

## ST. EDMUND CAMPION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES October 22, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President, Lori Brunette at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Lori Brunette, Sheila DeLaura, Alma Dulude, Leo Forte, Marie Gallo-Garabedian Henry Genga, Phil Gosselin, Fr. John Gwozdz, Barbara Hanson, Peter Marra, Jean Nowik, Laraine Olinatz, Joan Perrone, Stephen Roczynski, Elizabeth Shaker, Maria Sousa, Anne Marie Volowski, Mary Whaples, and James Wilson

- Opening Prayer was said by Deacon Phil
- Anne Marie Volowski made a motion, and Henry Genga seconded it that the Minutes of the September 12, 2018 meeting be approved after a correction to the Outreach Report changing “peppers” to “sausage and peppers.”
- **Pastor’s Report:**
- Fr. John commended Joan for her work in taking notes and printing out and distributing the minutes.
- Work is being done to the HVAC system at Our Lady of Peace Campus. Steve indicated that work is progressing on this issue. Fr. John indicated that when the work is being done, because the weather will be cold and there will be no heat in the Our Lady of Peace Church, it may be necessary to have some of the Our Lady of Peace Masses at St. Christopher Church campus.
- This is the time of the year for our Annual Campaign and Fr. John is hoping that our income will keep up with our expenses. There will be a letter going out soon to the parishioners. Even though we have money for the HVAC system now it would be nice if we could replace some of that based on this campaign. As far as the St. Christopher campus is concerned, Fr. John said that his vision is to put carpeting in the church and to have the pews and woodwork refinished. He is looking at our sister church St. Paulin Glastonbury, as they are architecturally the same. Fr. John is considering a light grey carpet in the aisles, and a light blue in the sanctuary. He knows that there are issues with the stairs that lead up to the altar. He is considering taking the altar one step down; but we don’t have the money at this point to do something about it, as it is major reconstruction.
- Liz Shaker asked if something is going to be done about the railing to the right of the altar, as it leads directly behind where the chairs are placed; making it impossible to use the railings. Fr. John said that this is being looked into, and something will be done about it.
- Regarding the lawn at Our Lady of Peace, there is a lot of lawn there that is being mowed. Half the budget at Our Lady of Peace is for mowing. Someone had suggested that perhaps we might have wildflowers around the edges of the grounds to reduce the area that is being mowed. Fr. John had been at a monastery a few weeks ago, and they had done just that, and it looked beautiful. It’s something to consider. Steve indicated that it would take about two years for the flowers to get established. He has seen this done at the CIGA campus, and it significantly shrunk the size of the area that would need to be mowed; and really looks nice as well. Steve suggested that he meet Fr. John at the Our Lady of Peace Campus and mark the areas where the wildflowers will be planted.  
As to the previous confessionals, they are now made into shrines. Portraits of four saints are being framed and matted and should be ready soon to hang in the shrines. The carpeting in the shrines will be the same light grey as the aisles.
- Steve said 5 weeks from the date the heating equipment was ordered, the equipment was shipped. They have temporarily put the old equipment back together, and it is up and running. The plan is to have the radiant heat for the OLOP church up and running in about a week. And the regular forced hot air will be back up the following week.

