# The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council Minutes of the Council Meeting December 5, 2017

Members present: Fr. Giovannie Nunez – Parish Administer, Fr. Noly Berjuega -Parochial Vicar, Bro. Rufino, Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary, Valerie Williams, Andrew Williams, David Marcella, Dr. Jan Neuner, Joey Duggan, Dr. Mark Crabbe, and Chris Hilditch

Members missing: Paul Dunlap, Harvin Bullock, Dee Reiter

Additional attendees: Tess Duggan, Regina Carson, Bill Dougherty, Margaret Dougherty (Finance Council Liaison)

Fr. Gio opened the meeting with The Lord’s Prayer. The minutes from November were reviewed and approved with typos corrected

***COMMITTEE REPORTS:***

Knights of St. Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary – Regina Carson reported working with the Ordination Committee. Also, the Senior Citizen Luncheon is scheduled for December.

**Building and Grounds Committee** - David Marcella reported that the following projects have been completed:

* Painted areas within St. Anne
* Replaced and repaired the doors at ST. Anne
* Repaired and painted the ceiling in the old Rectory (office) at St. Jude
* Repaired Split Pews at St. Jude

Fr. Gio stated that they are doing an excellent job. David stated that he has 2 other committee members but needs more help. He asked for a pulpit announcement for volunteers. A volunteer request will also go into the bulletin.

***OLD BUSINESS*:**

**Finance Council Report – Margaret Dougherty** briefed the Parish Council on the make-up of the current Finance Council. The members are Dr. Robert Lee, Dr. Eddie Duffy and Mark Mossell. Fr. Gio is currently looking for recommendations for more Finance Council members. Margaret submitted a financial report that is going to be released into the bulletin. Parish Council reviewed the report. Andrew Williams asked about the cable and telephone expenditures. Margaret explained that the amount listed covers all the accounts for both facilities. Nicole Macedo explained that at the St. Jude facility we have recently had WIFI setup in all the buildings that runs off one main cable account. The other cable accounts for the facility will be cancelled. This is going to increase our productivity while reducing our operating expenses.

* Dr. Jan Neuner discussed a rumor that was brought to her attention (by a parishioner) regarding a savings account that was made up of miscellaneous donations. Margaret stated that “In the past the Diocese allowed Pastors to have discretionary funds” that were kept and used for parishioner needs if they were in dire straights and the parish a s a whole could not afford to help. Those funds were donated by parishioners who wanted the money to go for the needs of the parishioners but not be assessed by the Diocese. Margaret stated that the money donated to that account is still with the church (It did not disappear) and the Diocese finance office is aware of the funds. Margaret stated that the finances for the church are all transparent and above board. All accounts are on file with the Diocese of Charleston and monitored on a regular basis. Margaret suggested to the council that when you hear a rumor please discuss it directly with Tom or Fr. Gio. Fr. Gio stated that we are trying to be hands-on and transparent in our business and financial practices.
* To keep effective communication with the parish council and finance council. Margaret Dougherty will be the liaison from the finance council to the parish council and Andrew Williams will be the liaison from the parish council to the finance council. They will each attend both meetings and report back.
* Margaret also discussed the One Faith One Family account. She gave a breakdown of where we are at this time financially. The One Faith One Family money is held at the Diocese of Charleston where it is currently earning interest. The financial report given to the parish council will also be put into the bulletin this coming weekend for all the parishioners.

***The Margaret J Lafoon Trust Fund*** - There is no update at this time Fr. Gio stated that the last meeting father Noly attended and the committee is still working on the paperwork. They are waiting for the chairperson to send the paperwork for Fr. Gio to review. Nicole reported that an article has been placed in the bulletin discussing possible scholarship opportunities and encouraging parishioners to register within the parish so that they can be considered for the scholarship opportunities.

***The Ordination Committee*** - Andrew and Joey reported that the ordination is on track to be held December 12th the parking has been taken care of, the Exhibition Center has been booked, we are planning to live stream the mass so that family members and parishioners from other locations can see the event. The food is being handled by the food committee and the decorations are being handled as well. Bro. Rufino reported that the grand choir is up and running. Most choir members will be in the choir loft. Some of them will be on the floor. There will also be some brothers and Priests of the Adorno Fathers who will also take part in the singing. The live streaming will also be in the Parish Hall so that people who can't fit in the church can sit in the Parish Hall and view the events.

