

# Finalized MINUTES of August 6, 2018 Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

7:00-9:10 PM

prepared by Bob Lucas, Rick Brennan and Susan Churchill

**We, Blessed Sacrament Parish are a Christ-Centered Community; Committed to Worship the Father;  
Committed to Respond to the Spirit's Gifts; Committed to Loving Service to All God's People.**

## Attendance

Brennan, Rick  
Churchill, Susan  
Crabtree, Matt  
Dever, Ann  
Dever, Jack  
Dever, John  
Frye, Tim  
Gianola, John  
Green, Travis  
Gresham, Joe  
Hayes, Matt

Holz, Ken  
Jenkins, Joe  
Jennings, Laura  
Lucas, Bob  
Maramba, Philip  
McLane, Tom  
Norris, Tim  
O'Neill Colleen  
Ponciano, Jocelyn  
Scalise, Danny  
Sylvester, Bob

Whitmyer, Reagan  
Wilson, Tiffany

ex-officio members  
Finnell, John  
Haas, Jeanne  
Haas, Mark  
Hanna, John  
Zellers, Natalie

## OPENING PRAYER: Rick Brennan

A prayer by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying  
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's  
grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the  
worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Amen.

## **THEME SONG FOR THIS MEETING:**

Now in this place, new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away.  
See, in this space, our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in - the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in - the blind and the lame.  
Call to us now, and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name

## **KUDOS:**

- Security and safety committee is doing a great job completing its focus on mass shooting scenarios/training and gathering other information about other health and safety needs.
- Father John's homily, 7/29/2018 "What good are these for so many?", was one of the best ever.
- All greeter/ushers do a wonderful job welcoming new people in a friendly manner, orienting them to our various spaces, publications, projects and facilities.
- Father George's mission homily, "I will be Jesus' hands and feet," was inspiring.
- Mark Haas, Chris Cedana, and Father John put on a powerful Holy Hour. It was very well done and a great experience. Hint, hint: Looking forward to the next one.
- Mark Haas set up a great night out at the baseball park for about 20 attendees.
- The Youth Council did a great job setting up an agenda for the youth with many activities over the next six months. (Note: we'll get a copy of that agenda to pass out on 9/4)
- Thanks to Rick for the opening prayer which set a wonderful tone for the whole meeting, a spectacular way to begin.
- Thanks to everyone for making me feel comfortable as a first term/first year member--I was able to get right into it.
- Thanks to Susan for a really packed, smoothly flowing, educational and productive evening--I am happy to be on the council.
- I loved our opening prayer. It is applicable to the work of the addiction task force. And it is also applicable to the work of the Drug Court team members. I plan to share it with the team members this week.
- Thanks to Susan for her promises to the council. It helped me understand what a facilitator does-- omg, a big job!

## **Opening Statements About Council Member Responsibilities:**

**Susan Churchill** is our **Facilitator** for this year.

She promises:

- To plan and be prepared for a successful session when we get the chance to meet.
- To encourage all to participate fully.
- To set clear directions, guidelines, and expectations for all.
- To be an active listener.
- To help set and keep to a schedule.
- To be flexible, neutral and encouraging.
- To seek encouragement from members and be open to your helping her get better in her role—as a Psalmist said, "Let the faithful correct (her) me."

**Joe Gresham** is the **Aide to the Facilitator**. He will act as Facilitator in Susan's absence or need. (Joe quipped that he promised he would not keep Susan's promises!)

**Bob Lucas** is our secretary.

- He will take notes, prepare the minutes and forward them and the hand written notes to the Facilitator for review.
- After the review they will be sent to all members for final approval.
- Any other modifications/corrections by the membership will be considered.
- Then the minutes will be posted to the web site.

A rotating, voluntary **Secretarial Aide** will take notes on paper. These additional notes will be used by the Secretary as an aid to ensure the minutes are complete and accurate.

**All Members** will be encouraged:

- to enter into full participation in our meetings,
- to cooperate to form a rich agenda,
- to meet deadlines to help keep things organized, and
- to help the Facilitator meet deadlines for the agenda to be distributed in a timely manner.
- to discuss agenda items in a respectful, productive, and positive manner.

Susan distributed 3 forms: Contact Information update, sign-up to be a Prayer Leader for our meetings, and a Secretarial Aide sign-up sheet.

[ Also MINUTES from the last meeting had been sent out to all at Father John's suggestion.]

## **OLD & NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

### **1. Parish Committee Updates and Any New Steps/Suggestions**

#### **A. Safety Awareness Team--**Joe Jenkins, Father John, any others

November 5, 2017 there was a mass killing of 26 parishioners at The First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs in Texas that caused concern on the PPC. Our Safety Awareness Team was established to explore the question--What should we do? The team began to meet weekly; now the team meets about once a month.

The first focus was to prepare a core plan, training us on what to do in case of a live shooting incident. Susan Hutchinson had the first training class in April/May. A second one was scheduled for June, but was canceled due to her accident. There are plans to reschedule in August/September.

All south Charleston police and fire department members have toured our building. We are to get a report at some point addressing broad issues.