- It was asked if the pictures for the shrine's icons were. Fr. John indicated that they are not identical.
- **President's Report:**
- Last month Lori spoke of her visions...the first three were Fund-raising, Publicity, and Hospitality. Those committees are now beginning committees. Fundraising is chaired by Barbara Hanson, Publicity and Hospitality is chaired by Leo Forte, and the St. Edward Campion Award is chaired by Jim Wilson. They will be submitting monthly reports along with the other committees. Lori thanked these individuals for stepping up to chair these committees.
- Lori skipped numbers four and five, because four and five are going to be the youth and the increasing of parishioners, and that will be ongoing processes.
- Lori's number six on her vision list was Parishes across the Deanery. She plans to, hopefully this month, reach out to Fr. Kwitkowski and start working on a way that we can all come together and share our ideas throughout the deanery.
- Another thing that she wanted to bring up was a new vision that she would like to see. That is the church pictorial. We did a pictorial two years ago at St. Christopher Church when we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are all now one parish, the three parishes coming together as one. She would like to propose that we have a new pictorial with as many parishioners as possible participating. Lori passed around the St. Christopher pictorial for the council members to see. Lori stated that she would like to start up a committee for this project, and asked for volunteers to help her. She has already reached out to the gentleman who runs this project. They are having a promotion now; but she does not want to rush the project. She has not heard back from him; but will reach out to him again at a later date. It was suggested that there was minimal interest when the pictorial was done last time; but Lori felt that with the parishioners from the three parishes involved, she felt that we would be able to have a better turnout, and a larger book. Perhaps we might promote this project a little differently than before, with more successful results.
- Lori spoke of the committee reports submissions. She understands that we are all super busy in our daily lives; but it would really help if reports could be submitted by the requested deadline. The deadline is one week prior to the next Parish Council Meeting. This gives her the opportunity to collect all the reports, put them in one file, and get them off to everyone so that they can read them and any other correspondence that needs to go out a week prior to the council meeting. This time, some reports were a little bit late coming in, and she had to send two other e-mails with the additional reports. Lori asked if everyone could make the effort to get the reports in a week prior to the meeting, as it would be very helpful to her as would have the time to gather up the information and get it to the members on a timely basis.
- **Ministry Report Discussion**
- Some members could not open the report documents, so in the future, Lori will submit them in both PDF and Word formats.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS:**

### **Altar Committee – Bonnie Szalay**

This ministry is comprised of approximately 6-8 ladies who meet in the church at the Saint Christopher campus on Friday mornings to prepare our church for the weekend. Each week they wash the vessels, replace the sanctuary candles, ensure that the proper linens are in place on the altar, tidy up the material in the pew pockets, water the plants, and dust and vacuum the sanctuary. The linens used during our liturgies (i.e., purificators, finger towels, etc.) are laundered each week by our parishioner Silvia Rosas. We have a sacristan at the Our Lady of Peace campus who handles all the above tasks for that location. She is Lorraine Deyette. We are not actively seeking volunteers for this ministry, but new members are always welcome.

It was agreed that something should be put in the bulletin thanking these women for all they do.

### **Altar Servers - Bonnie Szalay**

We have 17 altar servers – 15 who are scheduled to serve the weekend Masses celebrated at the Saint Christopher campus and 2 who serve the Sunday Mass celebrated at the Our Lady of Peace campus. We have a few adult servers who occasionally fill in gaps on the schedule. Father Joseph reported to me on Sunday, October 14 that five to six students have recently expressed an interest in joining this ministry. He will coordinate a training session for these students in the near future.

### **Chancel Choir Ministry – Roberta De Fiore**

The Chancel Choir has returned for the 2018-19 Liturgical year after their customary summer break. They have begun rehearsing for Advent and Christmas and look forward to the annual program before Mass on Christmas Eve. As posted, we rehearse on Thursdays from 7:30-9pm and warm up on Sundays at 9:45am before singing for the 10:30 Mass. New members welcome at any time.

### **Bereavement – Jean Nowik**

Memorial Mass will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> with set up on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anyone who is interested in helping to set up, please come. They are also asking for baked goods for the hospitality afterwards. Jean mentioned that they would be passing out prayer cards this year; and the children will be coloring some dragonflies which will be posted in the hall, so be sure to look them over.

### **Buildings & Grounds – Stephen Roczynski – No Written Report Submitted**

#### **Oral Report:**

Steve is still working with the fire department regarding the fire alarm system. They are planning on changing the panel, and going to a King Fisher box. There will be two telephone lines that will come into the church. He will be setting up a date to arrange for this change to be made.

They have started work on the boiler at Our Lady of Peace Campus...the old door was too small to take the old equipment out, as the wall and door were built around the old equipment. so they had to remove the wall and door. A new, larger door will be necessary to avoid this problem in the future. Steve was not sure of the actual cost of the door at this time. And because of the work being done on the boiler, he is suggesting that the Food Pantry items be moved to the Our Lady of Peace Rectory. All other items in the mechanical room will be moved to the garage.

There were some problems with the our Lady of Peace heating system, and they had to get it working again temporarily to get some heat over there till the new system is installed.

