

St. John the Baptist  
New Freedom, PA 17349  
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Date: November 13, 2018

Attendance: Attached

Opening Prayer offered by Bobby Campbell

- A. **Review/Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes:** minutes approved. 1<sup>st</sup> Motion made by Janice Elsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis Sarpen Approved
- B. **Parish Manager Report & Building and Grounds Committee:** Report reviewed.
1. **Financial Facts:**
    - a. Balance on Education Building loan as of 10/31/18 is \$307,687.
    - b. Balance of Church Roof Loan as of 10/31/18 is \$302,497.
    - c. Balance of School Roof Loan as of 10/31/18 is \$23,417.
    - d. G/F Balance as of 11/07/18: Positive cash balance of \$14,008.
    - e. Savings as of 10/31/18: \$32,328.
    - f. (I have not received the updated information for the Lenten Appeal from the Diocese as of 11/7/18.) L/A goal for 2018/19 is \$185,600. A reduction of \$11,500 from last year. As of 10/1/18 we have pledges of \$189,905 which is in excess of our obligation to the Diocese by \$4,305. Actual paid portion of pledges as of 10/1/18 is \$ 148,242.
    - g. As of 11/07/18 the 2018 Christmas Bazaar has profited \$27,794 with a half dozen Silent Auction items still to be collected for and picked up. In addition there are several baskets that did not sell and they will be for sale in the Church atrium this coming weekend.
  2. **Projects:**
    - a. We have contracted Steve Dellinger contractor, to replace the handicap sidewalk on the left side of the school entrance. The sidewalk will cost \$ 9,982.00 .Sidewalk is complete, Dellinger did a beautiful job.
    - b. Cemetery road has been pushed back to spring due to parish finances. Fitz and Smith will still honor the contract price of \$13,700.00.
    - c. Parish purchased spare quarry tiles to keep repairing the atrium floor as existing tiles loosen from moisture. This has been an ongoing problem. We have repaired

another major defect in the atrium floor and will order additional tiles to keep repairing the ongoing problem.

- d. All other major projects are put on hold until the organ repairs are made

3. Additional updates.

- a. Need new font for chapel
- b. Envelope donations are down. Exploring other electronic options for people to give such as via credit card in addition to auto payment from checking account.

C. **School Principal Report:** Report reviewed.

1. School raised \$829 for the school in Wilmington, NC damaged by the hurricane.
2. We collected over 891 socks for the clothing bank for October.
3. Bingo profit: \$7137; Panera profit: \$262
4. Our saints did a fabulous job at the All Saints day Mass. We all learned a little more about saints.
5. Total enrollment is 152 (91 for school, 61 for preschool)
6. Report cards go home Nov. 16th, conferences Nov. 19 & 20 (we are in a trimester system)

Additional updates:

1. Claire's gourmet – school saw \$2k in profit.
2. Sue distributed the school visit report from the visit by Diocesan Secretariat of Education.
3. Due to ongoing problem of people not stopping at Stop signs in front of the school, the school reached out to New Freedom Borough police dept. They came onsite and observed traffic flow in front of school. The problem is very serious and they will station an officer during the school hours who will issue warnings and tickets as necessary.

D. **Religious Education Report:** Report reviewed.

1. Registration continues to stay open for our 2018-2019 Rel. Ed program. We have expanded our offerings to accommodate our Families.
2. Retreat Days are posted for all students in Grades I through High School.
3. Gr. 7 Students/Families participated in the "Presentation of Candidates" for Confirmation on Sun. Nov. 4th. Gr. 1 Students/Families celebrated the "Rite of Enrollment" on Sun. Nov. 11th. The Rite of Welcome and Acceptance will be celebrated with RCIA/RCIC Candidates on Sun. Nov. 18th at our 9:00 Mass. We do not have any adult catechumens this year in RCIA.
4. Our Confirmation Students were invited to attend "Fan the Fire" on Sat. Nov. 17th at St. Joseph's York. Seventeen (17) youth will be attending on behalf of St JBC.

5. "Vocations and Stewardship" will be our prayerful focus throughout November.
6. Our currently hosted "Good Shepherd Catechesis Formation Course" will conclude on Sat. Nov. 17th.
7. Families of our newly baptized children were invited to lunch and fellowship as our "Mustard Seed" program resumes on Sun. Nov. 18th.
8. Family Ministry will be hosting a "Family Advent" afternoon on Sun. Dec. 2nd.
9. All Gr. 4 students in both our Rel. Ed and School will be doing an Advent Service project benefitting "Lord's Lunch on Sat. Dec. 15th.
10. Planning is in process for our "Teen Disciples" Retreat to be held on Fri/Sat. Jan. 25-26.
11. Our parish Evangelization Team along with the Knights of Columbus are again assisting us in our planning for our Gr 5-6 Family Retreat Day calendared for Feb. 16th.
12. Our Rel. Ed and School staff Team-up as often as possible, highlighting that "We are one Faith Family". (This includes Parent Meetings, presentations, Family Prayer Sessions, Retreat Days, mission projects, fundraisers and seasonal events)
13. We continue to search-out and make available, meaningful opportunities for our students to experience and practice their faith, while encouraging faithful attendance and participation including both our school and Rel. Ed

