

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH**  
**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

**Present:** Fr. Brian Belongia, Mike Calawerts, Jean Laux, Helen Wellens, Tom Pecor, Tom Schampers, Mike Quinn, Carol VandenBush

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer:** Mike Calawerts welcomed all and Fr. Brian led us in prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of Aug. 13 approved as written.

**Fr. Brian Remarks and Updates:** Father asked that we be attentive to parishioners that could be contacted to serve as a pastoral council member or trustee of our parish. Someone suggested one person and Mike Calawerts will contact her. If we have other ideas, please let Father Brian know. Fr. Brian, as well as council members, are happy with the music at our parish. Jason will be starting a choir and also bring in other instruments such as trumpets, etc. from time to time. Our repaired sound system is doing better and is still being worked on. A grant is being written to refurbish our candle sticks. Fr. Brian stated that they will look brand new when finished. Father is requesting that if someone wants to hold an event in our Church or Mazzuchelli Hall, they need to provide a plan in writing describing the event and naming a contact person? Also, the written plan needs to list who will be responsible for opening, closing, and cleanup after the event? Depending on the event, there may be a charge for the use of our building?

**Parishioner Questions, Suggestions, Concerns:** Helen asked that when parishioners not on our council attend our meeting should we include what was said in our minutes. Fr. Brian suggested we have a policy to include on the beginning of our meeting agendas a time allotted for visitors to present questions, suggestions, and concerns. Then, we as a council will decide what the minutes should include regarding this portion of our meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Finance Committee:* Mike Quinn shared that our parish is in good shape and in the black. Our envelopes are down slightly, but our investments are good. Our parish is not in debt. It would be good for us to promote online giving. A drawback to this is that if you choose this payment option, then what do you do when the collection basket comes around at Mass. Some parishes have a card that people can use to drop in the collection basket. Going forward, the Finance Committee will begin quarterly meetings.

*Deaf Community:* Jean spends much energy promoting our Deaf Community celebrations and events. She is continually sending out invites through social media and other avenues. Sometimes, a bad experience in the past holds people from participating, but Jean tries to uplift those and ask them to return. The deaf community took a road trip to the Catholic Experience Oct. 4-6 Weekend in Ankeny, Iowa. There were three deaf priests present for Mass, workshops, and confessions. On October 12, the deaf community attended Octoberfest at the Cathedral.

*Deaf Community (Cont.):* In Advent, on Sat., December 7, Fr. Christopher Klusman will be here for 4 PM Mass and hear confessions from 2:30-3:30 PM. Four women will join Fr. Klusman on November 9 for the Women of Christ Conference in West Bend. Jean thought it would be a good idea to again offer people in our parish sign language lessons.

*Building & Grounds:* Mike Quinn shared that Mike Klatt, our Buildings Director, has been working on a plan to refurbish the east rectory portico. He is also working on further improving the sound system in our Church and getting our bells to work. There seems to be a short in the bell system.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

*New Member Recommendations:* Following are ideas that came from our discussion as to how we can grow our parish:

- Create a video on our website specifying what is great about St. John's. Different parishioners could share on this video reasons they like St. John's. Tom Pecor shared that his business website has been a good investment.
- On our website, invite people to our faith formation programs and live stream our Masses.
- Share information on both our website and Cathedral's website.
- Contact people who are having babies baptized at our parish and invite them to join and volunteer at our parish.
- Pass out parish information during the warming shelter we have for those in the Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> Green Bay Thanksgiving parade.
- Assist with the needs of children at Howe School that is in our parish boundary.
- Have a sign-in book at Masses for those that are not from our parish and have someone contact them if they live in this area.
- Father could ask for Mass volunteers such as lectors, ushers, etc. if we are in need for a particular Mass. These volunteers could possibly be interested in joining our parish.
- Invite your neighbors to Mass at St. John's.
- Helen suggested we bring up the idea of growing our parish at our Annual meeting.
- Mike Calawerts shared that besides parish day-to-day needs we need to dedicate some financial resources for growing the parish.

*One by One Campaign:* A new company has been chosen by the Diocese to do the One by One Campaign, therefore it will not start until at least January. This campaign is not so much for operational costs but for future evangelization efforts. Half the money we raise will be for the Diocese and half will be for our parish. We need to have a good plan for our portion of the monies so people are willing to make a donation. We might want to donate a small portion to St. John's Homeless Shelter.

*Vison and Mission:* Much of our discussion tonight centered on who we are and what are our possibilities. Along with all the ideas for growing our parish, reaching out to Howe School and working with their parent organizations would be one good effort.

*Annual Meeting:* Our annual meeting will be held November 19, 2019 in Mazzuchelli Hall at 5:00 PM. Next year we would like to have it in September.

**Next Meeting:** Our next bi-monthly meeting is Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Brian closed with prayer and a blessing.