

March 21, 2013 Finance Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman: Cary Evans

Finance Council members: Parish Council:

P	Cary Evans, Chair	Linda Haptonstall, attending for Fr. Jim
A	Father Jim Northrop	Jason Swager Chair
P	John Fogliani	John Bush, Vice Chair
P	Paul Konrady	Ken Elliott
P	Diana McDevitt	Chris Flynn
P	John Vandenberg	Marie Hedden
P	John Phillips, Staff	Mark Patterson, Stewardship Council

- 1) Join meeting of the Finance Council (FC) and Parish Council (PC) was called to order by Chairperson, Cary Evans at 7:02pm.
- 2) John Phillips led the meeting with the prayer for Pope Francis.
- 3) Jason Swager, PC Chair, characterized the Parish Council goals for 2013/2014 as a prioritization or highlighting of the Parish needs identified in the GPS strategic planning process through meeting with most of the other commissions and councils. The priorities for Parish Council are:
 - a) Improved communications- both internally within the various commissions and councils; with staff and with the congregation. Some technology additions might require funding, as will staff training initiatives identified in GPS. There is a need for both technology improvements (website, online scheduling, event communications, etc.) and also no-tech such as mailings.
 - b) Parish-wide outreach – PC has identified a Sister Parish Project as another priority. A Sister Parish Project with Fr. Johnny’s Malawi Parish would help realize a Parish charism unifying the entire Parish and school.
 - c) Volunteer-coordinator – this is an important role that the PC believes would significantly benefit the Parish and School. There is great energy at St. Brendan and this position will help direct the energy. The PC and others have considered many creative ways to fund the position, including rebate on school tuition, volunteer position, etc. Mark Patterson from Stewardship Commission further endorsed this position: it is considered very important to Stewardship: it is thought that a volunteer coordinator will help St. Brendan become an engaged Parish; a more engaged parish is a more giving parish – through this investment the position will pay for itself.
- 4) John Phillips reviewed the Parish Income Statement through February with projected revenue and expenses through June year-end. The projected Income Statement reflects higher total collections than previously reported, and much lower projected year-end deficit of \$25k than the budgeted \$128k deficit. Council(s) were pleased to see the much improved financial results, however, frustration was expressed that the projections include large adjustments in June for YE fund activity. FC would like to see statements that more accurately predict Parish revenues and expenses.
- 5) Issues were also raised about the sufficiency of Parish reserves and the need for budget recommendations to be made with a complete view of the cash assets that also comprise the Parish finances. There is ongoing frustration that an accurate Balance Sheet is not available to the FC -

without an accurate Balance Sheet the ongoing debate about the adequacy of Parish reserves cannot be resolved and no recommendation can be made. This impacts almost any other recommendation from FC including budgets, new initiatives, new positions, etc.

- 6) A poll was taken of PC members. All believe the general impression of the congregation is that the Parish is in dire financial straits – the result of financial presentations by Fr. Jim, Linda, and bulletin announcements which speak to weekly collections shortfalls. The FC needs to correct the general impression with more complete presentation about the Parish financial position. There is also a need for accurate reporting in the bulletin – FC should revisit bulletin reporting.
- 7) Cary led the Council(s) in considering several budget options. Pastoral Council members are requested to provide feedback to the FC before the April 25 FC meeting. Please send the feedback to: Cary cary@westmeridian.com and John johnp@saintbrendan.org
- 8) John P. led the closing prayer and Cary adjourned the meeting at 9:20pm.