The bid has been awarded to Beacon for Our Lady of Peace. Approval was received by the Archdiocese last week, so the equipment was ordered.

Snow removal for both Our Lady of Peace and St. Christopher campuses has been sent out to bid to three contractors: Peter's Landscaping, Ansaldi, and E.A. Quinn. He has only received two bids back. John Malone should have his personal belongings out of the three car garage at Our Lady of Peace by October 26. At that time, they will re-key the garage doors.

It was stated that if anyone needs keys to the garage, they should contact Jim Sundin.

Steve will be looking into the altar railings for possible relocation.

Peter installed bricks from the past year, and cleaned the benches in the Marian Garden. There were stains on the benches that were caused by the use of candles and flowers, and Peter took the time and effort to clean the benches. We thank Peter for doing this. It was suggested that it be made known that anyone using the Marian Garden should not leave things (flowers, candles, etc.) behind. He indicated that the cross and some other big ticket items were still not sold, and perhaps we should start looking for ways to sell them...perhaps a collection for the purchase of the cross, might be considered so that it might be considered owned by all of us in the parish, rather than one individual.

The fence of a neighbor in an adjoining yard on the school side is slowly overtaking our property. Her garden is now on school property. In the past years, they have verbally asked to move back the fence; but they have not brought up the issue in a few years, so she is continuing to creep forward onto church property. They can no longer drive equipment through that area, as she has a snow fence up over the property line. They are trying to decide on the best manner to deal with this. It was suggested that we talk to her nicely first, then send her a letter nicely asking her to move her fence back to her property line.

Steve is concerned that if nothing is done to remedy the situation, there may be a law that the property automatically becomes hers. It was also suggested that we get the town to help us mark the line to show her where her property ends, and the church property ends. Fr. John said that he would visit her if Steve would give him her name and address.

There is a leak in the mechanical room at the St. Christopher campus, and Steve is getting a bid to determine how much it will take to fix it.

Steve asked Fr. John where we stand regarding the sale of the Blessed Sacrament Rectory. Fr. John said that the sale of this property could close as early as Friday. No decision has been made yet as to what to do with the Blessed Mary statue behind the rectory.

Steve assured the council members that he is looking into the problem of the altar railing to the right of the altar; and will come up with a suitable solution.

### **Counters - Bonnie Szalay**

We have 36 active members in this ministry with 9 of these members making up our 6 supervising teams (3 married couples and 3 individuals). Each supervising team is scheduled every 6 weeks and they work with a different team of members each time they supervise.

This ministry is grateful to our parishioner Barbara Hanson who made available to us at a good price a \*gently used bill counter machine. This machine has been a great help to the counting teams.

Although we are not actively seeking new members at this time, we would welcome, at any time, any parishioner who wishes to join this ministry.

### **Decorating – Lori Brunette – Nothing to Report**

**Extraordinary Minister – Sheila DeLaura** We are having continued issues with not having enough EM's to properly schedule someone to serve at all the masses. We also are having an issue with EM's not showing up for their assigned mass. I believe the two these of issues are related.

As has been discussed in the past we need to increase the number of EM's to fill all the positions at each mass and be able to have coverage in the event that you are not able to make your assigned Mass.

I had a very brief meeting with Father Joseph to check on the progress of selecting new EM's. We had submitted 3 names, and none were accepted. Father Joseph is looking for younger people or people who are not already involved in other ministries to serve as an EM. This is a good way to help our church grow and get new people involved. Father Joseph is looking to add approximately 10 more EM's. We are hopeful to have all the new EM's trained and ready to be put on the next schedule.

### **Family Choir – Toni Mintel**

Rehearsal scheduled for 10/23. Next children's liturgy is 10/28. Hope to engage more teenagers in these liturgies and musical outreach projects. Tentatively planning a thanksgiving musical celebration at Salmon Brook Convalescent Home in November.

Joan asked if it might be possible to ask the students who are going to make their Confirmation to join the Family Choir as part of their hours of service required.

