

St. Columbkil  
Parish Council Meeting  
February 21, 2018  
Submitted: March 14, 2018

**Mission Statement**

We are a Catholic community, drawing people to follow Jesus and his message of love.

**Meeting Attendees:** Father Kern, Jim Cunningham, Eugene Kovach, Michael Lineman, Michael Pishock, Lori Psota, Rosanne Sassaman and Heather Shainline.

**Opening Prayer:** We dispensed with the Opening Prayer since most attendees had just come from Mass.

**Review & Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Michael Pishock to approve the January Minutes, seconded by Jim Cunningham.

**Old Business:**

**Capital Campaign Update:** Pledges to date are 479 pledges, for a total pledged of \$1,119,827.76 (including the penny pledge deposited thus far of \$12,237.76), or an increase of \$4,736.58 from our January report. Pledge totals include those parishioners who have elected not to make a pledge but are making contributions as they are able with the envelopes received in their packets. We have also received Campaign Memorials totaling \$4,185 and Donations totaling \$2,080. Note: \$2,000 was reclassified from donations to pledged as this was from a parishioner. Of the total parishioner pledges of \$1,107,590 (not including the penny pledge), total pledges paid to date are \$945,442.55 or 85.4% of the total pledge amount. The pledge balance due is \$162,147.45 or 14.6% of total pledge amount. There are 12 parishioners who have not yet made a payment against their outstanding pledges representing a total of \$10,478 or 6.5% of the balance due. There are 223 parishioners who have paid off their pledges amounting to \$526,155. All pledgers received a 2017 year-end statement showing the current status of their pledge payment activity. Thank you letters were also sent under separate cover to all those who paid off their pledges in 2017. The current campaign (Phase I) will end on June 30 of this year.

**Building Expansion Update:** Father Marty and Gayle Fontaine recently met with Buddy Miller (Stewardship Consulting) and 18 members of our parish to get feedback regarding the potential for a Phase II of the Campaign which would begin in July, 2018, as soon as the Phase I Campaign pledge period has ended. An updated renovation cost report for Phase I, in addition to a projected remaining funds available for Phase II after all potential pledge money has been received was given. The response was very favorable. Many felt that in addition to the newly renovated Quinn Hall, the extremely successful campaign has created a Children's Mass with our ever popular Penny Pledge, and a general feeling of pride for the beautiful and useful space. The vote was to move ahead. Plans and costs for Phase II will be forthcoming in the next month or so.

Per Buddy Miller, a successful campaign generally collects 80%. We have collected 85% with the potential for this to reach 90%. We still owe slightly over \$525,000 on the church mortgage. If this had been paid off, we would have done both projects at the same time. However, Father does not want to have a much larger debt. That is why we want to proceed with Phase II. Our early goal is to raise between \$500-\$700,000. Our original estimate for this project was \$900,000.

**Parish Giving – Online Collections Program:** Overall we had a very positive start to our Online Collections Program which began in February. We have a total of 89 parish families who have signed up for Sunday Collections to date. The frequency of gifts varies from weekly, bi-weekly, monthly to quarterly. On average, our projected monthly Sunday Collections online is currently \$12,780. Of our original 110 Direct Debit givers in January, 60 have converted over to Parish Giving Online for total dollars of \$9,263.66. 50 have not converted for total dollars of \$3,784. We will be reaching out to these families in the next few weeks to remind them of the new online program and assist them in signing up if they would like us to. 20 parish families who were not previously on Direct Debit with Sunday Collections have enrolled in Parish Giving Online. This is extremely encouraging, and will give us increased predictability of income

going forward. Many of our parish families are giving online to other types of collections besides Sunday and Facilities Faith Lift, such as St. Vincent de Paul, Fuel, Debt Reduction, Shawn Ministry and various Diocesan collections. Parishioners are reminded that they can change the frequency, amount, and types of online collections at any time. We are available in the parish office to assist those who want to sign up but have not yet had the opportunity to. Due to the change in the frequency of giving, we may publish a monthly total rather than a weekly total in the bulletin due to the additional choice of quarterly giving.

#### **New Business:**

**Pre-School Classroom:** This topic has come up in the past but due to the recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida, we feel it is extremely important to keep our children safe. We currently do not have the ability to do a lockdown due to where the Pre-school classroom is located. Father's idea is to move the classroom downstairs. We would need to close up the windows down there and do some other renovations. Future plans are that we can possibly expand our present conference room into that area and/or give Father more room for his office. A discussion was held and everyone thought it was the right thing to do. We have an obligation to keep our children safe even though the enrollment numbers have been dwindling each year.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Building & Grounds:** Nothing new to report.

**Parish Life:** Our monthly meeting has been delayed due to Ash Wednesday. We will be hosting our Annual Fish Fry to kick-off our Simple Suppers on Friday, February 23 from 5:30 – 7:00. So far 52 have signed up and we are planning for up to 70. Menu will be Fish, Macaroni & Cheese and other sides. Upcoming Simple Supper dates are as follows:

3/2/18 – Hosted by Scouts – Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup.

