

**SJN Parish Council
Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2017**

Present: Msgr. Pat Garrity, Sue Conway, Andrew Cieslik, Larry Lehmann, Walt Hanson, Michelle Johnson, Tom Preston, David Russell, Ellie Sanchez-Valencia

Absent: David Campbell, Jeff Knox, Trish Varga

- I. Opening Prayer – Msgr. Garrity
- II. Minutes of previous meeting (July25, 2016) unanimously approved.
- III. Overview of 2016-2017 Financial Statements as of end of February 2017 (several handouts- balance sheet and debt analysis; no statement for school). Msgr. Garrity quickly reviewed the financial statements for parish and charities (St. Vincent de Paul). At end of February 2017, income statement shows parish has \$12K surplus. Reviewed the change (reduction) in the parish debt. Debit is now lower than when church was built in 2008. Have \$2.5M increase in assets with construction and purchase of convent since 2009. Update on mass attendance and registered parishioners. Attendance up 2.6%. Growth in number of registered families has occurred.
- IV. Update on Diocesan Capital Campaign– Msgr. Garrity and Ellie Sanchez-Valencia gave update on Home Campaign. As of 2/28/2017, about \$1.083M or 97% has been received of the nearly \$1.9 million pledged. The \$35K outstanding is primarily due to some pledges were made over 5-year giving period. A few families have move with most honoring their pledge to SJN. Nearly \$300K has been transferred to fund for the Parish Life Center.
- V. St. Joseph’s Caregiver Ministry – Brenda Nicholson and Tom Perry made presentation on new parish ministry just formed (handout of ministry overview given). There is no faith-based support group for caregivers. Plan is for a phased approach with no cost to the parish. Phase 1 is the creation of a support group and newsletter; Phase 2 is the development of a resource center, and Phase 3 is the start of volunteer caregiver services. Phase 3 will require parish involvement where parishioners provide volunteer services (e.g., household chores, help with shopping, visits). The support group had its first meeting in February. Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month and has 2 facilitators, Deacon Syler and Gloria Russell. First newsletter published in February with Deacon Syler as editor and Brenda Nicholson as main contributor. Target implementation for Phase 3 is Fall 2017. Needs are contributors for newsletter, more volunteers for resource center, and coordinator for volunteer services.
- VI. Projects
 - New painting for the Church -- Msgr. discussed the need to repaint the area above altar behind cross. Plan is to contact liturgical artist for ideas.
 - Memorial Walls – Memorial plaques to be installed on right side of Narthex. Bulletin boards will be moved to the other wall. Plaque will have hand-carved wooden replica of church. Name plates for those who contributed to 1st campaign to buy land and build school and those who contributed to 2nd campaign to build the church. A second plaque for Home

Campaign will be installed on the wall next to ladies' bathroom. Plaque will have hand-carved replica of planned Parish Life Center; name plates for those who contributed to the Home Campaign. Planned installation is for May 2017.

VII. New Business

- Spiritual Life Representative – Msgr. welcomed David Russell as new Parish Council representative for Spiritual Life. Need for a 3rd at large councilmember.
- Msgr. discussed creation of a Legacy Fund for the school, church, and proposed Parish Life Center as a method for fundraising. As an example, parishioners could contribute funds to have a classroom named after a loved one. Council members suggested a postcard mailing to let parishioners know about Legacy Fund.
- If Parish Life Center is to be built in the near term, will likely need another campaign to solicit funds rather than borrow; 2019 likely target date. Parish Life Center that seats 400 could be a money maker for parish and help defray building costs. No other facilities in west Knoxville with that large of a seating capacity.
- Council member Sue Conway suggested that one of the upcoming events such as a picnic be dedicated to all the volunteers that support parish, school, and ministries. Sue noted that thousands of volunteer hours are freely given and those volunteers should be recognized.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Youth & Young Adult (Andrew Cieslik) – no formal report provided. Youth attended March for Life in Washington, DC. Kids were awesome and very patient with breakdown of bus.
- b. Spiritual Life (David Russell) – no report provided. David is new council member and is getting up to speed.
- c. Communications (Walt Hanson) – no formal report provided. Website has been cleaned up recently; ability to have start dates and stop dates for posting of parish announcements or information. Web apps such as My Parish app has had no movement lately. Parish Café app with digital parish directory available. User must get passcode from office. Can announce in bulletin that app is available.
- d. Social Action (David Campbell absent) – no report provided.
- e. Education/Faith Formation (Tom Preston) –no formal report provided. Will be confirming 167 youth in 8th – 11th grades this March (2017). Will do 7th – 8th grades next year (school year 2017-2018) and then begin doing 6th grade (2018-2019).
- f. Administration (Larry Lehmann) – no formal report provided. Need to review procedures (e.g., use of pavilion) to see if any changes or updates are required.
- g. Family & Parish Life (Trish Varga absent) – no report provided.

IX. Old Business

- Open Council Position: At-large appointee needed. Msgr. Garrity asked for nominees.

X. Closing Prayer – Msgr. Garrity led prayer and gave a blessing.

Respectfully submitted: Michelle Johnson