

## CLUSTER SEVEN

Our Lady of the Snows and St. Agnes Parishes  
Minutes of Finance Council/Pastoral Council Meeting  
July 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order by John Waluk, Chairperson. The opening prayer was offered by Father Dube.

PRESENT: Finance Council - Father Dube, John Waluk, Ken Dechaine, Joe Kinney, Scott Olson, John Parola, Ed Oakes, Rena Hodgins and Loretta Kreider. Pastoral Council - Father Dube, Heidi Kinney, Moe Pare, John Waluk, Ed Oakes, and Rena Hodgins. Excused: Pat Ouellette. Absent: Louise Dulac. Guests: Rheba Michaud, Jane Conroy and Lynn Lubas.

Rheba Michaud gave a presentation on a project several parishioners from St. Thomas would like to undertake. Chad Poland, pastor of the Congregational Church and Mark Stevens of the Methodist Church, have been sponsoring a community meal once a month in Dover. The Catholic community has been invited to sponsor a meal once a month, using the facilities at the Congregational Church. The ladies present also volunteer at the local food pantry and are willing to take on this project. There is a great need for this in the Dover area. There are funds left over from the Fall Bazaar and they would ask to use \$500.00 from those funds as seed money for the project. It was felt that an annual budget of \$1,500.00 would be sufficient to cover the expenses and money from this year's Bazaar could be allocated for that purpose.

Following the presentation, the Finance and Pastoral Council members discussed the merits of the program. On a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously voted that the project be approved with the sum of \$1,500.00 annually to be allocated from funds raised at the Fall Bazaar.

Minutes of the June 16, 2015 were reviewed and, on a motion duly made and seconded, were approved as presented.

June Financial Report-Our Lady of the Snows: The parish ended the year with a significant deficit in offertory giving. Even after deducting the \$116,623.00 expended on capital improvements, expenses exceed income by almost \$28,000.00.

June Financial Report-St. Agnes: Offertory giving was also below budget expectations by \$6,700.00 but other income exceeded budget projections. After deducting the funds used from savings to cover roofing expenses, St. Agnes ended the year with a surplus of \$10,500.00.

Offertory giving is the biggest problem in both parishes. An appeal for increased offertory giving will be included in the upcoming annual report to both parishes. Attendance has shown a slight increase at all worship sites.

Catholic Charities: Father Dube met recently with a representative of Catholic Charities. He distributed printed materials for suggested

programs which could be beneficial to parishioners in the Cluster and which could enhance parish social ministry. He asked the members to reflect on the projects and consider undertaking one or more.

Review of By-Law: Father wishes to review the breakdown of representatives from each parish/worship site. We will continue to study this in the future.

Other business:

Loretta reported that the leaking roof in Milo has been repaired. The problem was caused by the chimney which has been re-pointed. Also, a new storage shed will be purchased and installed soon.

A recent walk through of the rectory at St. Agnes revealed the need for several upgrades and repairs. The problems are being worked on.

Closing comments: Father Dube noted that the parishioners at St. Anne voted unanimously to return their Mass to Sunday at 10:30 PM. Thereafter the parishioners at Sts. Peter/Paul chose to have a 4:00 PM Mass which will result in Dover changing to a 6:00 PM Mass on Saturday. The St. Agnes schedule will remain the same. After further consideration, it was suggested that the new Mass schedule begin the week-end of September 12/13 rather than the Labor Day week-end.

Father also reported that Father Nolette will take up residence in the rectory at St. Agnes, probably in early October. He will be available to assist with several week day Masses and well as funerals and hospital visits. Deacon Fred Harrigan has submitted his resignation which was effective on July 12, 2015.

Father thanked Doreen Olson for organizing an outing for youth ministers and altar servers. They enjoyed a cook-out and swim at Sebec Lake.

Father would also like to have Commission Councils formed for each worship site. Members would handle problems particular to their church and report back to the Pastoral Council. St. Agnes parishioners already work in this fashion. Members from the other worship sites decided that they would meet after a Sunday Mass and extend an invitation for parishioners to join in the discussions. It was also determined that the Financial Council and the Pastoral Council will continue to meet jointly and that meetings will take place every other month for the time being. The next meeting was scheduled for September 22, 2015 at 6:00 PM at St. Anne.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM with a closing prayer offered by Father Dube.

Respectfully submitted,

Rena T. Hodgins  
Secretary