### **Food Bank – Diane Warner**

The month of October is not our month to do food bank, but we are preparing for the month of November when we make up our Thanksgiving baskets. We will be putting a note in the bulletin about items that we need to fill our baskets and, we will be asking if there is anyone in our parish in need of assistance to please contact me. The people who will be receiving food baskets are now being asked to pick their food at the food bank, rather than having it delivered to them.

Ruby Birdseye and I attended a meeting on Wednesday, October 3 with social services and other food bank coordinators to discuss our needs for the holidays. This year social services will be ordering the turkeys from Food share. We have requested 60 turkeys and will rely on our parish and South Congregational for additional turkey donations.

By October 25, I must provide Jo-Ann Dorn of social services the names and address of families in need in our parish. Also, we have asked Danny Rosario at social services to send out letters to all the clients who will be getting baskets that this year. They will have to pick up their baskets at South Congregational Church on the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving.

Our food bank at South Congregational Church is fully stocked and I am so very fortunate to have so many volunteers. Several of the food banks must close one or two days a week because they do not have volunteers to hand out the food.

### **Fund Raising - Barbara Hanson**

We have started a Fundraising Committee under the new St. Edmund Campion Parish Council. On Monday, October 8, 2018, new committee chairs meet with Lori Brunette and Father John to discuss our new roles. The Fundraising Committee currently consists of Lori Brunette, Jim Wilson and me as chair. I will be asking for more people to join our committee over the next few weeks.

At the meeting, we discussed various ways we could start fundraising. Some suggestions were as follows: Paint Night (since it was a success in the past) Christmas Theme – possibly creating decorations for the celebration Super Bowl – January/February timeframe (Chili /Stew/Soup) Cook-off Craft Fair Tag Sales Easter Time – Plant sale Cookbook – with recipes from our parish family Please join us – we would love to have you share your ideas and helping hands.

Lori suggested to Barbara that she work with St. Christopher School, and World Youth Day, and PIN and anyone else who does fundraisers to have a little pow wow with them to see what their calendar looks like so that we coordinate fund raising efforts without overlapping each other.

It was mentioned that the school will be hosting a family paint night for adults in St. Christopher Church Hall on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Greeters – Anne Marie Volowski**

Monday, September 17, 2018 held a meeting in the Parish Hall at the Saint Christopher's Campus, at 7:00PM. Had 3 returning greeters attend, 1 who told me the following Sunday that she is returning and have been in contact with one whom I told that she can make it a pre-confirmation project. Also, one who could not make it, I told him after the 7:30 AM Sunday mass that I will schedule him. Also making plans to contact those who have done it before and I will update in the next report. Also 3 new and I hope a 4th new greeter has been added. In process of ordering new or updated badges and let Father John know about commissioning the new greeters.

Lori noticed that there were greeters for the Children's Liturgy; but she wondered if there greeters scheduled for all the other Masses. Anne Marie assured her that she was working hard to assure that this would be the case. Chickie Amberg has volunteered to help her with this ministry.

### **Home Bound – Barbara Casey**

# of EM's – 8, # of homebound – 22 Don't know of ministers in merged parishes and some of our EM did not reply with count.

Barbara indicated to Lori that she was hoping to have more information for the next council meeting. It was clarified by Fr. John that the only person in the household of the homebound person that should receive communion was the actual named individual for whom the visit is made. Communion for the homebound is only for those people who are too sick to attend Mass. Other family members are not allowed to receive the host, as it is assumed that they are not sick enough to be put on the list, so they should be going to Mass if they wish to receive communion. In addition, any leftover hosts should be returned to the rectory for disposition. It was agreed that a meeting should be held with the Homebound EM's so clarification of these rules could be made to them. The EM's need to know what is expected of them. It was also stated that they should not come to communion at Mass with a pic expecting to be given extra hosts for their homebound visit. They should see the celebrant before Mass to arrange for their hosts.

