed to begin on Sunday, December 6th after Mass and end on Tuesday, December 8th and will include Adoration and confessions.

**c. Vocations Summit:** On September 25, 2016 there is a Vocations Summit in Lake Placid at the Olympic Arena Complex being held. There is a culture of vocations throughout the Diocese and Bishop LaValley is strongly recommending that all parishes try and push the attendance to the summit to their parishioners. Will be looking into the possibility of getting some buses to help with transportation for parishioners. He is also asking that all parishes modify their Sunday Masses at that time. After some discussion it had been agreed that we will modify our Masses at that time to be Saturday, September 24th at 4:00pm at St. Joseph's Church, and Sunday, September 25th at 8:00am at St. John Bosco Church.

**d. "Culture of Vocations" Committee:** The Bishop is suggesting that the parishes throughout the Diocese come up with at least three appointed parishioners to help with promoting and supporting the summit. Fr. Joe will see if he can provide a job description and then with the help from the council come up with three names from St. André's Parish to help with the Summit.

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**e. Diocesan Planning Survey:** The Diocese has developed a Planning Committee in which they have met a few times. The Committee is wanting to gather information from all the parishes throughout the Diocese to get a better understanding of needs and wants. They sent out a survey for all the parishes to fill out. The council reviewed the report before the report was sent into the Diocese. With no questions or comments being made, the survey will be sent in as is.

**f. Emmaus Soup Kitchen:** St. André's has been hosting the soup kitchen for the past three years. There has been concern as they have not been following through on the renewal of the contracts on a timely manner and have had issues with them keeping their insurance up to date. The latest contract was suppose to be renewed on July 1st. After much discussion on what needs to be done with the continuing issues and whether or not we should renew their contract, it was decided that their contract will be ending effective November 15th. A letter will be sent to them regarding this decision.

**g. Oratories of Owls Head and Lake Titus:** Permission to sell the properties was given by Bishop LaValley. There have been cost accumulating throughout the years to keep them going to include: maintenance, insurance, and heating of each of the buildings. Fr. Joe went over some of lengthy process that needs to be followed when it comes to selling the churches. After much discussion, the council has agreed to move forward with no objections.

**Election of Officers:**

**a. Vice Chairperson:** Upon explanation of what a vice chairperson would do on the council, it was agreed upon that there doesn't seem to be any need for a vice chairperson at this time.

**b. Secretary:** A motion was carried by Linda Sprague to appoint Darlene Livernois as Secretary, seconded by Jim Coughlin, and all in favor.

**Gathering with Outgoing Members:**

There will be a pot luck dinner held on Friday, October 16th at 6:00pm at the priests residence for the outgoing members of the council. Ruth & Molly will be coordinating with members on what they will be bringing to the dinner.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 16th at 6:30pm at the Notre Dame Parish Center.

**Closing Prayer:** Prayer of Faith was led by Molly McKee

Respectfully Submitted  
Darlene Livernois