***The Town Hall with Bishop Guglielmone*** -Dr. Marc Crabbe stated that he was very pleased with the number of Parishioners who attended and with the Bishops responses to questions. He was very informative and clear of what our next step should be regarding building a new church. Some of the clarified topics *were the amount of money that we can borrow* and *what the seating capacity should be for a new church*. The bishop stated that we can borrow up to the amount that we currently have in the bank. As far as seating, we can plan for 600 to 800 seats with the capability of expanding to 1200 seats if necessary.

* Jan Neuner stated that she spoke with the Bishop after the meeting and he stated, to get the process of building a new church started, the Parish Council should vote on how to proceed. Then the Finance Council should review pertinent information and vote on how to proceed. From that point Fr. Gio is to send a request letter to the diocese asking for permission and guidance. The Diocese will then review the request.
* Dr. Crabbe also discussed Bishop Guglielmone’s statement that our priests should not be saying more than two masses a day. He also stated that we cannot repair or expand the existing St. Anne structure. The bishop was very clear that we are a sacramental church and building a church, as opposed to a multi-purpose building, should be our priority.
* Valerie Williams asked how we will have a faith formation program away from the church. One solution would be portable classrooms. This is something that can be investigated in the future.
* Dr. Jan Neuner discussed the possibility of selling the 521 lands and buying land closer to town. A lot of parishioners feel the 521 land is too far away. Discussion was held stating that the 521 Church land is less than 5 miles from Walmart and not that far away. Andrew Williams stated that he feels we should stay with the 50 + Acres that we have already mapped out to build upon on the 521 property.
* Fr. Gio asked for a vote on the 521 land (just as a formality) Joey Duggan motioned that we keep the land on 521 and build a church. Valerie Williams, president of Parish Council asked for a vote. No opposition to the motion. The motion was carried with all in favor. Fr. Gio would like to use the original plan for 800 seats if possible.
* Fr. Gio would like to form a small building committee of possibly three to five parishioners who are willing to dedicate the time necessary to meeting and handling the issues of building a new church.

***Secretarial position*** - Hiring a new secretary for our Parish would be very helpful for our parishioners. We need somebody who is bilingual to answer the phones, who has good computer skills, who can help and handle registrations, type letters, handle the mail and help with the day-to-day tasks in the office. Currently we only have two full time employees, Nicole and Tom. Prior to the Adorno Father's coming to Sumter there was always a secretary at St. Anne's. After the passing of our last secretary, no one was hired to fill that position. Fr. Gio stated that he understands that there is a need for a friendly face to help in the office. He would like a detailed estimate of what the job duties for this position would be and he would like Valerie Williams and Margaret Dougherty to be part of a hiring committee.

* Valerie Williams asked about the possibility of moving Nicole from her office at St. Jude into the office at St. Anne. Nicole stated that this is a possibility but while that would solve an issue of having more staff in the office at St Anne, Religious education, youth ministry and the other Faith Formation programs still function from the St. Jude location. Nicole would still need to go back and forth during the week to complete all her job functions.

**New Business**

***Stewardship Committee*** – Fr. Gio announced that Chris Hilditch has been appointed as the chairperson of the Saint Anne and Saint Jude stewardship committee. More information to follow.

***St. Anne Preservation Committee-*** Valerie Williams asked how this group of people came to have the addresses of the parishioners of the church. Parishioners are now concerned about what other information was given out. In this age of identity theft, we need a policy to address these issues. Fr. Gio stated that this issue was addressed through a staff meeting, it has been handled internally. Fr. Gio stated that just addresses and phone numbers were given out. No other information.

Fr. Gio stated that there is a vacant position on the parish council. He plans to take recommendations on appointing somebody to fill that vacant position.

Father Noly closed with The Glory Be. Parish Council was thanked for their time and dedication. The next parish council meeting will be in January.

# Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary