

Parish Council Minutes for August 18, 2010-08-19
Draft

Present:

Father Pierre Champoux (President)
Deacon Paul Coderre (Liturgy)
Bernie Hartlin (St. Vincent de Paul)
Patrick Power
Donna Bisson

René (Ray) Brunet
Gil Bois (Knights of Columbus)
Kathleen MacFarlane (Youth Representative)

Absent:

Daniel Rodriguez (Youth Representative)
Ray Fournier (ex-officio for Finance Council)

1. Call To Order:

Father Pierre called the meeting to order at 7:45

1. Opening Prayer:

Father Pierre opened with prayer.

2. Welcome & Introductions:

Father Pierre welcomed everyone to a new year.
Introductions were made.

3. Pastor's Report and Profession of Faith:

3.1 Pastor's Report:

Last year's highlights on council:

Last year, there are many initiatives and events that helped to foster spiritual growth and good community spirit with fellow parishioners. Holy Hours with the Blessed Sacrament and individual confessions were introduced before each daily Mass. A family retreat with mass was held in the early Spring, with babysitting provided by the youth group. The parish visitation by Archbishop Terrence Prendergast was a highlight last March, and we witnessed the installation of 2 of our stained glass windows (the third to be installed later this year). Our first social was our Pasta night last September, and others socials followed, such as the Christmas event for children, the Irish Night and Ladies night (sponsored by the Knights of Columbus), the parish golf and paintball tournament.

How to Improve the Meeting Format

In regard to our meetings, many of them tended to stretch out to 2 hrs long, since items were raised that were not on the established agenda, or too much time was spent discussing a particular item. In addition, the minutes of each meeting were often not published until a day or two prior to the next mtg., and there tended to be an overabundance of narrative in the minutes.

I propose the following solution. Meetings will not extend beyond 1 hr. Any new items that have not been submitted prior to the meeting will be deferred to the following meeting, or discussed via e-mail. All items proposed for the evening's agenda will have a time limit assigned to it. When it comes to the composition of the minutes itself, we should refrain from statements such as: 'he said, she said', etc. The parishioners (and anyone reading the minutes online) do not need to be privy to every thought process involved in every decision made.

Only 4 things are needed for clarity and simplicity of thought:

1. item discussed
2. action plan
3. responsible person assigned to the action plan
4. date deadline

The minutes should also be published within a day or two of the meeting, so that necessary corrections to the content can be made before publishing the minutes to parishioners.

From 'Task Orientation' to 'Spiritual Orientation' of Parish Council

The second major challenge on parish council was the lack of spiritual formation regarding the overall purpose of the Council itself, and its relationship with the Pastor and parishioners. Pastoral education requires time and patience over time, and this will be my focus as we enter the 2010-11 pastoral year. I have published our parish constitution and have made a Pastoral Council workbook available to you, which we will study throughout the year.

The Parish Council is a consultative (advisory) body tasked with giving good advice to the pastor. Unlike the Protestant model, the Council has no authority to make decisions on its own, but is tasked with serving the pastoral needs of the pastor, who serves as the Archbishop's representative in the parish.

The Council's role towards fellow parishioners is to encourage and support them, to follow Jesus through the Sacraments, various ministries, social events, and friendship. Since the Church is hierarchical in its structure, the parish makes decisions that are in union with the Archbishop and the spirit of unity. This is particularly true in regard to faith and morals. (ex. Archbishop's directive concerning kneeling and the cessation of general absolution). It's also out of the spirit of unity with the local church, the Friday Fax is published on a weekly basis, and we are encouraged to attend Diocesan feasts and celebrations such as the Diocesan feast in June and the Christ Mass during the Triduum. The Parish Council should not focus its energies on money matters or 'doing' a bunch of tasks in the parish. It's particularly the role of parish

committees to do committee related work (in other words, the ‘doing’ aspect related to a particular ministry). It’s the role of Parish Council to focus its energies on helping the Pastor to shape and implement the vision of the parish, while helping the ministries to prioritize their actions in collaboration with the pastor and overall plan of the parish, and to pray for the parish and its needs. The parish council also works in tandem with the Finance council, by collaborating in the strategic distribution of monetary assets for the good of the parish and parish works.

Spirituality of Council Members

The spirituality of a member of parish council should be a spirituality of joy and gratitude, imbued with a desire to serve the Church (and the members of the Church) in love and mutual respect. It should be a spirituality of loving service that is similar to the example that Jesus gave us in the Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday. Immediately afterwards, Jesus told his apostles: *“I give you a new commandment. Love one another as I have loved you.”*

As an extension of Christ’s command to love and serve, we must avoid becoming entangled in behaviour that is unbecoming of a Christian. This includes gossip, slander, and the harbouring of personal agendas that go against the spirit of Church unity and love.

Jesus told us that He is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” The world would have us believe that all beliefs and ideas are good and carry the same weight, and that the words of Christ are no different than any other religious leader. Some would have us believe that Truth itself is relative to our own personal beliefs and opinions, and that objective truth no longer exists. The Truth of the matter is that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, and the Church is the faithful steward of the deposit of faith passed onto us by Christ Himself. Therefore, council members must have a genuine belief and conviction in the cradle articles of the faith passed onto us by the official Magisterium of the Church. (such as the belief and respect for the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, the Creed, abortion, etc.). The articles of our faith are established by Christ Himself, and cannot be changed by popular opinion and a vote. Members of Council should make every effort to participate in the major liturgies of the Church year (especially Christmas, Easter and the Triduum), and to develop a healthy prayer life, that has practical implications.

