

LOCAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
(Holy Family, Sept. 17, 2022)

Present (at least in body): Jean Ryan, Doug Wilson, Mark Mahoney, Peter Mulroy, Bill Pickett, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Brian Donnelly, Fr. Phil Mulligan

Absent: Cy Sutherland, Danny Tupas

Mark M, our temporary chair, welcomed **Doug Wilson** back to parish council. Through some shady, backroom deal, we were able to bring Doug out of retirement. Doug spent the last year in the minor leagues playing for the Toledo Mudhens. Welcome back to the major leagues, Doug. Thanks, Mark, for keeping us on track this past year.

Mark M led us with an **opening prayer**. It was mostly a prayer of gratitude that Doug has returned.

Mark M, our temporary chair, made a point to acknowledged and thank both Angela Ricker and Nicole McNichol who are no longer with us on parish council. Mark also used this opportunity to ask if someone would be willing to take notes for this meeting. (In past years Angela was our top-notch scribe). Everyone looked at their shoes, and Phil got sucked in to being the scribe for the second meeting in a row. Yeah.

Mark read a **thank-you card** from student **Aiden Reynolds** expressing his gratitude for the scholarship (\$450) he received from us last June. We wish him well in his continued studies.

Business arising from the previous meeting

- St. John Ambulance is still willing, at our convenience, to come and do a training session on the proper use of a defibrillator. Our next step is to actually buy a defibrillator! Mouth-to-mouth on a blowup doll is just not cutting it.
- Mark M said that he would make a follow-up call to Bishop Vienneau regarding the use of masks. Although masks are not required by our provincial government in public gatherings, we still want to move in unison, throughout the diocese, with what our bishop recommends. In the meantime, we'll continue to use good discretion.
- Mark M reminded us to keep an eye on the parish bulletin for dates regarding the upcoming liturgical ministries' workshops (lectors, communion ministers, hospitality ministers, and the ever-popular exotic liturgical dance ministry)
- After a "lively" discussion about the "dead," we came to a consensus that \$150 was a reasonable amount to charge for a funeral reception. This amount covers setting up, tearing down, clean up, and serving coffee, tea, and juice. Families of the deceased are free to pay for any catering beyond that and can go through the funeral home to make those arrangements.
- Yard Sale. We still have many items in storage, mostly Christmas paraphernalia. We will set aside November 5th as our next yard sale with a special emphasis on Christmas items

and baked goods. Many people are downsizing and needing to rid themselves of Christmas decorations, so asking for donations probably won't be a problem. Other items, too good to be in a yard sale, will go into our on-line auction site and be advertised in other parish's bulletins. Of course, if all this fails, we still have Jean R and her kissing booth to fall back on. Always good to have a plan B.

- The minutes from last meeting were formally approved.

New Business

Fr. Phil's comments

1) Let's be creative in our fundraising. We've not been able to do fundraising for over two years due to COVID. Apart from the monies we get from the regular collection, fundraising remains vital for the well-being of the future of Holy Family Church.

2) Let's make an effort to welcome newcomers to our church as well as their gifts. These parishioners from the Philippines, South Korea, India, Africa, etc. have really changed the face of our community in the last five years. They have something to offer us and something to learn from us.

3) The Ukrainian community has reached out to us looking for a temporary place to worship. After consulting with our bishop, we feel we can accommodate them. Mark M has already given Ukrainian Bishop Brian a tour of Holy Family. In the spirit of greater ecumenism, it seems to be the right thing to do, especially since there is already an influx of Ukrainians fleeing their homeland and settling in Canada. They would use the church on Sundays with one of the classrooms as storage for vestments, icons, etc. Details of their starting date and how much they will pay for rent are being looked at.

Financial Report

- Brian D reminded us that our bishop had previously given us a target (a challenge) of bringing in \$2000-\$2400/weekly to be financially viable. While we do have money in hand and invested with the diocese, we should always keep this target before us.
- Brian pointed out that since we returned to the practice of passing the collection basket during Mass, loose change has gone from \$30/week to \$90/week. It works.
- A discussion took place about how we need to keep the parishioners abreast of our financial situation both verbally and in writing.
- Heat pumps were discussed as a way of reducing our electricity costs. Apparently, the provincial government has given grants to other churches who use their facilities for broader community purposes. Brian D will look into this in the hopes that we may qualify for heat pumps or driveway repairs since we do have a long-established Seniors' Group that serves the larger community. It's worth exploring, as Brian reminded us that our recently purchased fridge for the kitchen was purchased with the aid of a government grant.
- Our weekly envelope collection is down, but it's not time to hit the panic button just yet.
- The price of insurance has risen.

- We should encourage people to use Canada Helps when considering charitable donations to the church. Anne Marcoux, our office manager, would be a good person to answers questions about this.
- A discussion followed about contracting outdoor work (snow, lawns) while still justifying Elaine's working hours. Nothing was settled, or it was settled, and I just dozed off temporarily.
- Peter M and Bill P approved the financial report.

Parking Lot

- Both parking lots need repair. Doug measured the hall-side parking lot to be 200 X 65 feet, while the parking lot by the main entrance is 210 X 65 feet.
- Doing the job properly, that is, not just putting new asphalt on top of the old but stripping off the old asphalt will be costly. For instance, to do the hall-side parking lot (65' X 200') at a low estimate of \$5/square foot, would be \$65, 000 alone. A qualified residential paving company could probably do it.
- Regarding the main-entrance parking lot, the manhole, which was repaired two or three years ago, needs repairing again. Brian D is on top of this issue. Phillips Brothers Excavating will soon be on scene to give their assessment. The entire pipe leading from the manhole to the sidewalk may need to be replaced. We could be looking at a \$5, 000 job. Apparently, they run a hamster down the pipe equipped with a miner's head lamp and a drain inspection camera tied to its back. We await the results.

Additional Items

- The Archdiocese has come to a compromised settlement with the Cooperator's Insurance Company regarding the sexual abuse claims. The end of these on-going court procedures hopefully will free up money to be paid to the victims, although the diocese has done its best, thus far, to compensate many out of its own revenues. Let's pray the healing all the victims deserve will be theirs.
- Because of time constraints, a short discussion was held on how to encourage parishioners back to church who haven't worshipped with us since the beginning of the pandemic outbreak.

A closing prayer was offered to close this meeting including a prayer for the Blue Jays to make the playoffs. They made it. Prayer works!

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. Doug will be enthroned as chair at that meeting.

