

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**071415**

Our Parish Website: [www.stvincentsspringbrook.weconnect.com](http://www.stvincentsspringbrook.weconnect.com)

Attendance: Father Karl, Deacon Pete, Deacon Larry, Moses, Dan Siepierski, Ed Bukowski, Patti Valvo, Sal Valvo, David Squire, Shelly Squire, Lucille Janiga, Kevin McLaughlin, Carolyn Powell, Gerry Skrzeczkowski, Sue Wilson, Jeff Kney, Ellen Snyder, Betty Morath, Evelyn Morcelle, Bill Denz, Suzanne Lazarus, Jane Kney, Elaine Hackford, Sarah Buttino, Michael Dalessandro, Lisa Benzer, Charlie Sauers, and Tama Gresco-Sauers. Tony Vilardo by phone conference.

Father Karl opened with a prayer.

Dan opened the meeting requesting approval of the meeting minutes of June 22, 2015. Corrections and additions to the minutes were as follows:

-Meeting attendance was updated.

-\$2,000 loss and the \$300,000 savings and using parish savings – Sue Rodgers said that she could provide us with those numbers as long as she has the Parish Council meeting schedule.

-A parish letter to go out to all parishioners similar to what Annunciation sent out to explain finances, how the Diocesan assessment is calculated, etc.

-It was suggested that we invite Don Denz to attend the next meeting of the Finance Committee on September 29, 2015. Minutes were approved with corrections as noted. Sue Wilson noted that Carl DiNatale had already requested that she invite Don to this meeting and she has already arranged this.

Father officially welcomed new Parish Council Members - Jeff Kney, Sue Wilson, and Gerry Skrzeczkowski. Carolyn Powell, Sal Valvo, and Sue Klier were thanked for their service.

The Parish Council will have three appointed offices in our new model. Father Karl explained that our model will be operating like a Planning Council. It's intentional planning is for Christ's purpose. The Parish Council does not establish financial practices, select investment portfolios, make staffing decisions, interpret liturgical norms, design retreats, repair the roof on the Church, decide on daily parish operations, etc. Parish Council is Parish Vitality and it is the life of our parish.

Deacon Larry stated that the lifeblood of our Parish is through the involvement of parishioners in our Ministries. We will try to showcase a Ministry at Masses on a regular basis. We'll incorporate these ministries into the homily, have parishioners from that ministry greeting at Mass with a smile, have signups in the Narthex, etc. When we talk about money, it will automatically happen as parishioners will see the value in what we're doing. Deacon Larry stated that the Funeral Luncheon Ministry is an outstanding example of this, as is our other ministries. Our Parish Ministry booklet has to come alive. Additional thoughts were that these ministry participants could come to the front of Church at the conclusion of Mass to be prayed over and give them the grace to perform this ministry going forward. Father said that he could prepare and perform a blessing on any of the ministries. Father Karl would speak to Father Gabe about including this in his homily as well.

At the last meeting, we talked about a sub-Ministry to organize this – to coordinate the schedule and explain this specifics to the ministries.

Deacon Larry reiterated that he and Deacon Pete are happy to be part of the committee, but would not be the leader of the group. They are here to raise the consciousness level of those who will serve this community.

Jane Kney suggested that you could do this once each month and categorize appropriately.

Evelyn suggested that the Ministry Fair still should be offered and this would be a great kickoff for this program.

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Father suggested that it could be the Coordinator of the Ministries to work together on this. Sue Wilson volunteered to lead this group. Jane Kney, Evelyn Morcelle, Sarah Buttino, and Ellen Snyder volunteered to coordinate this effort. Deacon Larry also would like to be part of this committee as well.

Carolyn inquired about the positions on the Parish Council. The newly elected positions will serve a three-year term. The question also centered around the appointed positions. Carolyn reiterated that the appointed positions should be in three-year terms as well. We do have some members who are in appointed positions. The trustee positions are Ex-Officio. Father Karl will take care of rotating the appointed positions.