**E. Youth Ministry Report:** Chris Wood

1. Youth Ministry is having a powerful November with the first meeting being Vocation Night, the second is Adoration and Confession and the third is Fan the Fire. We hope to have many months like this.
2. I hope to have our first Teen Leadership Disciple meeting this month. We will also start taking early registrations for Steubenville in December to get an idea of travel needs. I will be involved in the planning of the High School overnight retreat being put together by the High School Religious Ed team. Also future Family Ministry events. They want to incorporate my music ministry in all of these events. I am open to do this to hopefully inspire these kids to come to YM when they are old enough.
3. Fr Ben is taking over leadership of the Young Adults group with Chris acting as support and back up when needed. We are working on ways to advertise and inspire new and continued attendance.
4. Parish Festival – Looking for recommendations for subcommittee heads:
  - a) Local Sponsorships (find companies to pay for festival expenses and get advertised in return)
  - b) 2. Kids Games (blow up and carnival rentals, sell wristbands for games, coordinate volunteers)
  - c) Adult Games (bingo, raffles, small games of chance? Coordinate volunteers and licensing if needed)
  - d) Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages (finding and hiring food trucks, coordinate volunteers)

- e) Alcohol (finding vendor/vendors and coordinating with management to attain any licensing needed). Do we have any parishioners that own or work for alcohol distributors?
- f) Set up and clean up team (form volunteer group to help before and after event)

There will be more needed as we go. Chris will handle live entertainment and all logistics and layout.

F. **Evangelization Committee:** Report reviewed

1. Friends & Family Weekend

We were asked to cancel the October Friends & Family Weekend. The Christmas Bazaar raffle items are set up in the atrium during the month of October making space very limited. The next Friends & Family Weekend is scheduled for January 26 & 27, 2019

Future Dates:

Jan 26 & 27, 2019

April 27 & 28, 2019

July 27 & 28, 2019

2. Prayer Teams after each Mass

Our Prayers Warriors continue to meet the weekend of the last Sunday of each Month.

The next Prayer Weekend is October 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you would be interested in joining our team. Ideally, we like to have at least two warriors at each Mass if not more. The schedule is flexible meaning you are not required to commit to every month or the same Mass each month. We never know how many people will come for prayer or stop us before or after Mass for prayer. We keep adding to our prayer list that began last year and pray for each person throughout the month. Along with the additions to the list we receive praise reports and updates throughout the month.

3. New Parishioner Wine & Cheese

We have not been able to get the next Wine & Cheese on the parish calendar. Shelley is still trying to find a date that does not coincide with other event.

4. Unbound Heart of the Father Ministries

We have two people who have attended an Unbound conference and two more registered for a conference Nov 30th to Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. The goal is to have several teams experience the ministry first hand and receive leader training. Our hope is to form a core group of unbound prayer teams. We will be trained to lead those we pray with through the process of releasing the bonds that hold us back from spiritual growth and attaining our full potential as a child of God. Once the training is complete we will work on scheduling an Unbound Conference at St. Johns possibly sometime next year.

Complete information about Unbound can be found at [www.heartofthefather.com](http://www.heartofthefather.com).

5. Suicide & Drug Overdose

The Coroner's office currently lists suicide as the leading cause of death in York County, and of the 67 counties across the Commonwealth; York has the 6th highest rate of suicide with numbers growing each year. We continue to look for ways to raise awareness and information regarding prevention. Our Health Ministry has information and resources available if anyone is interested.

The second leading cause of death in York County is drug overdose. This issue has either been ignored or thought to be unfixable until too many people were lost. There is finally National talk about the drug crisis. Although the legal aspect has always been a difficult problem, the medical profession is actively taking steps to prevent prescription drug overuse. This may be a small step for such an overwhelming problem but at least it is a move forward. There are several organizations in York County offering education and counseling for families of those suffering from drug addiction. "Not One More" is a good starting point if you are interested in more information. [www.notonemoreyorkpa.org](http://www.notonemoreyorkpa.org)

**G. Pastor's Report and Comments:**

1. St. Vincent de Paul Ministry is doing very well. Father was recently asked about advertising a car ministry that is run by someone in the community. The individual, who is not a member of the parish, receives donated cars, fixes them up (including obtaining inspections) and donates the cars to people who need transportation. Father will look to publicize / advertise this ministry in the bulletin and announcements after mass.
2. Father was approached about the possibility of selling luminaries as a fundraising activity. The council was polled on whether there is interest in doing this as a fundraiser. The School had run a similar program in the past and it was not terribly successful. The Council did not show an interest in running this fundraiser.
3. Parishes are seeing a drop in income in response to the abuse scandal; weekly average income has dropped at several parishes. A couple of positive actions that St JBC has been taken to address the issue are:
  - a) Every Friday rosary is dedicated to the survivors of sexual abuse and for the reparations of sins of the Church. Prayer cards were obtained from NCCB that have the official prayer of healing of victims of priest sexual abuse. This is recited after the rosary.
  - b) Counselors will be made available for people seeking individual counseling and the parish will look to offer a support group. Father will be involved in both processes. Once this is established, it will be advertised to other parishes in the deanery. Judy Newberger put a lot of work into getting this going. Anticipate making an announcement about this offering in January.

4. Survey results came back concerning the York Deanery Elementary School study and the overwhelming majority of comments from families were negative about this issue. Over 250 families responded that they would not send their children to a Deanery school if such a move were undertaken. The committee will regroup to consider next steps, however, they will not be looking to make a proposal to the Bishop to consolidate schools for the 2019-20 school year. Father will make it clear in his response that St JBC will seek to remain its own school but will find ways to collaborate where it makes sense. St. Joseph of Dallastown has lost 6 students this year so far and is slated to close at the end of the current school year. St JBC is guaranteeing spots for St. Joseph students who want to come to St JBC next school year.

H. **General Discussion:**

1. Dennis Sarpen shared that drainage work will happen in the next few weeks at the old church.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2018, prayer assignment – Brian Sherman

Closing Prayer offered by Bobby Campbell

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosemary Okoye Hartman