### **HomeFront – Deacon Phil Gosselin**

HomeFront day 2018 was a great success. In addition to the core projects and tasks that the St. Edmund Campion crew performed for Cindy, our HomeFront recipient, Peter Marra provided equipment and labor

to remove bushes and regrade parts of the lawn, as well as donating mulch, plants and reseeded parts of the lawn. Central Paving's Steve and Julie Terlizzi generously replaced our HomeFront recipient's worn out driveway. In total, so much value was provided to Cindy and she was exceedingly grateful. The HomeFront organization held the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on September 30, 2018 in Bethel to show their gratitude for everyone's efforts. HomeFront 2019 will be the first Saturday in May. We will probably start to get more information in March 2019 for this grand program of neighbor helping neighbor. Deacon Phil believes that HomeFront day will be on the same day as First Communion next year, so they will have to work out that issue.

### **Hospitality – Leo Forte**

Leo with Maria Sousa at CCD this past weekend regarding Children's Liturgy, The first one is Sunday Oct 28 following 10:30 am Mass (grades 8, K & 1st). Leo asked for volunteers to help on that day. Maria has already reached out to parents and families of CCD students and received good response for support. Maria and I are planning to get together one evening (TBD) the week of Oct 22 so she can go over what is required for setup and timing. I will email the names you gave me for Hospitality committee including new volunteers Liz Shaker and Alma Dulude with the schedule of dates for the entire year to find out who's available and encourage them to invite others to help out. We also discussed quarterly get-togethers for parishioners at both St. Christopher and Our Lady of Peace campuses. Maybe we can schedule 1 per quarter, with each quarter corresponding to a different Mass time (Sat 4 pm SC, Sun 7:30 am SC, Sun 9 am OLP, Sun 10:30 am SC). Not sure if these should all be dinners or just try to set them up to follow the Mass. Contacts include Ernie Mintel (Knights of Columbus), Sharon Young, Bob Sylvester, Dave Benoit. Pot luck would probably be the best alternative (everybody brings a dish to share).

### **Knights of Columbus – Ernie Mintel – No Report Submitted**

### **Lectors - Bonnie Szalay**

We have 17 lectors – 15 active and 2 inactive.

We are not actively seeking new members at this time.

Lector workbooks for the 2018/2019 Liturgical year have been ordered. These books are a great resource to the lectors and helps prepare them to proclaim the Word.

### **Library – Joan Perrone**

Work continues slowly, as I log in the book in the final two sections of the bookcases. I am really looking forward to its completion. Do we have a "Lost and Found" place where people can drop off things that people have left behind? I am always finding miscellaneous items on the library table; some of which should probably go in a "lost and found" container. The last time I was in the library, there was a small boy's dress jacket, a backpack, and a box full of children's books and VCRs...things like Disney movies and books, etc. I put the jacket and backpack on the table on the other side of the entrance, hoping someone will come back to retrieve it. As far as the box of books and VCRs are concerned, there is absolutely nothing wrong with these items; but we only take books and AV material that are of a religious nature. So I placed the box under the table; and plan to bring it to the St. Christopher School Savers collection on October 21st.

So, just a friendly reminder...we are only taking recent books of a religious nature, and cannot take pamphlet-sized books, as they are so thin, there is no way that we can put ID on the spines of these books so that it is seen on the shelves. Please do not drop off statues, holy cards, personal notes, etc., as there is no way to display them.

We are delighted that the library is being used; and people are signing out books. I look forward to the completion of the log-in, and will continue to keep you posted.

Fr. John stated that St. Augustine's Cemetery takes care of burying religious items. Father has been collecting items and will taking them to the cemetery within the next few weeks. It was suggested that perhaps once a year we might have a collection for any unwanted religious items and Father could decide what to do with them.

Father indicated that if anyone finds something that has been left behind in the church or hall, it should be placed on one of the tables at the back of the church.