With regard to ministries, we will host a training session with Dennis Mahaney on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, from 7 – 9PM in Walter Hall. It's a training session for Hospitality, Ushers, and Greeters. We need to organize these ministries for coverage at Masses. Father Karl explained that we have full coverage at 4:30PM Mass. The Mass that needs the most coverage is the 11AM Mass. The 8AM and 9:30AM Masses have regulars, but they need some coordination. There needs to be a Coordinator that can take on the task of scheduling for these Masses. It requires someone to be very organized and very thorough. It was suggested that there could be a coordinator for each Mass. Sarah Larson will be notifying Hospitality and Greeters about this training. The ushers really need a coordinator and Deacon Larry stated that he will be glad to call every one of them, if he can get a listing. Deacon Pete also suggested that this training should be advertised in the bulletin starting now with regular reminders.

Elaine Hackford asked if there was an “app” for this purpose that would alert parishioners who sign up for this meeting/activity. Gary Aures is responsible for this and he's setting up the opportunity for families to be able to register for Religious Education this Fall. **ACTION ITEM: Father Karl to speak with Gary about this possibility.**

It was suggested that a monitor in the Narthex could have scrolling announcements. Sue Wilson suggested that if we use a Facebook page, we want to be very careful to control the negativity that can be shared on this site. Lucy stated that in our weekly lector announcements, we could remind parishioners of all the places you can find information on parish activities.

Gerry asked as to how all of these suggestions will be coordinated to ensure that we are going to enact these initiatives. Father stated that Gary Aures can incorporate this as he coordinates the website. Ellen volunteered to work with Rosemary to ensure that all of the weekly announcements will be coordinated for the Lectern, Facebook, Instagram, etc. Lucy Janiga made a motion for this to occur and everyone was in favor.

We were reminded that we really do need to follow Roberts Rules of Order during our meetings and try to keep side conversations to a minimum. It is very difficult to hear and concentrate with many conversations going on.

Dennis Mahaney will be offering “Christ Life Training” at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church from 7PM on Friday, October 16, 2015, through 4PM on Saturday, October 17, 2015. The National Team will be providing training. He will also be offering “The Game Changer” at Christ the King Seminary starting September 10<sup>th</sup> for 10 weeks from 6:30 – 8:30PM. It's the “Why and How – people and parishes”. Cost is \$25.00 for 10 weeks or free at your parish.

The Music Ministry Coordinator position was reviewed.

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The only Mass where we currently do not have music is at 8AM Mass. Father is currently handling this, but would like this to be led permanently by a music minister. Father received a call regarding our open position, but this person would prefer a full-time position. Our position is part-time, but Father would be willing to speak to this individual about the position requirements. St. Vincent's contact information has been forwarded to this individual. Betty reiterated that we are looking for a Music Ministry Coordinator and she could do this, but her emphasis is on contemporary music and we need someone who can nurture all aspects of music ministry.

The Cursillo Movement was reviewed.

They will be using St. Vincent's as their homebase for weekend retreats. The Men's weekend is scheduled for October 15 – 18, 2015. The Women's weekend is scheduled for November 5 – 8, 2015. There will be two spring weekends in 2016. Father said that this will be a great spiritual benefit to have them in our parish. They are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Buffalo this year. They will use the former Religious Education office to store their mattresses. They will use the cupboards in the Kitchen AnteRoom for their dishes. These were formerly art cabinets that have the ability to lock, so as to keep their items segregated from Parish kitchen items.

The Cursillo Anniversary Mass is scheduled for August 15, 2015, at 7:00PM at our Church with Bishop Edward Grosz presiding.

Jane Kney asked if anything that is in the Berger Building could be brought over to be used in the Parish Kitchen. **ACTION ITEM: Items will be moved to the St. Vincent's kitchen and Bill Denz said that he would be happy to organize to make it more accessible for everyone.**

Father Karl said that parishioners have requested to be more involved in activities that need to be addressed for building and grounds on the campus. We have one maintenance person and he does a fine job handling lawns, cleaning, etc. In order to keep our facility in good shape, it's important that these things are seen to on a regular basis. **ACTION ITEM: Charlie will put together an article for the bulletin to coordinate a directory of volunteers who would be willing to share their talents to assist with these type of needs.**

Director of Youth and Faith Formation Report by Ellen Snyder:

Steubenville, July 17 – 19, 2015 – 22 youth will be attending from our parish. A few of our youth stated that it was life-changing. They need one more young male for the conference and the cost is approximately \$300 per youth. Donations are always accepted.

