

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
**Date: May 9, 2018**

**Present:** Fr. Rob, John McFadden, Bob Boyer, Irene Kane, Kristen Hildum, Mary Ellen Roemer, Jenna Taylor, Darryl Lazar, Fran Peed, Mike Balog, Mary Humphrey, Mary Ann Haszko, Martha Schwegler

**Absent:** none

The meeting was opened with prayer at 6:00 p.m. by Darryl Lazar

**Old Business:**

- Minutes approved from April 18, 2018
- Nominating Weekends: May 12/13 and may 19/20
  - \*Coverage of Nominating Table at the weekend Masses discussed
  - \*Location of sign and easel to be used located in storage room
  - \* Acknowledged that Bobbi Vinsand, of the Gift Shop, graciously agreed to move their sale to allow us to use the space near the Gift Shop door
  - \*Ballot box, ballots, Parish Directory available
  - \*Bulletin announcements and Pulpit Announcements in place

**New Business:**

**-Presentation for New Ministry by Lois Williams**

\*Mrs. Lois Williams addressed her concerns about the lack of a formal Grief Ministry here at St. John's. The Council members acknowledged that they had received and reviewed the handouts, provided by Mrs. Williams, on the Grief Share Program.

\*Points made concerning this program by Mrs. Williams: it is Christ centered; it covers all kinds of grief; consists of a 13 week program involving video and then leader presentation; no cost to the Church, participants pay \$25 for book; a team of about 10 would need to be trained initially; the organization that provides the material and content of the Grief Share program provide support through their Website and 24 hour telephone support.

\* Questions and answer discussion followed with Mrs. Williams.

\* after the completion of Mrs. Williams' presentation and departure, a lengthy discussion concerning the matter was conducted including current bereavement ministries in place, the audio-visual needs for this ministry, the space constraints the Parish has at this time, the sustainability of such a large team (10 initially) needed and the availability of the Grief Share Program at other Hampton Roads churches; other possible ways to minister to those who have suffered a loss of a loved one.

\*Conclusion: The Council is grateful to Mrs. Williams for addressing the needs of the bereaved. The Council agreed that ministering to the bereaved is very important. It was decided that this particular program was not the way to move forward at this time, especially due to the need for adequate space with audio-visual equipment which is not readily available. The Council will put this important subject on a future agenda.

**-Additional New Business**

-An issue was brought up by Fran Peed, who coordinates the Deacon and Donut ministry concerning using the trash can located in the kitchen. Fr. Rob stated that the trash can from the kitchen should remain there and not be brought out into the Commons. There are trash cans in the Mechanical Room that can be used in the Commons area. Keys to that room are always available.

-The Council meeting for September-November were set with Fr. Rob. Jackie Grasman will be contacted to check on the availability of the School Library for these meetings.

-Those Council members who have finished serving were acknowledged: John McFadden, Irene Kane, Kristen Hildum, and Mary Ellen Roemer.

-Mary Ellen Roemer will become the recorder for next year.

**Pastor's Comments:**

-Letter was received, anonymously sent, stating that there was no parking spaces in the parking lot for 5 p.m. Mass asking if there was an event that was not made known to the parishioners. The weekend referred to was the weekend of First Communions. This event, as is most upcoming events, are published in advance in the Church Bulletin and announced from the Pulpit. The question arose as to whether parishioners are reading the Church Bulletin and hearing the announcements. Council discussed that it is difficult to fully address the issue when the author makes themselves anonymous.

-Fr. Rob recognized the work that the Parish Council does and how valuable it is to him in ministering to our large Parish family.

Meeting closed in prayer and adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting: September 12, 2018

Minutes recorded and submitted by: Mary Ellen Roemer