

St. Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family

Parish Council Minutes - Wednesday, November 15, 2023

1. **Meeting Opening** - A meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at Saint Elizabeth Seton Church Hall (all churches and chapels are hereinafter abbreviated with first initials). The Agenda and the Minutes of the October 17, 2023 Council meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The meeting began at 6:32 p.m. Msgr. Stephen Avila opened the meeting with a prayer. Louise Gagnon read the Statement of Purpose.

2. **Attendance** - Msgr. Stephen Avila (hereinafter Fr. Steve). Council Members: Chair Frank Geishecker, Jim Quinn, Mary Lou Palumbo, Jane Hopewood, Paula Tredeau, Susan Cronin, Jim Roux, Linda Hamilton, Mat Baldasaro, Louise Gagnon. Deacons (*ex officio*): Peter Guresh. Guest: Kevin McDonald, President of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. Excused: Fr. Matthew Laird, Bill LaRuffa, Deacons (*ex officio*) Bill Hays and Pat Mahoney. Absent: Matheus Araujo; Deacons (*ex officio*) Paul Harney and Gus Adams; Daniel Cunha, Director of Business and Operations, Thomas Palanza, Pastoral Coordinator, Maura Polles, Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization.

3. **Report of Kevin McDonald, President of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society** - Kevin gave the history of the Society (hereinafter the Conference) in the Parish by the merger of the two conferences from SES and SA. The Conference is now located at SP, and that location has resulted in a larger number of clients. The Conference is a lay organization. There are 120 advocates and 70 Thrift Shop volunteers. The Conference meets monthly, first with the leadership and then a general meeting. The key function in the Conference is the home visit, and there are 500 home visits per year. The tenet of the Conference is to go out into the community: for people to see Christ in you, and for you to see Christ in them. The Conference helps clients know what services are available in Falmouth. One other project is to assist disadvantaged students at the Lawrence School in grades 7 and 8, and this has been a success. There are seasonal events such as the Giving Tree at Christmas and the Walk for Hope. The Conference is thankful that the Parish provides for the the Thrift Shop to receive the collections that are taken at the Masses on Holy Days. The Conference has provided approximately \$183,000.00 in aid to clients in Falmouth this year. The Conference coordinates with the Parish Finance Council for operations. The Conference is also grateful to Parishioners for the donations to the food pantry and for memorial donations. The Parish staff is also very helpful. Susan Cronin is the Vice President. She described the success of the Giving Tree each year. The Conference is grateful for the generosity of the Parishioners, and the gratefulness of the the families is inspiring. Fr. Steve stated that we should get the "good news" of this Conference out to our Parishioners and suggested a monthly article in the Parish Bulletin, and to add a link to the Parish website. Also, they should consider social media like Fabulous Falmouth Facebook page. The Conference is considering using eCatholic for a website now. Kevin McDonald excused himself from the meeting at the conclusion of his report.

4. **Secretary /Minutes** - Paula Tredeau served as temporary secretary. After the report of the guest, Kevin McDonald, Mary Lou Palumbo made a Motion to approve the Minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting as submitted. Second by Jane Hopewood. Motion unanimously approved.

5. Standing Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning Committee: Paula Tredeau reported that the Strategic Planning Committee completed its work, and the Plan document was delivered to Fr. Steve and Fr. Matt for their review. The Strategic Planning Committee will have one more meeting in December (date TBD) to review edits by Fr. Steve and Fr. Matt. After that meeting and review, the Plan will be sent to the Council by early January, thereby providing sufficient time for the Council to review the Plan in time for discussion at the next Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday January 17, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at SES. Paula Tredeau acknowledged each member of the Committee for his/her unique contribution to the process, and then acknowledged the group's collective diligence and extensive work. She acknowledged Jim Quinn and Frank Geishecker for assembling the Committee.

6. Parish Ministries

Ministry Fair - The issue of whether the various Ministries have connected with those people who signed up at the Ministry Fair in September was discussed. There is now a Sacristan at each Church and that Ministry is going well.

New doors have been installed at SP, and they were wired so that they are ready for key fobs that are expected to be installed in the future.

Sisters in Spirit - The group is hosting the Holy Moments Women's Book Study about Matthew Kelly's Holy Moments on four Mondays starting November 27th after the 8 a.m. Mass at SA. Details are on the website and in the Bulletin.

Marketing - Mary Lou Palumbo reported that there have been two recent press releases for Parish events in the local newspaper, which is good. There is an ad in the newspaper for the Thanksgiving Mass on Monday, November 20th at SES, for the Christmas Concert on Sunday December 3rd, and for the Christmas Mass Schedule. The Parish will have a float in the Christmas Parade. There is a Christmas concert on Saturday, December 9th by the Stonehill College Choir.

7. Old Business

Christmas Parade: There will be coffee and donuts after the 9 a.m. Mass at SP. There will be a Christmas music concert from approximately 10:30-11:30, with other activities for families and the broader Falmouth community. All are invited to attend. The Christmas Parade starts at noon. The Parish will have a float in the Parade. Details are on the website and the Bulletin, as well as the ad in the paper.

8. New Business

The Parish website will be updated with information, including the Parish Council Meeting Minutes and the Diocesan Guidelines for Parish Councils and Finance Councils.

9. Pastor's Report

The food donations received at the Thanksgiving Mass on Monday, November 20th at SES will restock the food pantry at Saint Vincent de Paul Society at SP. The pantry is low after the Thanksgiving holiday, so this is an important collection to keep the pantry stocked as the Christmas season approaches. The Sea Scouts troop will attend the Mass and assist in moving

the food for delivery to SP. There will be an ice cream social after this Mass, with ice cream provided by Smitty's. Fr. Steve reported that the Christmas Parade was a big success last year and he is looking forward to the concert and activities prior to the Parade at SP. Fr. Steve announced that Isabel Melo will be the 2023 Marian Medal recipient, citing her many contributions at SES and SA, and taking a lead in re-establishing the Mary Garden in Woods Hole. A special prayer service will be Sunday December 3 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral in Fall River. Fr. Steve said that the Stonehill College Choir will present a Lessons and Carols, a traditional Christmas prayer service with Scripture and Hymns on Saturday, December 9th at 2 p.m. It will be held at SP because of the excellent piano and acoustics there. On Wednesday, December 13th there is a bus to LaSalette Shrine to see the lights. Details are on the website and in the Bulletin. The Christmas gift this year will be the book Beautiful Eucharist by Matthew Kelly. This is significant because this is the Year of the Eucharist in the Church. Fr. Steve reviewed the Christmas Mass schedule for Saturday, 12/23, Sunday, 12/24 and Monday, 12/25. Planning for the Parish Picnic will begin in January. Fr. Steve also spoke of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher for support in the Holy Land for the innocent victims of the current conflict.

Next Meeting and Adjournment - The next meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 6:30 at SES. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.