There are a lot of options for the next focus, but it will be a broader focus on health and safety issues common to church facilities and homes. Along those lines a defibrillator was just installed and training to use it is forthcoming. Motion detectors will be installed in the bathrooms and elsewhere around and in the building. It was noted that loose handrails and things like that lead to accidents and legal problems—questioner: who do we let know about things like this? Natalie!

**Moving on**, Susan passed out Parish Ministries brochure which contains a general description of each ministry and contact information about the following items **B-I**.

(A, above, will be added to an updated brochure.)

#### **B. Community Service Partners—**

Mary Pat Peck is the coordinator. In addition, there is now a liaison to each Partner to oversee accountability issues. Mary Pat's group operates outside the PPC. As requested Susan will send out the list of our Partners and their budgeted amounts Jan.-June 2018 which was distributed recently by our Finance Council. Mary Pat is putting together a

calendar so we can be aware of our partners needs and to try to encourage more events to be scheduled outside of Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas . A new partner—The Literacy Council is being added to the list. (The Literacy Council will be added to an updated brochure.)

Susan thinks she did not bring this second point up due to time and will put it on the 9/4/18 agenda:

Mary Pat is also wanting to have meetings with the Partners, our Liaisons, and members of our church community to explore WHY people seem to stay stuck needing services. **She asks:** What are the underlying issues that keep people in need? What can be done to help people out of need? Besides giving money, what part can our church play in helping people out of need?

### **C. Energy Efficiency Team—Laura Jennings**

Laura reported: – This team has been around two years or so. Lighting: LED replacement bulbs project is on-going around the building, parish hall lighting project will begin after first of the year; window replacement project will probably be starting in September. To date it appears there has been a 29% savings in the electric bill. Our St. Dismas Club members and others have saved money by installing the new light fixtures. Some work has also been done in the rectory to save on energy costs—more to come.

### **D. Vocations Committee--Father John**

This is a relatively small group that meets to participate in praying for and supporting vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and to religious life. A Holy Hour was sponsored and other activities are coming up. They encourage all to keep in touch with those in the clerical process, talking it up, writing blurbs for the bulletin, offering prayers during the Prayers of the Faithful at mass, and so on.. The group meets monthly between Sunday morning masses.

### **E. Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching Ministries---Rick Brennan**

We are developing this ministry through three distinct approaches to Social Justice/Catholic Social Teaching. Our first approach was the re-establishment of the Blessed Sacrament Social Justice Committee. It is currently Chaired by Jeni Riser. There were several meetings last year, and monthly meetings will begin this Fall. The Social Justice Committee is listed in the Parish Ministries brochure along with Jeni's contact information. One of the distractions has been that the current members also have been very active in social justice issues in the greater community, especially with refugee, immigration, rehab, and recovery issues. A broader agenda could be established with articles in the parish bulletin to encourage more participation. The council's ideas are welcome.

In a second approach, in response to my and Fr. John's desire to have the parish be well grounded in Catholic Social Teachings, we have developed Adult Faith Formation programs in Catholic Social Teaching. During the last two Summers we have held Faith Formation sessions between the Sunday Masses. An additional evening offering was attempted last Fall, but didn't draw any participation. Summer doesn't lend itself to large attendance, but even our Fall and Spring faith formation programs are limited by our seeming inability to engage and retain people in seeing adult faith formation as essential for parish community development as well as personal growth. Again we welcome council input on how to stimulate interest. [On a special note: We have witnessed a major change in Catholic Social Teaching last week, as Pope Francis condemned Capital Punishment across the board. The *Catechism* will be edited, and we will have to wait to see the exact wording that will be selected. From there, we may expect a variety of political and social rippling impacts. An article today 8/13 draws interest from Susan: [https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/08/13/will-priests-bring-pope-francis-death-penalty-message-people-pews?utm\\_source=Newsletters&utm\\_campaign=62bb6b0adf-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_08\\_13\\_08\\_45&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0fe8ed70be-62bb6b0adf-58667437](https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/08/13/will-priests-bring-pope-francis-death-penalty-message-people-pews?utm_source=Newsletters&utm_campaign=62bb6b0adf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_08_13_08_45&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0fe8ed70be-62bb6b0adf-58667437)]

Thirdly, we have initiated offering Quarterly movies related to issues of Catholic Social Teaching. These are presented in the Parish Hall (Bob Lucas on projector), with the St. Dismas Club providing popcorn,

candy, drinks, and an overall movie atmosphere (free-will donations accepted). A Movie Discussion Guide is prepared for each movie, and those that wish to stay for discussion after the movie are welcome to do so. We have shown “Selma” and “Romero” most recently. We are scheduled to show “I Can Only Imagine” on Sunday, September 23, at 3:00 pm. Film: 1hr 50 min.

#### **F. Liturgical Ministries—Jeanne Haas**

This is the month for re-commitment. Jeanne encourages everybody to participate in a ministry. The Ministry Leaders of the Liturgical Committee meet once a month in the office. The last Sunday of this month there will be an Appreciation Dinner for all ministers.

