# The Catholic Community of Sumter Parish Council Minutes of the Council Meeting January 23, 2018

Members present: Fr. Giovannie Nunez – Parish Administer, Bro. Rufino, Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary, Valerie Williams, Andrew Williams, David Marcella, Dr. Jan Neuner, Harvin Bullock, Joey Duggan, Dr. Mark Crabbe, Paul Dunlap Dee Reiter and Chris Hilditch

Additional attendees: David Wood, Irene Dunlap, Kristi Doyle, Denise Spivey, Margaret Dougherty (Finance Council Liaison)

Fr. Gio opened the meeting with The Lord’s Prayer. Corrected minutes from December were reviewed and approved.

***COMMITTEE REPORTS:***

**Knights of Columbus** – March 17th will be the St. Patrick’s Day Dinner Dance and Silent Auction at St. Anne Parish Hall.

**Hispanic Community** – Irene Dunlap reported a busy month in December for the community. They were able to get the pot holes on the left side of the drive way filled.

**Building and Grounds Committee** - David Marcella reported that the following projects have been completed:

***OLD BUSINESS:***

* Margaret Dougherty submitted the finance committee report for Parish council to review. She stated that the report will go into the bulletin this weekend as an insert for parishioners to view.  Margaret pointed out that the financial report includes what was being called the pastor's account or the discretionary fund and that those funds are now incorporated into the regular operating fund. There was some discussion amongst Parish Council that this should be noted as being reserved funds on the financial reports. Parish Council discussed that the operating fund amounts are skewed due to the $106,000 from the reserved account being included. Margaret stated that this could easily be done if it meets the needs of everyone on the committee's. However, father Gio stated that he does not want the funds included as a separate line item. They are to be included in the regular operating funds.
* Other items discussed from the finance Council include the $4,000 spent on the ordination for Deacon Ruffino and Deacon Kevin. $3,300 of this was recouped by fundraising. New computers were also purchased from the reserved fund for the school.
* The Diocesan assessment for St. Anne and St Jude increased $6,000 since last year. Margaret explained that the assessments are based on last year's income. The One Faith One Family account is accruing interest every month.
* Margaret stated that at the last meeting, the finance Council voted to move to Hwy 521 and proceed with the construction of a new church. Father Gio stated that he still needs to meet with a building committee before he will approach the diocese about building a new church. He wants to discuss a plan with the building committee first.
* The Finance Council also discussed a need for us to build a new columbarium at the Saint Lawrence Cemetery. There are only 12 spaces left. We've had this columbarium since 2010. If a new columbarium were to be approved and built it would be placed where the Stone altar is currently. Margaret stated that the diocese new mandates are for the columbarium to have a pitched roof instead of a flat roof. Discussion amongst Parish Council, with the vision of moving to a new church could we just build the new columbarium on the 521 land? The current cost at the Saint Lawrence Cemetery is $1,200 for a niche in the columbarium and $1,600 for a plot. There is an additional $400 charge for double occupancy in the plot.

Father Gio thanked Margaret for her attendance and her work with the finance council as well as the parish council.

***Margaret J Lafoon Trust Fund*** -  father Gio stated that the last meeting was canceled. The next meeting for the trust is coming up on Tuesday most of the paperwork has already been completed and approved by the diocese. The scholarship should be up and running soon.

***New secretary for St. Anne and St Jude*** - Valerie Williams and Margaret Dougherty have been given all the applications and resumes for the secretarial position. They will meet to review them and go forward with Father Gio.

***Stewardship committee-***  Chris Hilditch and Father Gio met to discuss getting more parishioners involved in the day-to-day activities of the church. This is to not only include fundraising but raising our parishioner’s awareness about what we need as a parish and give them a better idea of what parishioners can do to help us as a parish. there will be a focus on increasing the time talent and treasure amongst all parishioners and Parish groups. Chris will be looking for committee members to serve with him.

***Building Committee*** -  Dr. Mark Crabbe stated that there has not been much activity this month he is working on forming a new building committee. He feels that getting the right people together who will be committed to the undertaking and seeing it through to the end. There will be a need for a lot of people with energy and ideas to get this thing going. The next step is to form the new building. He stated that there seems to be a lot of criticism from parishioners. He feels that we need to better educate the parishioners on what is being done so they are not so critical of the parish council and the various committees. Dr. Crabbe plans to invite parishioners from all walks of life to be a part of this new building committee. Possibly investigate hiring a Project Manager to oversee all the details. This is what other churches have done when building their new facilities. Discussion amongst Parish Council that a competent Church Builder is what is needed. Father Gio will meet with a new building committee. The new building committee will be separate from the building subcommittee but father Gio has asked for their input.