### **Outreach – Marie Garabedian**

The School hosted a Golf tournament that they haven't hosted in quite a while. It was a well-organized event that was enjoyed by many. Planning for next year is already in the works to be held again at Glastonbury Hills Country Club. (about \$3,700 profit) The Children held a Car Wash, Bottle, can and Scrap metal drive. They always have so much fun doing these. There was an incredible amount of bottles and Cans donated. Another successful "Fun"draiser for the School. Thank you to all the parishioners who supported the effort! (about \$700 profit) The Auction Committee met for the first-time last week. Please mark your calendars for Saturday April 27, 2019. And be ready for another fun night supporting Catholic Education. The Middle School Students experienced a thoughtful, yet fun, retreat. The main theme: Be brave enough to care. At this age, it's difficult sometimes to take a stand. The students watched a TED talk and a video clip of an ad that encouraged them to make their words and actions count. They completed activities to encourage working together and getting along. It was all about kindness and caring. The 8th Graders took a trip to East Catholic to Shadow the High School Students and see what a day is like in high school. The Pre-K Students took their annual field trip down to the Firehouse. They all really enjoyed their field trips. Lyman Pie and Yankee Candle Fundraisers have been completed. Keep your eye out for more ways to support the school and get goodies for yourselves. We always have the gift card program in progress. Order cards to make your holiday purchases or order cards to give as the gift. The faculty is working throughout the year on their two-year report for accreditation. Much progress has been made in the two years since the committee's visit and plans are constantly being made for further Marie said that the will be a Paint Night in the church hall for adults only on November 9th.

### **PIN – Toni Mintel**

Currently assisting 2 parishioners. Balance of available funds roughly \$1,600. We plan to have our annual bake sale in February 2019 and possibly a tailgate tag sale in Spring of 2019. Interested sellers can purchase a space in the parking lot. They will be responsible for unsold items. Space charge estimate \$20-25. More details in months to come. Maria indicated that if anyone knows of someone needs some help; they should call Maria Sousa or Toni Mintel. Many times, they hear about their needs by general conversations with them. Occasionally, a family member will call asking for help. At this time, they usually give them gift cards to grocery stores or pharmacies. If the need is for items like furniture or other specific items, a notice would be put in the church bulletin requesting for donations of these items.

### **Prayer Line – Sally Ann Tanasi**

The prayer line is up and running. We've had around fifteen to twenty requests. I've sent a general prayer to Bonnie for all parishioners to say when space in the bulletin permits.

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry -Santa Vallone, Coordinator**

We have 12 members and we meet in the Saint Christopher church hall on the second Monday of the month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Our members make christening blankets, prayer shawls, lap blankets, baby sweater sets, hats, gloves, and scarves.

The christening blankets are given to infants baptized at our parish. Prayer shawls and lap blankets are given to anyone who requests one. Jean Nowik frequently requests these items for persons who are either ill, homebound or have recently lost a loved one. The remaining items are donated to various organizations that help the needy.

Four members of our ministry will be attending the 20th annual interfaith gathering of Shawl Ministry groups from throughout the state and beyond at St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church in Hartford on Saturday, November 3.

Jean Nowik stated that the Prayer Shawl Committee gives her many prayer shawls because they know that in her Bereavement ministry, she gives them out to people who are sick or dying. She usually gives the Prayer Shawl Committee the names of the people who received the shawls. One day, she went to visit a parishioner to give her a prayer shawl. When she walked into the room, there was another parishioner in the room as well, That person told Jean that there was another parishioner down the hall in another room as well. So she gave a shawl to the person she came for and went back at another time and gave out two more. One council member asked for a prayer shawl for a friend and another thanked the group for having been the recipient of a prayer shawl.

### **Prayer/Sharing Group – Barbara Hanson**

Our Prayer/Sharing Group (which has been meeting for over 18 years) meets on Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the hall at the Our Lady of Peace Campus. Our meetings are held weekly from the week following Easter until Thanksgiving. We have a Core Group that is responsible for running the weekly meetings that include Barbara Veci, Phyl Tyrseck, Leo Forte, Pat Roberge and Barbara Hanson. All members of St. Edmund Campion Parish and their friends are invited to attend. The evening consists of Prayer, Song, Scripture Sharing and Friendship. Refreshments are served following each meeting and all are welcome to stay. Please join us – we would love to have you come.

### **Prolife – Deacon Phil Gosselin**

40 Days for Life-24 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration St. Edmund Campion Parish will be participating in the 40 Days for Life campaign by offering 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration from 6:00 am on Friday, November 2, 2018 to 6:00 am on Saturday, November 3, 2018 in the main body of the church at the St. Christopher campus. We will be seeking at least 2 people to prayer for life for each one-hour time slot during this 24-hour period. It is a wonderful experience and we know that prayer is efficacious. Life is precious from conception to natural death and everywhere in between. This time in front of the Body of Christ will be grace filled. To reserve a time slot or slots please contact Deacon Phil at 860568-5001 or by e-mail at [imgoose@comcast.net](mailto:imgoose@comcast.net).