#### **G. Finance Council--comments by Father John and Susan**

The Finance Council works on the budget year round. They or their representative will attend the December Pastoral Council to discuss/explain and present the budget for approval.

#### **H. Web Notes--- Bob Lucas**

Originally the web site contained a lot of pictures and documents of past events and activities in the parish. Nothing was ever removed. But, that is what our Library is for. Mark Haas has done a lot to streamline it. It announces upcoming activities, contains the current announcements and calendar, and has the most recent homilies for your listening pleasure and sharing with your family and friends.

#### **I. Transportation Ministry--- Susan**

Carolyn Frye, the head of transportation ministry, needs drivers. Susan asked that we think about how we might help encourage participation and return with ideas the next time we meet. This ministry is listed as a Companion Ministry. Colleen really appreciates all they have done and do for her.

### **NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

#### **1. Other General Parish Concerns, Comments, Initiatives--all**

##### **A. Parish Directory comments by Father John** in response to a query

We are in phase one of creating the new directory. This involves having every parishioner fill out a new registration form. The second phase will involve picture taking. One of our own members, Mike Switzer, is a professional photographer. He will take pictures starting in October, hopefully finishing by Christmas. We hope to have a finished directory by Easter. Directories will not cost anything to those who posed for pictures in it. There will be no sales pitch to buy pictures. If someone wants their picture(s), they will order them from Mike. As always you will be able to bring your own picture in to be placed in the directory. The Parish will pay Mike a fee for his services based on his agreement with us.

##### **B. Bob Sylvester initiated a proposal from the Addiction Task Force**

**Initiative:** Bob is proposing the formation of a new Addiction and Recovery Ministry at Blessed Sacrament Parish. Volunteer members of this ministry would be willing to be contact persons for various addiction and recovery resources in the Greater Kanawha Valley. Parishioners would be able to contact these committee members on a confidential basis for consultation and referral. From time to time the committee will offer programs or workshops at Blessed Sacrament on topics such as the dynamics of addiction, recovery, and the spirituality of addiction, or would be

able to refer parishioners to like programs in the community. The Addiction and Recovery Ministry will have a coordinator who will maintain a contact list of committee members and help formulate program offerings. The formation of this new ministry will be announced at-large to parish members who will be invited to join the ministry. Bob is willing but is open to others coordinating. A number of issues were raised and briefly discussed.

No consensus was reached on supporting Bob's proposal . The group will continue as Addiction Task Force with Bob representing. The group will arrange to meet with Father John to discuss issues brought up by PPC, such as: legal issues/ramifications, potential for HIPAA violations, the temptation of helpers to help beyond referring to a professional, the temptation to help because “you have been through this...”, duplication of services already in place here and in the community (eg Thomas Hospital was mentioned as outstanding in the area),...

Based on the outcome of a meeting with Father John, Bob can readdress the council with a newly informed proposal.

## **2. Other Staff Concerns, Comments, Initiatives--Father John**

### **A. Parish Disaster Recovery Team**

Catholic Charities is asking every parish to set up disaster recovery team. Our chairperson is James Runyon.

### **B. Colleen's House (401 East Street, South Charleston, WV 25303)**

Eventually Colleen O’Neill’s house will be torn down. Various proposals have been put forth. One idea has Colleen moving to a new location while a building is being constructed. Another idea has Colleen remaining in her home (with a few repairs) while a new building is being constructed. The proposed building would possibly have 8 units (a council member noted that 18 units is considered cost effective). In either case, when the new building is done Colleen would move into one of the units. The building per se would not be funded by the parish. It would not be operated for profit. There are a lot of considerations.

Father John asked for a consensus which would allow him to write to the diocese presenting **his proposal which at this time would be restricted to his further exploring all of the options and legalities in constructing, maintaining, and funding such a building.** Consensus was reached based on no serious objections. With the unanimous approval via consensus of the Parish Council and the Finance Council (on 8/2/2018), he will now proceed to write the letter to the Diocese for their permission to proceed as proposed.

## **3. New Goal Setting Cycle This was tabled until 9/4/2018.**

### **CLOSING PRAYER: Rick Brennan**

Great is the **wisdom** of the Lord!  
God Almighty, Your **Wisdom** includes  
An understanding of what is fair,  
What is logical, what is true,  
What is **right** and what is lasting.  
It mirrors Your pure intellect!  
I entreat You to grant me such Wisdom,  
That my labours may reflect Your insight.  
Your **Wisdom** expands in Your creations,  
Displaying complexity and multiplicity.  
Your **Wisdom** is an **eternity** ahead of man.  
May Your **wisdom** flourish forever!

from Catholic Online attributed to Saint Therese

**ADJOURNMENT 9:10pm**

**NEXT PPC MEETING: Tuesday, September 4, 2018**

Prayer Leader: Colleen O'Neill

Secretarial Assistant: Reagan Whitmyer

**Wednesday, August 29, 1PM Due date for: Kudos; Other General Parish Concerns, Comments, Initiatives; Other Staff Concerns, Comments, Initiatives**

**Please send these to: [skchurchill.9642@yahoo.co](mailto:skchurchill.9642@yahoo.co)**