

**Meeting Minutes – August 6, 2018**  
**Parish Council Meeting**

***St. Kenneth Vision Statement: “To become an increasingly welcoming and inclusive parish centered in the Gospel of justice, love and compassion.”***

**Members Present:** Fr. Tom, Deacon Denny, Ray Smock, Brian Owens, Sarah Fish. Judy Torosian, Rich Noelke, Joe Henderson, Carol Parker, Brad Neilson, Tracey Emmanuel, John Dankert, Art Belloli

**Opening Prayer:** Judy Torosian

**Approval of the Minutes:** Brian Owens made a motion to approve the July 9, 2018 Regular Parish Council Meeting Minutes. Joe Henderson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Administrative Updates**

- **Parishioner Feedback:** Fr. Tom said that many parishioners were relieved to hear that the construction would begin soon. He said that he is hoping the meetings planned for the weekend of August 11 and August 12 will help people understand the impact of construction.

**Commission Reports**

- **Christian Service Commission** — John Dankert said the Christian Service Commission did not meet over the summer months, so there was no formal report. He did inform the Parish Council that the Tiny House project in Detroit is almost complete, and that they are looking for a new quote for the repair work that needs to be done at the Detroit Rescue Mission Building.
- **Education Commission** — Brian Owens said the Education Commission did not meet over the summer months, so there was no formal report. He noted that the commission would be meeting during the second week of August.
- **Worship Commission** — Art Belloli provided the Parish Council with a report prior to the August 6 meeting. The report stated that the Art & Environment Planning Team was working closely with the Building Committee to plan for construction.
- **Evangelization Committee** — Fr. Tom said that he and Deacon Denny have discussed leadership opportunities with parishioners, but they are waiting on a response.
- **Stewardship Commission** — Fr. Tom said that he and Deacon Denny have discussed leadership opportunities with parishioners, but they are waiting on a response.
- **Finance Council** — Rich Noelke provided the Parish Council with an update on the parish finances. He said that fiscal year 2017-2018 closed with a net operating surplus of \$201,000. He noted that the Sunday collections were averaging \$2,000 per week higher than the same time last year. He said that the parish currently has about \$3.15 million in savings.

## **Building Project Update**

Brad Neilson reported that through prayer and perseverance, they did receive final approval for the building project from Wayne County. He said that they still needed to collect the actual permit, but that the construction documents were now being reviewed by Plymouth Township. The Plymouth Township Engineering Department did approve the documents, but they are still waiting for approval from the Plymouth Township Building Department.

The township engineering department requested that a water main easement on the property be relocated. Brad Neilson is currently waiting for the Archdiocese of Detroit to approve the design changes. He said that he is working diligently to get that approval as soon as possible.

Brad Neilson noted that they cannot begin work until they have the permit from both Wayne County and Plymouth Township. He said that if all goes well, work should begin in the middle of August.

Brad Neilson said that the Building Committee will be doing presentations after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on August 11 and the 11 a.m. Mass on August 12 to provide parishioners with information about how the construction project will impact them. He said the construction will be a major disruption that will require all parishioners to have extra patience. He also said that he is hoping to have a revised sample board at the meetings to provide parishioners with more information about what the church will look like after the renovation is complete. Brian Owens recommended that the meetings be recorded so that they could be put on the website for people to watch, in case they are not able to be present at the meetings.

Brad Neilson noted that the choir room will be used as a construction office throughout the duration of the project, which will save money because they will not have to rent a trailer. The choir will practice in the rectory.

Joe Henderson asked if the church will be shelled in by winter. Brad Neilson noted that it will be a tight schedule to get the building shelled in by winter.

Brad Neilson provided the Parish Council with information about how the parking will be impacted, as well as how parishioners will enter and exit the church building. It was suggested that volunteers help manage crosswalks and traffic, particularly during the first few weeks of construction. The Parish Council also discussed other possible options for improving traffic flow, and acknowledged that some unforeseen issues may arise after construction begins that will need to be addressed.

Brad Neilson asked Parish Council members to provide him with any additional feedback before the end of the week so that he could adequately prepare for the meetings.

Judy Torosian commended Brad Neilson on a job well done, particularly for working diligently to get final approval from Wayne County.

### **Fr. Tom's Prerogative**

Fr. Tom told the Parish Council that this is an exciting time for the parish, as construction is about to begin. He said that it is important that parish leaders work to manage the expectations of parishioners, noting that everyone needs to be prepared for an experience that may not be easy. He said that he was confident, however, that everyone will get into the swing of it once construction begins.

He asked the Parish Council to continue to pray for the success of the project and to pray for good weather for construction.

Fr. Tom said that the parish picnic will go on as planned, noting that it was a staff-driven event that requires the help of volunteers. He asked parish Council members to consider volunteering for a portion of the picnic, and to wear their Parish Council name tag during the event.

Fr. Tom said he is also considering having parishioners write messages that could be included in the cornerstone of the renovated church building. Art Belloli suggested that people could submit statements that could also be used during Mass and then placed in a time capsule.

Fr. Tom said that the Parish Council also needs to coordinate the nomination process to select new members for the 2018-2019 year. He said that he will put the nomination information in the bulletin, and requested that Parish Council members volunteer to speak at all Masses during the weekends of September 8 and September 9, as well as September 15 and September 16.

**Next Meeting:** Monday September 10, 2018 at 7 p.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Art Belloli

**Closing Prayer:** Judy Torosian