Fr. John told the group that anyone is welcome to come at any time...they don't have to make a reservation at a specific time.

### **Publicity – Leo Forte**

Facebook needs to be updated. Plan is to meet with Lori to take over as administrator following training & Knowledge. Father John will continue to review and approve postings. There is currently an older St. Christopher Church Facebook page (most recent post is from Dec 2017). We will need a new St. Edmund Campion page with updated photos. A search on St. Edmund Campion parish, East Hartford, CT brought me to a Facebook page where someone had posted an inappropriate video. We definitely need to tighten up security for access to the page and who can post items. We discussed seeing if one of our own parishioners would be interested in taking over as official parish photographer (volunteer position) at various Church events. Other events to publicize could include Social club (monthly), contact is Joan Perrone, possibly Hospitality Sundays after Mass. All noteworthy items should be posted in the weekly Church bulletin, contact is Bonnie Szalay. Would like to continue submissions to East Hartford Gazette (free local paper) for notable Church events, publisher is Bill Doak, need contact info (email). Last issue of the Gazette back page "Where the Action Is!" has an item listed for the St. Edmund Campion Social Club so I'm assuming Corinne Horan (OLP) is still submitting articles to the Gazette. Jim Wilson will follow up to confirm.

The Facebook page was discussed, and Lori indicated that security on this site will be much greater. There will be just a few people who will have access to make changes and add things to this site .If someone wants to post something it will need approval prior to the posting.

### **Religious Education (K-8) – Maria Sousa**

Lori thanked Maria for doing an awesome job as Religious Education Director. Classes started on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Teachers and students attended the 10:30 Mass (most of the students). Teachers were introduced and asked to come forward for a blessing from Fr. John. He also gave a blessing to all parents and students. During the homily, children were asked to come forward and join Fr. John.

Toni Mintel and the family choir provided us with music.

We are still looking for more people to join the family choir, so if you, or anyone you know who loves to sing, come join us. (Adults, children, teenagers are all welcomed). Our next rehearsal will be Tuesday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the school chapel.

On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, the teachers presented to the students the Child Lures Program, which is now required by the Archdiocese. Parents had the option to "OPT-OUT" and keep their children home for that Sunday.

This year, we will be having a community service drive each month. This month of October, we are collecting books (children K-12). All donations will be given to the Hartford Worker House.

October 28<sup>th</sup> will be our first children's Mass. K, 1<sup>st</sup> And 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes from St. Christopher School and the Religious Education Program will be hosting the Mass. Hospitality will follow in the church hall. Baked goods are always welcomed.

During the Memorial Mass on November 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have the names of the student's loved ones that have go to be with God, so they can be remembered during that Mass.

We are having the students color some of dragonflies that will be displayed in the church hall on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Please check them out after Mass. Each one is unique.

Toni Mintel and I are working on having a SING ALONG in November at the Salmon Brook Convalescent Home. If anyone is interested in joining us, please let me know, and we will keep you posted with date and time.

### **Social Club – Joan Perrone**

The social club met on Monday, September 17, 2018, with 61 members attending. The afternoon was filled with music, dancing and refreshments. Our entertainer was Jose Paulo, who awed us with his beautiful voice and challenged us to dance and sing with him. Everyone loved him, and asked us to schedule him to come back again in the near future. On October 15, 2018, the theme of the meeting will be Oktoberfest. Our main table will be decorated with a huge artificial mug of beer (no real beer is being served.) and large artificial pretzels. We will be entertained by Dan Banker who arrives wearing lederhosen, and playing cowbells, horns, and singing lots of German music. There should be lots of clapping and dancing to keep us entertained. Our membership is 136; but, not surprisingly, not everyone comes every month. We usually average 60-75 people at our regular meetings, depending on the programs. When there is a special meeting (usually with a meal involved) a much higher number are in attendance. The club is open to any adult (no younger than 18); and there are no requirements other than paying yearly dues of \$15, and wanting to have a good time. Some of the club members along with other interested individuals are going on a three-day trip to Lancaster, PA on October 16-18, 2018. The highlight of this trip is attending the play "Jesus" and the Sights and Sounds Theater. In addition, we are planning a day trip on November 20, 2018 to the Log Cabin for a show entitled "Branson Christmas and Veteran's Show." It includes a Chicken Piccata and Yankee Pot Roast luncheon, the motor coach ride, and driver's gratuity. The cost is \$86. There is still room on the bus; so if you know of anyone who would like to attend, just let Joan Perrone or Eugenia Nowik know.

