

**Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on October 19th, 2015**  
**Parish Pastoral Council, Sacred Heart Parish Center, 7:00PM**

Absent: Jane Mulligan, Pat Cahill, Deacon Bill, John McNarney, Anne Borjas

I. **Open meeting** with a prayer offered by Anne Coglianese.

II. **Minutes approved** for the September 21, 2015 meeting.

III. **Pastor's Report** by Father Tom

Last month's presentation on the work of St. Joseph Country Saint Vincent De Paul was discussed.

There appears to be three main points:

- **St Vincent's SJC** operates a clothing and small appliance store and food bank. Volunteers needed to deliver food on both sides of the Saint Joseph River and/or to work in their store (?). Some Council members expressed concern about delivering food in some parts of the city of South Bend. It was suggested that those parishioners who wish would be available to deliver food to those who live in the 46617 zip and cannot get to the Northeast Neighborhood Center to pick their food up. Volunteers would get the food to be delivered from the SJC Saint Vincent de Paul Food Bank for this purpose. Paul Thornton is involved with this food delivery and will receive training on October 24 and report back to the Council.
- **Northeast Neighborhood Food Bank.** This is a walk-in venue where people come to get perishable and non-perishable food items as much as resources allow. Only those who live in 46617 zip may use this resource. There is a need for personal hygiene items in addition to non-perishable food items. It was decided by the Council that the first Sunday of the month at SHP would be dedicated to collecting personal hygiene items for the NENC. Parishioners would bring these items to church and place them in the food bins, beginning the weekend of October 31/November 1.
- **SHP St. Vincent de Paul Society.** Pat Cahill and Brian McCorry are involved. It would be helpful for Pat to speak to the Council at our November meeting about what the needs of our local SHP St. Vincent de Paul Society are.

Basilica closing December 26 through the month of January to remove the pipe organ. Crypt Epiphany Masses, and indeed, all the January Masses will have larger crowds. May not be enough room for the "Three Kings" at the 11 AM Mass. The Council suggested having the "Three Kings" come to the Epiphany Brunch rather than to the crypt Mass and be part of the "Grace Before Meals". "Kings" this year are: Jack O'Brien, Paul Eddy, Tom Nowak.

IV. **Report from Paul Thornton on Standard Procedures for Parish Social Events and Epiphany Brunch**

Epiphany Brunch January 3<sup>rd</sup>, replicate last year's plan with addition of Kings, venue and menu were great, space out tables a little more so seniors with walkers and canes can get around easily. "Tables for Families with small children" also a good idea. Start selling Epiphany Brunch tickets weekends of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

**V. Report from Tom Nowak on the Social Justice meetings**

Five people to bring ideas on involving parishioners with Social Justice, working on setting up meeting to discuss this. St. Margaret's house food pantry closing down, our Lady of the Road fully operational due to new security measures. Winter amnesty, have a need for single size bed sheets.

Suggestion to write articles for bulletin on Social Justice Ministry (put on front page of SHP bulletin). Perhaps a weekend in January would be good for this, but Father Tom needs a four week advance notice so the bulletin cover can be adjusted for a printed column. New parishioners are being called by SJM members and welcomed to SHP and offered an opportunity to volunteer for Social Justice initiatives.

**VI. Report from Michelle Kriss on the *Why Catholic* groups.**

There are 10 faith-sharing groups with facilitators and around 90 - 95 participants, Sunday morning group largest. Positive feedback on participants' book and songs. December 1<sup>st</sup> potluck at the Parish Center for all participants to come together and celebrate. Father Tom will prepare an extended "Grace Before Meals" for this event. Parish will provide chicken and sausage.

**VII. *Around the table reports* :**

**Joan Loranger** – Joan is the Pastoral Council representative to the United Religious Community. She will attend "Hope in the Face of Tragedy", sponsored by the Jewish Federation and the URC on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

**Fr. Tom** – area Lenten parish penance services coming. ***Year of Mercy*** proclaimed by Pope Francis begins November 29, 2015, First Sunday of Advent.

**Diane Beach** - Mass and brown bag lunch October 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. Mass of Remembrance 7pm November 4<sup>th</sup> at Parish Center.

Council members extended congratulations to Jack and Colleen O'Brien on the birth of their son ***John Volker O'Brien!***

VIII. Close the meeting with a prayer offered by Jack O'Brien

***Next Council Meeting: Monday, November 23, 2015, 7 PM Parish Center Community Room.***

***Jack O'Brien, Pastoral Council Secretary***