***Building and maintenance committee***

* David Marcella-  David and his committee worked on the roofs at St Jude trimmed and cut the trees back off the roof at the St Jude youth building as this Could have contributed to roof problems in the future. David stated that tree limbs should never touch the roof lines. so far, no leaks have been reported with the rain that we have had recently.
* David submitted air quality reports completed on the rectory at St Jude and the youth building at St Jude from consulting company Emerald ink. the bottom line is that at Saint Anne in the church the storage room in the choir loft exceeded spor levels.  Likewise, the air quality in the basement of the youth building at St Jude exceeded the outdoor Spor levels. This is because the basement is underground the recommendation is to keep it as dry as possible.
* David stated that he has not had a giant response from his request for volunteers is last 2 volunteers have come from the Hispanic community and he is grateful for their help he has put his request for help and Volunteers in the bulletin and has spoken at the masses and at the women's Guild expressing his need for parishioners to get involved.

***New business***

* Kristi Doyle principal of St. Anne and St. Jude Catholic school and Principal of Saint Francis Xavier High School and Denise Spivey, vice principal met last night with the finance Council to discuss the financial status of the schools. Principal Doyle stated that over the past 13 years the school has lost enrollment at both campuses. They discussed with the finance committee ways to work together to increase enrollment and support from the community in the form of stewardship and financial support. Currently there are several students attending the schools on reduced tuition. The school needs 130 kids in the kindergarten through 8th grade enrollment to break even. Currently at St. Francis Xavier High School there are 19 students, this number is up 5 students from last year. Both the principal and the vice principal are giving it their all and things are not all bad this year they have the largest 9th grade class at St Francis that they have had in years due to the 8th grade class from St Anne moving over. Principal Doyle feels that this is because the parents see a future in unifying both schools under one roof. There are definite benefits to a kindergarten to 12th grade Catholic School. Having all the kids on one campus provides built in role models for the younger kids. the Elementary grades look up to the middle school grades and the middle school grades look up to the high school grades. this provides the opportunity for kids to grow up together in a School community as well as in a Parish Community.
* Principal Doyle and vice principal Spivey both state that this is where we want to go as a community. To unified to unify as a parish and unify as a school we need the support of the parishioners. There are definite benefits to the small environment at St Anne and St Jude as well as Saint Francis. The academics are excellent, 6 seniors graduated in 2017. 5 of them graduated with 12 hours of college credit already. Students are thriving in the Catholic schools in Sumter, but Catholics are only 3% of Sumter we need more Parish support to continue the 160 years of Catholic School tradition in Sumter. principal Doyle would like to become more visible to the parishioners by having children's masses on Sundays this would be separate from the youth group masses. She would also like to place envelopes in the pews for people to donate to the school she plans to put out a newsletter in the bulletin to show the parishioners the achievements of the students in the Catholic Schools. Discussion amongst Parish Council on ways to grow the school student population. Principal Doyle stated that we need more positive word of mouth. It has always been said that the Catholic schools are Sumter’s best kept secret. We can't be a secret anymore. We need people to know about our school. Discussion was held amongst Parish Council as to getting the principal and vice principal into Civic groups and Community organizations to speak about the schools. it was also stated that if we had a bus that would pick up near the base we would get more kids from Shaw coming to St Anna in St Jude School this is something that should be investigated. Father Gio stated that he wanted principal Doyle and vice principal Spivey to speak to Parish Council to explain what they need from us. The school is not separate from the parish, we are together. Discussion was held among the parish council as to sending out a survey to school-age families asking them what they are looking for in a school. It was also stated that we need a bigger push from the priest during mass announcements from the pulpit coming from our Parish priest go a long way with our parishioners. It was decided that Valerie Williams and Jan Neuner would work together to formulate a survey that would be sent out parish wide. the parish council is on board to help the school.

Father Gio reiterated to everyone present the need for confidentiality about what is discussed in Parish Council. As members of the parish council, if you hear rumors don't be afraid to set the record straight and put out those fires. this also goes for members of the finance Council information should not be discussed until the minutes are approved and released from each meeting.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday February 20th at 7 pm

Father Gio thanked the members of Parish Council as well as the additional attendees for coming to tonight's meeting  and closed with the Hail Mary.

# Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Macedo- Recording Secretary