

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

Date: November 12, 2019

Opening Prayer: offered by Gary Grant

Fr. Ben gave an update on his mother's health condition. Surgery went well and she is at home. It will be a long healing process of physical therapy and rehab. Her recovery is going well since coming home from the hospital.

Review of Minutes: Approved.

Presentation – Sparrow Place

Jan Wilson, CEO/President of Sparrow Place and Zoie Roppelt gave a presentation about Sparrow Place and the issue of domestic human sex trafficking in York County

- Sparrow Place is a faith based organization looking to open a home for survivors of domestic human sex trafficking.
- Jan gave definition of human sex trafficking, the varieties of human trafficking and took council members through a handout of her presentation.
- Sparrow Place wants to offer healing to victims by providing a home environment to include drug & alcohol treatment, mental health services, job skills development, etc. The home will use a survivor-led model (built off of a social enterprise structure) vs. authoritative-type model (which is more like the prison system and current group home model). Example of survivor-led model is Thistle Farms in Tennessee (<https://thistlefarms.org/pages/our-mission>).
- Jan's request for the council is "Are we willing to support Sparrow Place with individual monthly support of \$2/month?"
- Sparrow Place is looking to find a home in York County. They do not have a home location in mind at this time. Monthly support would at least get them in a rent-to-own situation (6-8 beds). Glen Rock and Stewartstown are more group home friendly. Sparrow Place would be a sister house under the umbrella of Thistle Farms.

A. Parish Manager Report/Building and Grounds Committee:

1. None

B. School Principal Report:

1. The school's development director resigned so the school will be looking for her replacement.

2. The school collected 1,175 pairs of socks during Socktober fundraising and donated them to the clothing bank.
3. Mission day for November is for the food pantry to purchase turkeys for Thanksgiving.
4. Middle States mid-term review (accreditation) is due in December. Teachers have been working to complete the report which will be submitted by 12/1/19.
5. The 3rd annual Fr. Capitani Scholarship fund will be taking place in January to run thru the end of Catholic Schools weeks. Fundraising envelopes will be available in church pews for those wishing to make donation.
6. The school's biggest fundraiser, the silent auction dinner, will be held on February 22, 2020. The theme is "Fire and Ice" masquerade gala. Early bird tickets are \$55 until end of December, \$60 in January and \$65 in February so buy your tickets early if interested. This is the 10th year anniversary of this event. Please continue to come out and support the school's fundraising efforts.
7. Poinsettia sale will be the weekend of December 21st and 22nd.
8. First trimester report cards will go home November 22 with conferences the following week.
9. School will be in session Dec. 2nd but no preschool that day.
10. Scholastic Book Fair will be held first week in December.

C. Religious Education Report:

1. Rel. Ed Classes are in session for all students age 3 through High School.
2. RCIA classes meet each Sunday after our 9:00 Mass in the SEC Room. RCIC students meet on Wed. evening at 6:00pm.
3. Our Grade 7 students were "Presented" as Candidates for Confirmation on Sunday Nov. 10th at our 9:00 Mass. Grade 1 students and their families will celebrate the Rite of Enrollment at the 9:00 Mass on Sunday Nov, 17th. The Rite of Welcome will be celebrated with our and RCIA/RCIC Candidates and Catechumens on Sun. Nov. 24th.
4. Our Grade 3-4 Family Retreat Day was held on Sat. Oct 19th. Twenty-two families registered. Thanks to our Evangelization committee and the Knights of Columbus, this day received lots of positive feedback. As part of our day we focused efforts on a community outreach project titled "Coats for Friendship" benefiting those on the streets.
5. Our Grade 5-6 family Retreat event will be on Sat. Feb. 1st. We have asked Fr. Ben to be part of the event.
6. Grade 4 Students in both our school and Rel. Ed will combine efforts in preparing desserts & serving the Lord's Lunch on Sat. Dec. 14th.
7. Rel. Ed and School together sponsored our Claire's Gourmet fall fundraiser. Rel Ed also joined efforts with and our Youth Group in sponsoring our annual Citrus Sale.
8. An Internet Safety Assembly was held on Wed/Thurs. Oct. 23rd and 24th for all middle and high school students and their Parents.

9. St. John's continues to host a Diocesan Good Shepherd Catechesis Course one weekend per month. Our Good Shepherd Catechists were also invited to do a presentation at the annual Catechetical Conference on Sat. Nov. 9th.
10. Rel. Ed prepared a few gift baskets for our Christmas Bazaar and provided Youth Volunteers during all time frames and stations throughout the Christmas Bazaar event.
11. Registration for our 2019-2020 Rel. Ed program continues to stay open. Additional Adult and Teen volunteers continue to be invited to assist with our Catechist Teams.
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.

D. Youth Ministry Report:

1. Fan the Fire is this weekend, Saturday, November 16. The parish is sending about 30 teens to St. Joseph's in York. This is a full-day youth retreat that is well attended by youth across the diocese.