Lori asked how the Lancaster trip went. Joan stated that it went very well and was really enjoyed by the travelers. Maria Sousa was on the trip, and agreed. Joan explained that they went to see a chalk artist who drew a wonderful picture that just comes to life when a black light is shone on it. We are donating it to the church, and Maria and Joan are working on ways to us this picture in the religious education area. Joan stated that it was a difficult start for the club when the blending first took place; but after a year, everyone is finally starting to think of it as "our" club and have pretty much stopped thinking about "your" club and "our previous club."

### **St. Edmund Campion Award – Jim Wilson**

The award committee has met and has decided to make awards in three areas: youth (through 8<sup>th</sup> grade), high school, and adult. The criteria have been loosely established to be: 1. Service to the Parish, 2. Service to parish life, and 3. Service to the community.

Jim stated that it had been hoped that something might be done by St. Edmund Campion's birthday on December 1<sup>st</sup>; but since they had just recently held their first meeting, they thought that this was not enough time to prepare for this award. Their target date, at this time, is to present the award on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. In the past, a certificate was given out to the recipients, and it was suggested that he contact Bonnie regarding a certificate, as she was the one who made up the previous one. In the past, the awards were given only to adults, and it was agreed that it was a great idea to give awards to the youth as well.

### **Youth Ministry and Confirmation Report – Kristi Gillespie**

On September 15, twenty-one young people from our parish were confirmed at St. Joseph Cathedral. 2. Families are still signing up for Confirmation (I had two new students this past weekend), but as of now we have thirty students enrolled in Confirmation this year. 3. Confirmation classes now meet on Sunday mornings from 9-10:15 as the Archdiocese is now requiring weekly or biweekly classes that meet for one-two hours. 4. A new component to the program is inviting parents to participate in the class once a month. The October experience was a mini-retreat based on the corporal works of mercy. 5. The youth ministry group meets every Wednesday from 7-8:30 on the parish center. After a rebuilding year last year, the group has grown to five regular attendees and as many as eight for these Wednesday meetings. While still small, we are mighty! 6. We are planning a trip to New Britain on Saturday evening, October 20, to attend the 177 Project, an evening of Adoration and a concert which is happening nationwide. A retreat for the group is in the planning stages.

Joan asked if Kristi instructs the girls who will be confirmed on how to dress on the day of Confirmation. She had been at the Confirmation at the Cathedral, and the dresses on the girls were outrageous. Very immodest and inappropriate for a regular Mass, let alone an important event like Confirmation. It was suggested to Joan that she contact the Chancery office with her concerns.

It was suggested that perhaps it might be a good idea to think about going back to the candidates wearing robes.

### **Old Business**

Last month, Lori tabled a suggestion to have a Ministry Fair. She asked if the council was interested in having the Ministry Fair. If so, perhaps a sub-committee might be formed to start working on this. It was suggested that one of the problems of holding the fair, is that we need to have a representative of each ministry available for each of the Masses. It seems that the council is not ready to start working on this project yet; but Lori did not consider this a dead matter. She feels that this might get the young families involved. One of the issues brought up was that not only do we have to have the tables set up and manned; but we also have to find a way to draw the people to the tables. Lori will follow through with this with an e-mail.

### **New Business**

The Paint Night was brought up again, and the council members were reminded that it will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> in the school hall. Even though this is an event sponsored by the school, this evening is for adults only.

### **Members Concern:**

None

### **Closing Prayer – Deacon Phil**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next Parish Council Meeting will be on November 26, 2018 at Our Lady of Peace Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Perrone