

**Corpus Christi Council/Finance Joint Meeting Minutes**  
**January 10, 2018**  
**6:30pm Parish Office Bldg./Multi-Purpose Room**

**Council Members Present:** Brenda Bow, Bob Campbell, Autumn Dabrowski, Jennifer Klenk, Chip Matuszewski, Sharon Pagryzinski, Debby Schingeck, Tim Slezak, Pete Steyer, and Nick Wagner

**Council Members Absent:** Chris Cossin, Rita Fortin, Bailey Houle (youth rep.)

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Fr. Bob Kelm, Sr. Joann Plumpe, Karen Polega, and Jan Spaulding

**Ex Officio Members Absent:** Mary Dierich

**Finance Members Present:** Mike Slezak, Bob Klenk, Nick Meyers, Pete Kirchman, Mike Alarie, and Dick Jeffers

**Also Present:** Darlene Labean (Corpus Christi Athletic Association), Fr. Patrick Jankowiak

1. Call to Order by Vice Chair Sharon Pagryzinski at 6:30
2. **Meditation:** Tim Slezak
3. **Athletic Association Report:** Fish Frys are coming quickly. There will be child care during them, they will come from school and have several activities for the children to do.
4. **Approval of November Joint Meeting Minutes:** Changed Athletic Association may purchase tables. Made clarifications for members not present. Approved with those changes and clarifications.

Fr. Patrick spoke to us for about 45 minutes. He was sent by the Bishop to do a walk-through of the property. He also talked with staff. He spoke to us about two (2) topics the priest shortage and the sale of St. Hedwig.

He spoke to us first about the priest shortage. It is serious. There is series of information regarding the "Planning on Priestly Ministries." We are currently facing a category 5 red alert. There are only 38 priests in the diocese under the age of 65. According to Canon Law, a priest may retire and reach senior priest status. By the end of January, a list of priests that will retire this year will be finalized. It could be 10 priests. With this shortage, there will be a re-evaluation on Mass times. They will have to be scheduled to allow for drive times of priests between churches.

There will be more of a presence of commissioned lay people and permanent deacons. Funerals may have to be scheduled by the parish and the priest, not the family for availability purposes. Permanent deacons can perform an "outside of Mass funeral." They use already consecrated hosts from the tabernacle. Lay ministers may also perform a service with no communion.

Ministry of the Dying, anointing of the sick, may also see a change. Religious sisters and lay ministers may perform this.

Sunday Celebrations in Absence of a Priest was just updated in the past few months. It is something that can be used in the absence of a priest. Instead of a Communion Service, it follows morning and evening prayer. However, the person presiding cannot use Father's chair. It is to symbolism this is not a mass and should be different.

There will be a lot of information passed to parishes regarding this serious problem. This is not just subject to the Catholic Church, it is happening in all religions. America is becoming more secular and less religious.

Secondly, he spoke briefly about the sale of St. Hedwig properties. We are spending approximately \$40,000 a year on upkeep. We are going on 4 years since the merger. He believes it is in fine conditioned to be sold. He believes there is not a need for it; it is just eating up money. He also stated we need to be as transparent with the parishioners as we can. The first step is to hold a town hall

meeting before we reach a final decision. This will allow the people to respond and begin a “grieving process”

There is a process that needs to be followed. Parish Council and Finance must vote and an official count and the minutes must be presented to the Bishop along with a letter written by each council. Then a walk through will take place and a list will be given to Father Bob regarding what Sacred Imagery must be removed. The diocese hires a realtor. A notification must be sent to the administration about an offer and they accept it. All money (minus a small commission to the realtor) returns to Corpus Christi Parish. This is not the full, detailed process, Fr. Bob is aware of the entire process.

#### 5. Finance:

a. **Piano Fund:** Looked at handouts and brief discussion of numbers. Deposit was made to Herter Music Center of \$15,000. Balance of \$17,484.09 to be paid. The original goal was \$32,339.10. New goal \$32,484.09. Goal was adjusted for change of humidifier needed, added a cover, and a light. Cost was completely covered by donations. Approximate deliver date of January 24<sup>th</sup>. Disposal of old piano will be advertised in bulletin if anyone would like it.

b. **CSA:** A handout was presented. Target is \$113,363. Pledged amount is \$97, 693.76. There is difference of -\$15,669.24. There is also a balance of \$6331.01 in unpaid pledges.

c. **Roof Repair:** Three (3) flat roof areas were replaced on the Parish Office Building. We received a copy of the invoice. They were in dire need of repair, the water was running into the building, not away.

d. **Boy Scout Trailer:** The trailer was demolished and removed by M&M Seamless Gutters Inc. We received a copy of the invoice. It was in much worse condition than first expected, it was in a state of disrepair.

e. **Sale of St. Hedwig:** Mike Slezak talked to Fr. Bert. He currently uses a month to month lease. The Bishop has said in general he would prefer to have retired priests live in closed church rectories. Hence, one of the reasons Fr. Bert is living there. He would be willing to increase his rent in order to stay. His sister is coming for 4-5 months this summer and is willing to be a renter as well. Fr. Kevin originally planned on staying there during retirement. He has said he has no plans of retiring or living there any time soon. Once he decides it is time to retire, he will live with Fr. Bert where ever that may be. Fr. Bert is not willing to purchase rectory. If more retired priests were willing to live there it could end up breaking even.

We briefly discussed the sale of Holy Trinity instead, however there is more potential with the sale of St. Hedwig Church and rectory. Holy Trinity church also has more space in the Church proper. It also has office space whereas St. Hedwig does not. This is not a feasible option.

With Fr. Patrick's advice the next step we need to take is to hold a town hall meeting to be as transparent with the people as possible. We set the dates of January 21<sup>st</sup> after the 10:15 Mass and January 25<sup>th</sup> after the 6:30 Mass. Both to be held in the church. It will be a time for discussion and information and for the people to understand why this decision needs to be made.

#### 6. Information Items:

a. **Baptismal Font:** Fr. Bob and Fr. Kevin would like to keep it off. It is very loud and they cannot hear past the noise. The people that regularly sit in next to it also complained about the noise and they appreciate that it is off too.

b. **Tithing:** A donation was given to Forgotten Man in Ministry Bay County Jail. It was decided to instead of back paying the missed months, tithing will begin again in January and at a rate of 3%. We also decided that Christian Service would be a good commission to overtake this operation. They could pick the groups to benefit from the tithing.

#### 7. Discussion Item:

a. **Choir Railing:** This is important to the choir. It needs to get done as soon as possible. Jan will show pictures to the choir. We decided to go with a railing with a wooden header and footer and iron spindles.

b. **Flood:** The city required an back flow preventer put on all Baptismal fonts in all churches. It was installed by Groya. The city inspector and an employee of Groya was present a few weeks to inspect it. There were no church employees present. They were told by church staff to not use two (2) valves. They used them in order to inspect the preventer. The made a conscious decision to not close the valves after the inspection. The water flowed in for about 16 hours. It was around a 12,000 gallons of water pumped into the church. Groya insurance covered the costs. The city still needs to be contacted for possible adjustments on bills, etc.

There was some damage. The ambo base was completely destroyed. The Presider's chair legs are splitting. The processional cross stand also split and is being repaired. There may be lasting effects on the carpet. That shall be determined in weeks to come. The Altar extension is being tested for mold, but will more than likely be scrapped.

8. **Commission Reports:** Faith Formation, Stewardship, Christian Service

9. **Stewardship Prayer:** everyone

10. Adjourn at 9:35

Respectfully submitted,  
Autumn Dabrowski, Secretary