E. Evangelization Committee:

1. Friends & Family Weekend
The next Friends & Family is scheduled for the last weekend in January 2020. We are working on dates to offer this event four times a year and will update you with the dates when available.
2. Prayer Teams after each Mass
Prayer Teams continue to meet on the weekend of the last Sunday of each month. The next scheduled Prayer team weekend will be November 23rd & 24th after each Mass. Please let us know if you would be interested in joining our team or if you have any questions. Ideally, we like to have at least two Prayer Warriors or more at each Mass to provide intercessory prayers on behalf of those who need our prayers. The schedule is flexible meaning you are not required to commit to every month or the same Mass each month.
3. New Parishioner Wine & Cheese
The date for the 2020 Wine & Cheese is to be determined.
4. Unbound Heart of the Father Ministries
The weekly Unbound Book Study under the leadership of Fr. Ben is being offered every Wednesday from 7:45-8:45. Once the study is completed participants are offered the opportunity for 90 minute sessions of individual prayer at Our Lady of Perpetual Help church, Ellicott City, MD. Please contact Fr Ben for more information about the

Unbound process. All inquiries are confidential. Additional information about the ministry, upcoming conferences and leader prayer training can be found at <https://www.heartofthefather.com>

5. Sparrow Place

Jan Wilson and Zoie Roppelt from Sparrow Place gave a presentation to the Parish Council at the Nov 12th meeting to help us understand the magnitude of the issue of Human Sexual Trafficking in our community, who is affected and what is being done to help combat the problem. They will also update us on the progress of a Coalition that is being formed to raise awareness and help find solutions to all issues related to this problem.

Their November Newsletter mentioned the presentation they gave about internet safety to the 7th, 8th and 9th grade students and parents of our Religious Education Program.

For more information about Sparrow Place please visit www.sparrowplace.org

“Our vision is to offer survivors the choice of safe housing in an environment that not only fosters healing but also promotes the empowerment, growth, and development of each individual.”

F. Pastor’s Report and Comments:

1. This is the last week that they are finishing the historic Church’s roof. The roof repair is totally paid for.
2. Christmas Bazaar did really well, expecting to net over \$36k.
3. During Advent season, we will have extra penance / confessions 6-7pm on Wednesdays
4. We received a donation of new computers and a server for parish offices.
5. Two discussion items for the council:
 - a. There are volunteers who are willing to run a monthly bingo for the parish as a fundraiser. What is the council’s view of this?
 - i. Gary – everyone does bingo (other churches, schools, etc.). The area is saturated with bingo. Bazaar seems to be well received in the community.
 - ii. Sue – at York Catholic they ran bingo weekly and stopped offering it because it didn’t make money. St John School also has bingo fundraiser so this may impact earnings the school derives from its bingo fundraiser.
 - iii. Bobby – should we look at how we are recruiting people to volunteer to be on the Bazaar Committee?
 - iv. Diana – shouldn’t we get feedback from the bazaar committee on what worked, what doesn’t, what are their needs, suggestions, etc. before we decide to replace it with bingo?
 - v. Bobby – would it be worth getting a couple bazaar committee members to speak at the next meeting?

- vi. Diana – her experience from her old parish was that different church ministries took responsibility of planning and running the bazaar each year.
- vii. Dennis volunteered to reach out to the bazaar committee to see if they can come to the next meeting in January.
- b. Some parishioners have asked if it's possible to have projectors in the church to display prayers, music lyrics, etc., like the Nativity Church in Timonium.
 - i. Barb/Gary – it would take away from the reverence of the mass
 - ii. Diana – it may be better to put this in the cry room as the audio is very bad there.
 - iii. Anthony – during crowded masses it is hard to hear in the lobby with the baptismal font running; so this location makes more sense.
 - iv. Brian – at Nativity they don't have hymnals for parishioners to use so it makes sense for them to have projectors.
 - v. Consensus from the council is that we do not feel that this would be appropriate for mass. But we do want better audio for the cry room and request that the baptismal font be turned off during mass so people can hear if they are sitting in the atrium.

G. General Discussion:

1. Sue Mareck – the school won the grant from PA safe schools over \$22,000. The funds can be used to improve such things as camera security, keyless entry for teachers and staff (use key card vs. code).
2. Gary Grant – Knights of Columbus are having food drive for food pantry Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9am – 3pm at the Walmart. They are looking for volunteers for time slots and would appreciate volunteers with vehicles/trucks to transport donations from Walmart to the food pantry.
3. Gary Grant – pantry is listed as a ministry of the Church, but the Lord's Lunch is not. St. John's volunteers the 1st and 3rd Saturday, cooking, serving meals, etc. Always looking for volunteers (adults and youth). Request that the Lord's Lunch be listed as a church ministry on the website. Contact for church website is Diane Skirpan.
4. Diana Morrison – distributed a handout about conducting a climate survey to identify the needs of the church, perceptions of the parish, understand parish demographics, etc.
 - a. Gary – the Guideline for Parish Council book has example of climate survey
 - b. Bobby – maybe administer the survey during the mass (like Lenten Appeal) take a few minutes before the homily for people to complete and turn in. Would have better response rate.
 - c. Fr. Ben – suggested having a simple paper survey first (7 – 10 questions) that is easy to fill out and return. There is also an easy way to conduct electronic survey using Survey Monkey.

- d. Gary – recommended that Fr. Ben broach the topic with Fr. Bob to see if this is feasible to conduct.
- 5. Bobby – is there the possibility of offering Latin masses again at St. John's? Fr. Ben indicated he's open to it and that it does take a bit of time to plan and practice. Anthony suggested offering this as 1st Friday night mass.

Closing Prayer offered by Gary Grant

Respectfully submitted, Rosemary Hartman

Next Meeting: January 14, 2020 at 7 PM (reminder no meeting in December)