3.2 Profession of Faith:

Father Pierre led all present in a Profession of Faith (below) in addition, everyone signed a pledge of Profession of Faith

PROFESSION OF FAITH **(For Parish Council Members)**

As I begin to serve Holy Redeemer parish this year as a member of the Pastoral Council (3 year term as a new member, or yearly renewal if I'm a returning member), I wish to state that I am a practicing Roman Catholic, over the age of 16. I do not seek a position on parish council for reasons of vanity, recognition, or monetary gain, but do so out of genuine concern for the common good of the Church and the parish, in a spirit of service. Like the apostles, I will try my best to imitate Jesus, through my exercise of Christian charity and respect towards my fellow parishioners, fellow Council members, and the clergy, and to preserve the spirit of unity as Christ intended. At all times, I will try to avoid the spreading of gossip and other forms of malicious talk that destroys life like a cancer (I Cor. 1:10). As a member of parish Council, I realize that I become a public figure in the life of our parish, and that the witness of my life, for good or for ill, has an influence on the life of others. It's for this reason, that I ask the help of Almighty God, for the grace and courage to serve Him and the parish with humility and love, in all aspects of my life.

As a practicing Roman Catholic, I believe in everything that the Catholic Church believes in regard to faith and morals. I, (insert name here), believe in the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church to be the only and true Church established on earth by Jesus Christ, to which I submit myself with my whole soul. I believe all the articles of faith that she proposes to my belief, and I reject and condemn all that she rejects, and I'm ready to observe all that she commands me in faith and morals.

I believe in One God in three divine persons, distinct from, and equal to each other, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe in the Catholic doctrine of the Incarnation, life, Passion, death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ: and the personal union of the two natures, the divine and the human, the divine maternity of the Most Holy Mary, together with her most spotless virginity.

I believe in the True, Real, and substantial Presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.

I believe in the seven sacraments instituted by Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Sacrament of the Sick, Holy Matrimony, and Holy Orders. I believe in the Church's teachings in regard to the last things: final judgment, hell, purgatory, the Resurrection from the dead, and everlasting life in heaven. I believe in the veneration of the saints and their images. I believe in the authority of the Apostolic and Ecclesiastical Tradition, and the Holy Scriptures, which we must interpret and understand only in the sense which the Catholic Church holds. I also believe in everything that has been defined and declared by the sacred canons and by the General

Councils, particularly of Vatican II. I believe in the Primacy of the Roman Pontiff, the Pope, and his infallible teaching authority in faith and morals.

With sincere heart, and with unswerving faith, I detest and abjure every error, heresy, and sin opposed to the Catholic Church. So help me God, and these His Holy Gospels, which I have touched with my hand.

Name (Print): _____ Pastor(Print): _____

Name (sign): _____ Pastor (sign): _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

4. Assignment of Positions:

Nominations were put forward and positions accepted for the year 2010-11

Bernie Hartlin was nominated in the position of Chair

MOTION to accept: Gil Bois

SECONDED: Ray Brunet

MOTION CARRIED

Patrick Power was nominated in the position of Vice Chair

MOTION to accept: Ray Brunet

SECONDED: Donna Bisson

MOTION CARRIED

Donna Bisson was nominated in the position of Secretary

MOTION to accept: Ray Brunet

SECONDED: Bernie Hartlin

MOTION CARRIED

5. World Youth Day:

There are at least 12 youth from Holy Redeemer Parish attending World Youth Day in Madrid Spain in

Melissa Delaney, Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator will be accompanying them as chaperone and in her role as Youth Coordinator.

Council approved a motion to cover Melissa's expenses for the trip

6. Parish Directory:

Throughout the dates from September 27th to October 19th inclusive IPC Canada Photo Services Inc will be at the parish to offer members of the parish the opportunity to participate in having their photos taken for a Parish Directory.

Mireille Church will be coordinating this effort.

To volunteer to help contact Deacon Paul

Sign up sheets will be available for parishioners to sign up in time slots during the above dates that include:

Mondays to Tuesdays from 2:30-8:30PM

Saturdays and Sundays 9:30AM-3:00PM

The revenue from this venture may be a way to help support Melissa Delany's expenses for World Youth Day

The decision is deferred to the next council meeting

7. Bike Rack:

Council agreed to purchase 2 bike racks

8. Parish Feast:

Our Parish Feast Day is September 11th.

Council approved the date of Saturday September 25th to honour the Feast Day

ACTIONS:

Father Pierre will find out if Jean Muldoon is available to cater a supper

Kathleen is going to find out what health and safety issue there are concerning Pot Lucks in the parish hall.

9. Social and Welcoming Ministries:

There is an agreement in principle to establish a Hospitality and Welcoming Committee

10. New Business:

ACTION:

Father Pierre will bring to Finance Council the desire of Parish Council to inform parishioners at frequent and regular intervals, perhaps monthly and through the bulletin the revenue we receive and expenses

11. Next Meeting: Tuesday October 12 2010 at 7:30PM

12. Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

Deacon Paul closed with a prayer and we adjourned at 9:00PM