3/9/18 – Hosted by Knights of Columbus – Menu TBD.

3/16/18 – Hosted by TBD – Menu TBD.

3/23/18 – Hosted by Human Concerns – Menu TBD.

These Simple Suppers precede Stations of the Cross from 6-7. Meal is provided free of charge and attendees are asked to donate as they see fit. Church will collect donations. Groups can choose to submit their expenses if they wish with the net proceeds going to Operation Rice Bowl. Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 31 at 11:30 a.m., which will be followed by a craft activity. This will occur after the Blessing of the Easter Food which is at 11:00. We are considering whether or not to purchase a costume for future use, which might be cost effective. We will see if the Youth Group and Knights would like to be involved, respecting that any Knights involved with kids will already have Diocesan clearances. We will again sponsor the Graduation Luncheon with the date to be determined. A possible Parish Picnic will be discussed at our next meeting. Clearances are necessary but are really starting to be a pain. Chaperones need clearances but if a student turns 18 they need one also.

**Finance:** No update. Next meeting is scheduled for March 1.

#### **Fundraising:**

Chili Cook-off was held on January 20 and was a great success. There were 20 entrants in the contest. 173 adult tickets were sold and an estimated 250 people attended. Original budgeted revenue was \$1,600, although we did have one unexpected expense of \$169. However, after all expenses the actual revenue was \$1,801.67. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped make this a success, especially the 50/50 ticket seller. Irish Night at the Races is scheduled for Saturday, March 17 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. We are expecting an even bigger turn-out than in 2016. We have added a Signature Beverage Station and Silent Auction. Tickets went on sale last Thursday with online availability and sponsorships. Ads will be going to MBS and St. Catherine's bulletins on March 3. Tickets will be sold in the Narthex on March 3. Sponsorships are being solicited from local businesses. Our 2nd Annual St. Columbkil Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, June 9. Planning for this event will begin after our Night at the Races. We have obtained our Liquor License. Our Daily Lottery for the month of February is on-going. Out of \$6,680 worth of tickets sold, to date we have given out \$1,300.

**Knights of Columbus:**

We currently have 72 members with 6 waiting to make First Degrees. We have completed paperwork for our Liability Insurance and Small Games of Chance License and will have both submitted this week. We continue to participate in Adoration from 1:00 – 2:00 a.m. on Thursday night/Friday morning. Valentine’s Day Dinner/Dance on February 17 netted \$610 with 59 tickets being sold. The weather that evening was not very cooperative so some people did not attend. We will be attending a Handy Drafters Workshop on Friday, February 23 in Thorndale, PA. The Workshop is to help handicapped individuals learn life skills to make them employable. We will host a Simple Supper on March 3 and will then be attending Stations of the Cross as a group. 5th Sunday Rosary will be held on April 29. Special Olympics candy will be sold after Mass in March, similar to what we do with the rose drive in October. Our next breakfast is March 4. The April breakfast will be moved to April 8 due to Easter being on April 1. Sr. High School Scholarship Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 21. We will be hosting a Crab Cake & Prime Rib Dinner to fund this scholarship. Officer nominations will be in April with the elections in May.

**Human Concerns/St. Vincent DePaul:** No meeting.

**Evangelization:** No report.

**Youth Group:**

Ice Skating event was held on January 28 with 25 in attendance (20 youth & 5 adults). Dental Hygiene Drive was completed. We stuffed over 100 bags of dental hygiene products at our February meeting. Deacon Joe Petrauskas came to talk to the youth group about his visit to Egypt with Catholic Relief Services. Our Hoagie Sale was a HUGE success! We sold 300 hoagies and made \$831.38. Our Valentine’s Day Bake Sale was also a success, realizing a profit of \$370. Bear Creek outing has been cancelled due to the weather. Holy Week Mission planning is underway with meetings occurring weekly if not more often. So far we have approximately 20 students signed up, with more anticipated. Sign-ups for this close on March 4. Wall O’Money fundraiser will start the first weekend of March, with announcements at all Masses to explain what it is to parishioners. This fundraiser will help us raise more than half of our total costs for the Mission Trip in June. Annual Easter Flower sale is scheduled for Palm Sunday weekend. We have 18 students for our Mission Trip in June. We have 19 students for Steubenville in July with one spot open.

**Parish/Staff Items:** Nothing additional to report other than what has been presented above.

**Committee Meeting Schedule:** Representatives are listed with their committees.

Building & Grounds:	Fr. Marty	TBD
Parish Life:	Patty Petrauskas	March 14
Finance:	Dave Connor/Lori Psota/John Parente	March 1
Fundraising:	Mike Lineman/Mike Pishock	March 13
Knights of Columbus:	Mike Pishock	March 20
Human Concerns/St. Vincent DePaul:	Jim Cunningham	March 7
Evangelization:	Paul Burdett	?
Youth Group:	Heather Shainline	April

**Final Blessing** by Father Marty.

Due to Father Marty being unavailable at our next scheduled meeting and then with Holy Week the following week, we have decided that we will not meet in March. Our next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rosanne C. Sassaman  
Recording Secretary

