

## CLUSTER SEVEN

### Our Lady of the Snows and St. Agnes Parishes Minutes of Finance Council/Pastoral Council Meeting September 22, 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, Ed Oakes, John Parola, Joe Kinney, Rena Hodgins and Loretta Kreider. Absent: Scott Olson and Ken Dechaine. Pastoral Council - Father Dube, John Waluk, Ed Oakes, Moe Pare, Pat Ouellette, Heidi Kinney, Rena Hodgins. Excused: Louise Dulac.

Minutes of the July 21, 2015 meeting were reviewed and, on a motion duly made and seconded, were accepted as presented.

August Financial Report-Our Lady of the Snows: Offertory receipts for August were ahead of budget by \$1,900.00. About 30' of old iron pipe needs to be replaced in the St. Anne church basement. After the extensive retro-fitting, we are expecting a 50% reduction in heating costs this season. Ed Oakes noted that a new storage shed has been delivered in Milo.

August Financial Report-St. Agnes: Finances are in fair condition. Offertory receipts for August were \$1,737.00 ahead of budget projections. Year to date expenses are over income by \$5,400.00. However, the over-payment of heating oil would negate the deficit. However, we have some unbudgeted expenses for furnace repairs and the purchase of a refrigerator for the rectory.

Attendance: Attendance seems to be improving at all worship sites. We will reserve judgment until the new Mass schedule has been in effect for a few months.

Catholic Charities: No action

Commission Council Reports:

St. Thomas - No report

Sts. Francis and Paul - Ed Oakes reported that there was a meeting but there were very few comments.

St. Anne - John Parola reported that about a dozen people attended a recent meeting. Items discussed were how to bring parishioners back, getting an accurate census, possibly training teams to make home visits to encourage parishioners to return. Also, it was felt that the children are being confirmed at too early of an age resulting in no longer attending faith formation classes. Representatives from Our Lady's Kitchen are in need of additional help. All in all, it was felt that it was a good meeting and another meeting will be scheduled soon.

St. Agnes - John Waluk reported that a new confessional kneeler was chosen and has been ordered. We are undertaking some repairs in the rectory which will require us to take funds from savings to cover the expense. Some repairs have

been made to our bell tower and the steps to the Tabernacle have been made more stable. The church building is in good condition.

Other Business: On September 28<sup>th</sup> the ladies at St. Thomas will serve the first meal in their new venture. Deacon David is working on outreach and is hoping to form some teams for RCIA.

Father's comments: Father touched on several subjects as follows:  
The annual report was sent to parishioners in mid-summer. A request was made for a modest increase in offertory giving. There is a concern that it is necessary to take money from savings to meet ordinary expenses. It is imperative that some money go into savings.

Youth Ministry: The Life Teen program will be conducted at St. Agnes this year. Dover will not join the program and only two children from Dexter are participating and they are willing to travel to Pittsfield. The Edge and Life Teen programs are expensive and require many "core" teams to be formed. It has been difficult to come up with enough volunteers. Maybe it is time to look into other programs that would serve more youth. We should plan to study this during this winter so that we can start anew next fall.

Priorities for the year:

- A. Retraining of Eucharistic Ministers: New norms were implemented in 2004-2005 but are not being followed in our Cluster.
- B. Retraining of Altar Servers: Father Dube and Father Nolette have been working on coordinating how they will say Mass so that altar servers will not be confused wherever or with whomever they are serving.
- C. Healing service for the Cluster during Advent: This will be intended to heal old wounds which have occurred over the past years, in part due to the large number of turn-over in priests.
- D. Worship and Spirituality Committees: A committee from each worship site should meet to plan and organize liturgical celebrations beginning with All Saints Day and running through Thanksgiving, Advent and the Christmas season.
- E. Bringing together of the Cluster. As expressed previously, Father would like to conduct several events during the year which would include the entire cluster. It is not too early to begin thinking about a picnic next summer and possibly a harvest dinner/dance in the fall of 2016.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 17, 2015. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P. M. with a closing prayer offered by Moe Pare.

Respectfully submitted,

Rena T. Hodgins  
Secretary