

Local Parish Council Meeting
(Holy Family—Tuesday, May 24, 2022)

Present: *Mark Mahoney* (acting chair), *Fr. Phil* (a.k.a. Spider Man), *Bill “The Piano Man” Pickett*, representing the U.K.—*Peter Mulroy*, *Mary Kouyoumdijan* better known as Mary K., Danny Tupas— clearly the only person under 50, giving us the legal angle—*Cy Sutherland*, aspiring refrigerator repair man—*Brian O’Donnell*, and rounding out the guest list, the always cheerful, *Jean Ryan*.

Present (not in body but in spirit): Nicole McNichol and Angela Ricker (the scribe of all scribes; I worship the ground she walks on).

Previous minutes. The minutes from the last meeting, March 29, 2022, were approved. These minutes would have been approved at last week’s regularly scheduled meeting (May 17th), but we didn’t have a quorum. Three regulars, tumbleweed, and four crickets does not make for a quorum. Rules are rules.

Pastor’s comments.

Mark asked for Fr. Phil’s comments which were not forthcoming as he was caught like a deer in the headlights. He was overwhelmed and totally focused on his new, albeit, temporary job as scribe. Given adequate preparation time, I’m sure he would have said something brilliant.

Defibrillator. It has been ordered, and we will update you on the training. The training session should clear up any questions about whether or not mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is involved. We better not have a crisis before we actually buy the defibrillator, otherwise mouth-to-mouth is our only option. You’ve been warned!

COVID update. Mark was in touch with Bishop Vienneau looking for some guidance around COVID protocols and how we are progressing. The every-wise, old bishop said that the rules for mask-wearing during liturgy has not change, that is, masks can be removed during Mass except when singing and when people are moving (entering and exiting church and coming forward for Communion). We will be able to relax the rules around masking if we gather for coffee, tea, and Gerard’s world-famous muffins after Mass. The bishop encourages us to use common sense and good discretion. (He’s obviously assuming a lot).

Synod. We had our own version of the Synod that took place for the entire grouping of Saint Elizabeth of the Trinity on Saturday, April 23rd. It was led by Ellen Bennett and the overall scribe was Mike Jeffries (who apparently lives in the basement of the church during the week). Over 40 people gathered, and there was good sharing. Pope Francis hopes we can become more and more of a synodal church, that is, a church that listens to its members and listens to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Results from our gathering will be pooled with results from numerous gatherings from the Archdiocese. Those reflections will be pooled with reflections from various dioceses throughout Atlantic Canada, which will be pooled with results from every diocese in Canada, which will be pooled with results from the four corners of the world. That’s

a lot of pooling! (The Spirit is swimming in the middle of it all). Common, world-wide concerns will take priority when the bishops of the world meet in a final Synod scheduled for October 2023 in Rome. Let's hope Mike Jeffries, who lives in the church basement, captured well our thoughts and experiences. While the Synod has an official end date, the pope hopes we will use this process to become a more "listening and discerning" Church as we go forward. The results from the Atlantic Canadian dioceses will be made public...except for those who live in basements.

Finance.

Brian gave us an update on our financial situation with a little help from Anne Marcoux's magical, mystical spreadsheet.

- The **good news** is that our envelope contributions are up \$2,000 from last year's total and up from what we budgeted for.
- The **bad news** is that we had an unexpected bill from the diocese for Fr. Charles Lokoka's lodging. This is a shared cost divided among the four churches. Another shared cost is Holy Family Church is expected to pay \$3,300 towards a new roof on the rectory. Fr. Phil, not being a bird expert, still blames the bird droppings for the problem, although he has never caught a single bird in the act.
- Brian made us aware of **pipes** on the outside of the church need repair due to snowfalls and snowfall melting. Leaking pipes on the inside of the church also needed repair. Damn pipes! Brian is on top of the problem and probably on top of the roof.
- The commercial-sized **fridge** in the kitchen gave up the ghost. Details of the funeral will be in next week's bulletin. Our condolences go out to all the other appliances in the kitchen who are mourning their long-time friend, Frosty, as they called him. A \$500 repair bill told us that it's beyond repair. It would cost a minimum of \$2,000 to repair and, even at that, there are no guarantees. The only thing guaranteed was the bill.
- Brian has done some wonderful leg work in getting prices for a **replacement fridge**. (Thank God for Brian's legs!). We agreed that we don't need a commercial fridge (\$5600 + shipping + tax). We couldn't justify it for all the times we would be using it. We also agreed that a "regular" fridge (not a fridge/freezer) would suffice. As long as it was big enough to store sandwich trays and Gerard Collin's beer. That would serve our immediate purpose. The price range, thanks again to Brian's police sleuthing, would be around \$2100. Alpha Appliance Solutions on Halifax St., Moncton, is under surveillance by Brian's cronies (ex policemen) as I'm typing this. I can't give more details as this sting operation is highly secretive and extremely sensitive. I really should be using code language, but I don't know any. The discussion about the "fridge" centered around our needs and being good stewards of the parishioners' money. A fundraiser, dedicated solely to pay for the new fridge, was discussed. What form this fundraiser will take-- apart from Jean Ryan running the kissing booth without her husband's knowledge--has not been fully decided. In the meantime, secret agent, Brian, made a motion that we spend up to \$2500 on a new fridge; it was seconded by Peter. Everyone around the table was in favour although a few were coerced with the threat of cement shoes. Peer pressure was running amuck during the entire meeting.

direction to the diocese includes continuing to use different microphones and disinfecting the ambo between speakers, if more than one is necessary. For funeral services, attendees are required to be doubly vaccinated and the building capacity can be up to 75-80%. This differs from weekly masses where capacity can only be 50% because proof of vaccination is not required for regular mass. He encourages us to remain cautious, but hopefully optimistic.

Synod – In continuation of the synod information from our last meeting, Mark provided a handout from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) explaining some of the discussion points for the small groups to guide their sharing of what we do well, and what we can do better. Mike Jefferies will facilitate a meeting with the Holy Family Seniors, and the Parish Council will form another group, meeting March 15. We would also like to have a third group of newer church members to ensure we are getting diverse points of view. More information can be found on the CCCB website at this link:

<https://www.cccb.ca/announcement/preparatory-document-published-for-2023-synod-on-synodality/>

Closing

Prayer led by Mark.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Important Dates

Next LPC Meeting **March 15, 2023** @ 7:00 PM

Next RPC Meeting **TBD**

Minutes submitted by Angela Ricker

