

# St. Joseph Pastoral Parish Council

## Meeting Minutes, 18 February 2019

1. The meeting was called to order with prayer at 6:01 p.m. Fr. Paul Moreau was present, along with members Dee Elliott, Cesar Escalante, Kevin James, George Johnson, Julie Kuehler, James McGinnis, Reino Mejia, Jose Perlera, and Ben Williams, and also Director of Religious Education Lynn Langston and Communications Director Jane Sullivan.
2. Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Religious Education: Lynn reported that the special-needs class would be receiving Confirmation from Bishop Joel on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Current Wednesday numbers are 345 students, with 200 in Confirmation classes and 137 preparing for First Holy Communion. 148 young people went to a high school retreat this past weekend, and 104 to a college retreat. First Communion Masses for RE will be on April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> at noon, and on May 11<sup>th</sup> at noon and 3:00. First Communion for the school is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.
4. Council Member Notes:
  - a. George reported that over 100 parishioners attended the emergency planning town hall. The first half covered “See Something, Say Something”, and the second half Stop the Bleed. George shared a list of recommendations, including barring and locking doors from the inside, using fire extinguishers to defend against active threats, two-way communication between greeters and those inside, and limiting access to the upper level during Mass when possible. The Knights of Columbus will purchase three Stop the Bleed kits. Ushers have taken training and Fr. Paul will permit them to intervene in situations if needed; the question of what precise things they can and should be ready to do may need further exploration. A town hall meeting with the Hispanic community is next to be organized. George is seeking out further training to offer in observation tactics
  - b. Dee reported that the event for Deacon Jim and Elaine will be on Friday. The Knights will be cooking burgers and the Columbiettes will serve sides; the children’s choir and 10:00 choir will be singing; board games and activities for younger children will be available; \$5 per plate will be charged for teens and up. St. Joseph Charities needs to schedule a food drive for Lent.
  - c. Jane is getting a poster of the collected Parish Council photos made, and will also post them to the website.

- d. Ben asked about signage out front; Fr. Paul explained that a proper sign will have to be permitted after the church is built. There was also discussion about the possibility of a standard format and location for major announcements and event info, rather than wrapping them around poles, and what might be most effective. Fr. Paul mentioned that we are working on the wording of a disclaimer for a jobs board.
  - e. Jose reported that he had approached some homeless people to ask about their needs. Showers do not seem to be a problem; clothes might be of use, especially items like socks that can be a challenge to get clean; fuel and equipment for camp cooking would also be helpful. His interactions were positive, and they gave him a gift of a cross.
  - f. Cesar reported that more people are wanted to make cultural presentations at the St. Joseph feast. A Filipino priest is coming in from New Jersey on March 1<sup>st</sup>; Couples for Christ is putting on an event and could use promotion, hoping that a broad representation of the parish will turn out.
  - g. Reino reported that La Parrilla and Cali & Tito's and probably one other restaurant will provide a luncheon for people participating in the Holy Saturday missions (around 300 are expected). A significant donation has been received, and there will be a fundraising car wash with help from the Knights.
5. Pastor's Report: Fr. Paul noted that the event for Deacon Jim on Sunday was lovely and very moving; turnout could have been better however. Colors for the rectory were shown; the project is scheduled to be done in another two weeks, and ought to come in a little below the budget of \$200-210 thousand. There are new systems throughout the house and new insulation; overall space has been expanded by 51%. Covecrest is busing the high-schoolers to the retreat now, which helps the families and fosters camaraderie. With the GRACE Scholars program, there have been some issues with people not understanding the details, now that contributions are due; that is being worked on with our office and communications staff. We have been approaching people who double-park or otherwise choose places that are not parking spots; they are not responding well in general, so next steps—window cards, perhaps, or borrowing a clamp, or even towing one or two—will need to be planned. Fr. David will be here until mid-April; weekday and weekend Masses with him are being scheduled. Fr. Paul shared the basic concept for the church from our master plan that is in development for the property. We are studying what would be the best size for the narthex; reception and the gift shop will be made visible from there. A community room will be placed along the way out. There will be a room for parish preschool and a youth room,

and also a staff luncheon area, on the lower level. There will be an adoration chapel with separate entrance; a columbarium is also possible along the side. Deacon Gregory is to be ordained to the priesthood on June 29<sup>th</sup>; he and his bishop are open to making him available to the parish as he works to build his community. A rotation of ministry heads will be put in place; the idea is for a 3-year cycle. A smartphone-friendly system is in place so that the building can be monitored remotely; it will also be used to make daily Masses available online along with the weekend ones. Some neighbors are encroaching and dumping along the acreage buffer on the north and west ends of the property; this will need to be dealt with to protect our property boundaries; the Archdiocese and Athens-Clarke County may need to be involved. Making direct pitches at Masses for new volunteers has had good results so far.

6. St. Joseph Award: This new award is intended to reward individuals who serve selflessly and consistently, exemplifying servant-leadership and dedication to the evangelizing mission of the parish, showing initiative alongside respect for structure and obedience. Nominations will be solicited, with PPC choosing an honoree and making sure they are present at the St. Joseph celebration.
7. Pastoral Parish Council elections: After discussion at the meeting and post-meeting follow-up, the schedule was set for announcements to be made the last three weekends in March, nominations to be collected the first two weekends in April, nominations to be reviewed at the meeting on 15 April, elections to be held the weekend of 4-5 May, election results reviewed at the meeting on 20 May, and results with the full 2019-2020 PPC roster to be published the weekend of 25-26 May. There will likely be no meeting in June; new members would be invited to attend beginning with the meeting on 15 July.
8. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:31 p.m. The next PPC meeting will be on Monday, 18 March at 6:00 p.m. in room 255.