St. John Kanty Mentoring Program – 8:30AM – 2PM – These youth are working with these children throughout the month of July and then will stay in touch with these children throughout the year.

Outreach Thursday at St. Luke's – Clothes and food distribution from 10AM – Noon. An offshoot of this group, are families have volunteered to handle this same activity on Tuesdays.

Kingdom Bound – July 22 – 26 – There were extra tickets available and so these have been offered to some of the seminarians.

New Business:

1. 500 Club Fundraiser – Bill Denz explained the 500 Club. He distributed samples of the tickets. \$25,000 is brought in if all tickets are sold. The prize payouts are \$12,500 and the Parish would earn \$12,500. The key is TO SELL TICKETS and that's where we need the help. The party event will be on Saturday, October 24, 2015, from 7 – 10PM. There will be food, live music, raffles, etc. The "Save the Date" postcard will be sent out in August. Tickets go on sale in September. Bill said that he has talked

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to the former St. Vincent "School Families" and they would like to see this as a "Reunion Event" of sorts. The hope is that we could enhance this to be a 600 Club in 2016. This 500 Club is in lieu of the former Summer Social.

2. Sunday, August 16, 2015, after 11AM Mass – Mission is sponsoring a Family Picnic. It will be a nice summer event led by Teri and Jeff VanRemman, 2016/2017 Mission Lead Couple and the Mission Team.
3. Lucy made us aware that their farm ships their milk to Upstate Coop. If we need milk, creamer, butter, etc., for any of our events, they can secure this for us.
4. Gerry said that there was a committee being formed to reach out to parishioners to see if they are still involved in our parish. 480 letters were sent out to parishioners who have not participated lately. 8 – 10 letters came back with new addresses and 1 responded that they have not been affiliated with our parish since 1986 and asked at that time to be removed from the mailing. This request has since been honored. Father is in the process of putting together a Parish Letter to all parishioners on activities that are happening. Tony Buttino, Sr. offered to train the sub-committee who signed up to make contact with this parishioner group. **ACTION ITEM: Father Karl to work with Tony Buttino, Sr. to organize this activity with this group of volunteers.**
5. Gerry inquired as to whether we could place an insert in the bulletin with all the Ministry Chairpersons. This certainly is an easy enough activity and can be coordinated in conjunction with the subcommittee and the Parish Ministry Fair in the Fall.
6. Diocesan assessment – are we aware of what that is at this point? Father Karl stated that we have not been notified at this point.
7. Will we be sending out correspondence to better explain how the Diocesan Assessment is calculated along with other ways that parishioners can donate or direct funds to the parish? Dan explained that this is in process and we are trying to assemble this, so that we can put correspondence together for parishioners in the not-too-distant future.
8. Deacon Larry is meeting with the 60 students and the 4 teachers at St. John Vianney who had attended St. Vincent's school. He meets with them monthly and wants to make sure that they know that we still love and pray for them. The question was "how many of these families have officially left our parish to join St. John Vianney?" Suzanne Lazarus said that families were asked by the Bishop not to change parishes for 1 year and Father Bob at St. John Vianney has adhered to this request. We may know in the Fall of some of the changes. Jane Kney stated that the parents of former St. Vincent's students have continued weekly masses as they had here and this has been well received by everyone at St. John Vianney School.
9. Debbie Colvin reached out to Carolyn about building access. She is regularly using the school and wants to know if she could have access for RCIA. Have we gotten to the procedure of the community lockbox? The lockbox will be used in the front of the auditorium and the new procedure will be in place starting in September. Ministries will request meeting room access and schedule through the Rectory on a regular basis. All access will need to be authorized through the Rectory.
10. Deacon Larry requested prayers for Norm Paolini of St. Luke's as he continues to heal from surgery.

Other

1. The 2015 Meeting Schedule is as follows:

September 8, 2015  
October 13, 2015  
November 10, 2015  
December 8, 2015

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Father Karl closed with a prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Tama J. Gresco-Sauers

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