

-St. Gianna Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

The meeting was held at St. Mark's Parish Center.

Parish Council representatives in attendance: Betty Ferreira, Mickey Hunt, Rick Metcalfe, Norma Spadola, Mary Berstene, Glen Baldi, Angela Baldi, Barbara Judycki, Louann Warren, Peter Gothers, Michael Flynn.

Fr. Devine called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and opened with a prayer and poem.

There was a reading of the minutes of the January 21, 2018 meeting by Norma Spadola. Due to time constraints, only the key topics and points were reviewed. However, copies of the meeting notes will be made available at the next meeting.

There was a good turnout of parishioners from all 3 churches, numbering about 30, in attendance.

LouAnn Warren advised of an error in the notes as read. Under the Easter Triduum section, it stated that a concern was raised by June Cunningham when the name should have read June Birmingham. The correction will be made to the notes for the January 21 meeting prior to distribution.

CHURCH SAFETY AND SECURITY

The committee representatives from each church met with Officer Shane of the West Hartford police to discuss the development of an Emergency Situation Guide for each church. LouAnn Warren provided the details of the security plan that has been implemented at St. Mark's which she will share with the other churches. She mentioned that there was an opportunity of get walkie-talkies for between \$7-10 a piece if the parish budget would allow for them. She will discuss further with Fr. Devine.

Betty Ferreira of St. Brigid's discussed the security steps that were reviewed for that church. Barbara Judycki provided a report of the results of her meeting with the West Hartford police. For security purposes, specific details will not be included in these notes.

MINISTRY OF THE MILLENIALS AND GEN-XERS

Fr. Devine mentioned that he was anxious for us to get our "foot in the door" with this important group via social media.

Mary Berstene has created a Google form to request assistance and shared it with LouAnn Warren and Donna Wolcott. So far, three people have volunteered for this

committee and they are focusing on further communications in the bulletins and on the website.

PASTORAL POINTS

St. Gianna's patronal day is set for **Saturday, April 28** and will be celebrated at a special mass to be held at St. Helena's at 11:00 AM that day. Barbara Judyicki advised that there will be a luncheon provided in the parish hall following the mass. The choirs for all 3 churches will participate. They are looking for people to bake. Ann Bach of St. Mark's volunteered to do so and will seek volunteers from St. Mark's. The Women's Guilds from St. Brigid and St. Helena's will also provide baked goods.

The question was raised if there was a way to obtain a relic or statue of St. Gianna for the patronal day. Fr. Devine advised that no statue of St. Gianna will be available until May. Barbara Judyicki said that they are trying to get a picture of St. Gianna and have it enlarged for display at the mass on April 28.

VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY AND ST. BRIGID CHURCH/SCHOOL

Fr. Devine was approached by the Vietnamese community as they wanted to leave St. Lawrence O'Toole and come to St. Gianna. The logical choice for this group was St. Brigid School/Church and the move will take place on or about July 1.

Fr. Devine provided some insight into the Vietnamese community. They are a relatively young group, larger than the Syro Malabar group; most of them live in West Hartford. They are primarily interested in celebrating mass on Sunday and want space in the classrooms for both language and religious instruction. They also want to be able to provide food for their people. They will use the church on Sunday afternoon. According to Fr. Devine, it is looking fairly good (definite) that this move will occur on or about July 1. The objective is to foster a cultural community within the church. They tend to have their own liturgies and masses. However, it was noted that many of the Vietnamese also attend the regular masses at all 3 churches in the parish.

Fr. Devine knows the priest, Fr. Nick Tran, who also is involved with a ministry at St. Francis. It was also noted that this group pays rent and pays for their expenses as well as contributes to the parish churches.

UPCOMING BUILDING PROJECTS

Paul Connery is the Archdiocesan overseer for all such projects. The project with top priority is the roof work at St. Helena. The bids are in and a decision as to when the work will begin will be announced shortly.

The rectory work at St. Mark's rectory, which consisted of the 1st floor bathroom being done, has been completed.

The parking lot repaving at St. Brigid's is due to be done this summer. The bids are in and Tim Pikiell General Contractor, said that the work should be completed in a week. Fr. Devine provided additional details as to what that work would entail. Additional handicapped spots will be provided. What is now landscaped area in front of the rectory will be converted in additional parking spots that will be lined. Rick Metcalfe raised the point having marked Fire Lanes in front of St. Brigid Church steps.

The elevator at St. Brigid is due to be installed between December 2018- February 2019. It will be located on the west side of the building near the accessibility entrance.

Mike Flynn asked what the cost of the elevator was. He also mentioned that the rug in St. Helena's needed replacement. It was the original rug and over 50 years old. Fr. Devine said that it could be added to the list of improvements that needed to be made.

RESTRUCTURING PHASE II

Fr. Devine announced that Fr. Metzler of St. Mark the Evangelist is due to retire in December 2018 and there will be no replacement priest.

Fr. Devine outlined some areas he terms "problem" areas.

- Two parish priests with three Sunday Vigil Masses
- Two parish priests with three sets of daily Masses
- Two parish priests with three rectories
- Mass attendance, given the current Sunday schedule, represents approximately a 25% efficiency utilization rating.
- This translates to the necessity of consolidating the Mass schedule.

The diocese wants us to think about the parish priests and looks to those assigned to the parishes to make schedules that work.

Lynn Ryan finished the annual report. Barbara Judyicki asked if the financial report will be made available to the parishioners in all three churches.

The diocese is concerned about staffing. Each pastor is asked to explain any deficit in the church and parish.

The Diocese has suggested a process to determine how best to move forward with the consolidation.

On April 10, there will be a S.W.O.T meeting (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). The archdiocesan pastoral planning resources people will meet with 1 member of the parish council from each church plus 9 other volunteers from each church for a 2-3 hour meeting where they will review and discuss these S.W.O.T. items.

A follow up meeting (date to be determined) will be scheduled. The results are to be given to Fr. Devine with the recommendations to be made (May date)

The next step will be for the archdiocesan pastoral planning committee to meet and make their recommendations for consolidation based on the information presented to them. (Late May)

Then Archbishop Blair and his cabinet will consider the material presented and make their final decisions (June)

The results of this decision will be communicated back to the parishioners in June.

OPEN FORUM

Fr. Devine mentioned that Noreen Batchelder wanted to share that on March 14 there will be "An Evening of Poetry & Song" to be held at MacAuley. It is a free event.

A question was asked about how the consolidation would affect the Syro Malabar group at St. Helena.

Barbara Judyicki asked if there was a relic of St. Gianna that we might be able to put in one of the altars within our parish. Fr. Devine will check this out and said it was worth googling.

Glen Baldi suggested that we organize more group activities such as the St. Gianna Patronal Day and consolidate the functions and activities. Fr. Devine said that this is precisely what the consolidation process is all about.

Another question was asked about the Fr. Kilbride memorial gift of a monstrance.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 21 at 6:30 PM at St. Brigid Church.

Father Devine closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Norma Spadola