

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING – NOVEMBER 15, 2023

The Finance Council of Divine Grace Parish met for the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at Holy Redeemer campus. Jamie Shearer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. with an opening prayer from Father Jim Wehner. Father thanked the council members for their commitment.

Attendance: Amy Behun, Jay Cortez, Felicia DiNardo, Joe Ennis, Daniel Jenkins, Chelsea Knapton, Licia Lentz, Frank Lordi, Michael Powell, Jamie Shearer Fr. Jim Wehner, Andrew Welch

Absent/Excused: Peter Boyle, Kate Maseth-Ready, Frances Tartal

SUMMARY OF REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

The minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Licia Lentz motioned for approval; Daniel Jenkins offered a second. As there were no corrections, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Fr. Jim reported that an unofficial bid of \$185K has been received for the St. Agatha property. The original asking price was \$395K. The realtor has recommended acceptance of the offer when officially received. As we continue to pay upkeep costs (utilities, taxes, maintenance, etc.) the council agreed that the offer be approved upon receipt.

Fr. Jim reported that the newly installed security system at the St. Ferdinand campus is operational. All cameras and fobs are in place. Old locks will be changed within two weeks. The final price was approximately \$95K with funds provided by an anonymous donor and the Divine Grace Men's Club.

Michael Powell and Fr. Jim reviewed and reported on the Holy Redeemer projects. Holy Redeemer raised approximately \$300K for the three-pronged project. The first two parts (pew refinishing and carpeting) have been submitted to the diocese for approval. The third part (lighting) has yet to be finalized and brought to this committee for review and approval. We anticipate an online or electronic meeting for review of the contract and finally that several of us sign Form B at the St. Ferdinand campus. Chelsea Knapton asked if we could DocuSign. Jamie Shearer will pursue this question with Fr. Phil. The project start date remains as April 1, 2024. Fr. Jim will meet with the diocese to answer any questions. Daily masses will be held in the Catholic Center, funerals will be held at St. Gregory campus. Alternate arrangements have been made for scheduled weddings.

Fr. Jim reported that the HVAC controls will be installed at the St. Gregory church on November 28-29 and at the school on December 22, 26 and 29. A \$25-30K payment is being requested from the school for financial support for this project.

Jamie Shearer and Fr. Jim updated the council on the car raffle. Fr. Jim has asked each campus to review the ticket purchases and mail tickets to active parishioners if they have not yet picked up their ticket envelopes. A parishioner who owns a car dealership has been in discussions with Fr. Jim about possibly providing the vehicle for next year's raffle. So far, the net amount received for the car raffle is \$47,706. We have almost reached the amount required to break even. We anticipate additional ticket sales prior to the raffle.

Fr. Jim talked about an audit process of Next Generation Parishes. Twenty parishes have been asked to participate. The question of importance is: "What do we need to do to position ourselves for the next generation?". An audit will be conducted and then recommendations developed.

There will most likely be a joint meeting with the Pastoral Council to review and discuss where we want to go with the organizational structure of our parish. For example, is there is a need for a facilitator position to act as the "point" for all parish ministries. There are pastoral associates for each campus, but they have geographical responsibilities. There is a need for centralized direction.

We are to gear up for the next Church Alive campaign which begins in January. The assessments are based on a three-year commitment from the parish. We have exceeded our commitment for the current budget year.

There has been an audit of Mass attendance. Mass attendance was approximately 30% of all households pre-Covid, 12% post-Covid and currently we are at 17-18%. We are experiencing growth in the number of households registering as members in Divine Grace Parish. We currently have 6.5K households and anticipate reaching 7K households shortly.

The latest budget reports were discussed. Chelsea Knapton asked several questions as it appears that various funds (from fund raising efforts) have been picked up, but may have been accounted for twice. There appears to be a discrepancy of approximately \$73K. Chelsea will be meeting with the staff next week to discuss financial reports. We will again sign an addendum to our annual report to the diocese. Joe Ennis made the motion for the addendum and Amy Behun offered the second. The motion was approved. There was a lengthy discussion regarding reporting the income from various fund raisers and the expectations on how these reports should be completed. Please send any recommendations to Jamie.

Peter Boyle and Frances Tartle completed a very thorough report on My Catholic Will. The cost is \$500 for an annual subscription. Their findings include: responses were favorable, no additional fees for changes, good software. The council discussed parish participation. Joe Ennis made a motion to purchase a subscription and Daniel Jenkins offered the second. The motion was approved.

The bank research task force will report at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 20th and most members would appreciate not attending in person. We will attempt to have a Zoom meeting, if necessary. This will also be utilized if weather prevents travel during winter months.

The St. Gregory School Parent Teacher Group asked Jay Cortez if we can utilize a credit card machine. The parish cannot yet use this method as a form of payment. Daniel Jenkins and Jay Cortez will examine possible credit card usage. One of the constraints appears to be the usage fees to an organization that wishes to utilize credit cards as a form of payment.

Other important issues to note: The Divine Grace Parish online store will open on November 24th. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lordi who very recently married. Congratulations to Licia Lentz's daughter, Julianna, who served her first mass.

Happy Thanksgiving to all. Amy Behun made the motion to adjourn and Licia Lentz offered the second. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Felicia P. DiNardo

Approved:


Jamie Shearer, Chair

Date: 01/19/2024