

St. Pius X Catholic Church  
122 West 400 North  
Moab, Utah 84532-0357

Parish Council Meeting #8, Revision #1  
November 8, 2017

1. Attendance

Those in attendance were Father Rowland, Chris, Jim, Patrick, Bob, Marian, Keith, and Deb. Those not in attendance were Rachel, Nanci, and Theresa.

2. Opening Prayer - Father Rowland

Fr. Rowland used the day's Gospel reading for reflection and inspiration (Luke 14:25-33). This Gospel focused on Jesus' teaching concerning the principles of discipleship. After the reading, Father asked all of us where we were from. Keith - Colorado and Kansas, Pat - Michigan, Bob - Nebraska, Marian - New Hampshire, Jim - Indiana, Chris - Minnesota, Deb - Maryland, Father Rowland - Nigeria.

Father's question was, 'What brought us all together?' Answer is, 'Christ.' All came from different parts of the world with different languages yet we gather together as one family in Christ. We have one father who is God, who is always with us in the Church. God is also present with us in our respective families because He is our Father.

Father Rowland adds, "As a priest, the Church in Moab is now my family. When a priest is assigned to a parish community, he automatically becomes a member of the faith community. Priests are not allowed to marry so that they can devote much time to the service of God and His people. This is what I have been called to do especially here in Moab.

On your own part, as members of the Parish Council, our work is to support the priest and to be prepared to make sacrifices from time to time as need arises. God will always be our strength."

3. Approval of August 4, 2017 Minutes - All

There were no corrections that needed to be made. Patrick entertained a motion to vote for approval. Marian moved to approve. Bob seconded the motion. The balance of the Council were 'all in favor.'

4. Old Business

a. Financial Review - Father Rowland/Pat

Marian asked about why the Expense, #5535.00.10.400, Merchant Service Fee of \$4003.60 was so high. Pat said it was due to all of the fees that ZIONS bank charges and that these fees can be negotiated with the bank.

Father stated that there is only \$5,000 in Savings and this is too low. The parish should always keep approx. \$15,000 for emergency situations. Case in point: When Father became Pastor, he was under the impression that all of the special money had been raised for the lights in the Church and the parking lot. Now the fans and lights must be paid with no extra money coming in. By placing an appeal in the bulletin for several weeks, \$3,000 was raised with two separate donations.

Light Package for Fans - Bob

Bob stated that the new lights, as they are now installed, are not adequate for the correct foot candles (lumens) the space requires. The lighting company tested for the proper foot candles' readings which should be 20. The church only has 2. Originally, the lighting company stated that the church would have adequate light with certain style lamps. In an effort to save money, lamp styles were changed and no lights were installed onto the fans. The approx. cost to add lights to the fans would be \$130/fan plus \$20/ labor hours. Can we retrofit the lights in any way? The addition of dimmers was suggested.

Swamp Cooler - Father Rowland

On one October Sunday, the swamp cooler started leaking.

Parish Hall Sink - Father Rowland

This sink has been dripping for quite some time. Where are the shutoff valves located? Marian believes that they are located in the Rectory.

La Sal Mission - All

The exposed wires are still a safety issue because they have not been replaced. It was agreed that it would not help anyone to close the Church. Missionaries began with just one or two people, once a month, and the faith grew. There is a need for a La Sal parishioner to inform Father if it is not safe to drive to Sacred Heart Mission due to weather or traffic problem.

5. New Business

a. DDD Shortfall of \$6,000 - Father Rowland

Father is baffled by the large shortage since St. Pius X made the requirement last year. The goal for this year is \$11,000. Father is appealing for the cause at the podium after Mass and in the bulletin. Update - As of November 19, \$2,000 more has been pledged. Still seeking \$4,000. If the money is not pledged, then it must come from the Savings. It was agreed to have a second collection before taking money from Savings.

Father stated that we cannot ask the Diocese to reduce the dollar amount. The Diocese goes by registered families and not practicing families. How does St. Pius X go about finding who the registered families are? Should there be sign-up sheets in the back of Church or hand/pass index cards for churchgoers to fill in with an appeal from Father after Mass with the help of the ushers/Parish Council members to get the word out. When should this begin - in January after seasonal vacations are over? This shows that there is an important need to update the Church list. Pat volunteered Shar Trim to see if there is a valid list of registered parishioners on file.

Who would like to be the DDD spokesperson for the Church?

b. Sunday Socials - All

How can we grow the Church's social life to know one another? Father suggested a "Blessing Day" once a month to celebrate parishioners who's birthdays fall in that particular month. The cost of a full sheet cake is approx. \$56. All were in favor of this idea. Concerning the low drop off of the Sunday Socials' attendance, it was suggested that just coffee, juice, and water be supplied. If someone wishes to bring a treat, that would be nice, but it would not be required. It was also suggested that Father keep announcing from the podium every Sunday that there is a social after Mass. It is hoped that hearing the invitation from Father's mouth will encourage others to attend.

Father asks that the ushers not take so much time trying to find a place for a person to sit. Also, once Mass begins, all ushers are to be seated. It was brought to everyone's attention that there has not ever been formal training for the ushers. It appears that this would be a good thing to do for consistency from Mass to Mass.

Father is asking from the podium for more ministers (Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers). Because many take vacations weeks or months at a time, this puts a strain on the others.

d. Bulletin - Deb

The issue of the bulletin was raised. Here is Father's view: Father said he has thought about how we can make it look better when compared to what we see in some parishes. He said it is something worth doing, but it will cost us much money to produce such quality bulletins weekly as a small church. It was asked that more bulletins be printed because those on Sunday are few.

e. Need for a new Website person - Father Rowland

Rachel has resigned from her position of taking care of the website and all the social media responsibilities. Father Rowland will be seeking a new person. Chris stated that he would do it if there is not another person found. Rachel will instruct the person who replaces her.

f. General Church Socials - Father Rowland

Election Day Dinners have now disappeared. What next - suggestion from Father is to have two pot-luck socials yearly.

g. Tourist Book - Father Rowland

Father would like the ushers to encourage tourists to sign the 'tourist book' and add the state or country they are from. Armed with this information, Father then can acknowledge the tourists and their area of travel to make for a more personable greeting. This could be part of the usher training.

h. Christmas Decorating - Father Rowland

This should be done one week before Christmas.

i. Availability of Father Rowland at St. Pius X

Father is flexible with his time. He is physically present to the parishioners and the other mission churches Saturday through Thursday mornings.

6. Closing Prayers were the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Glory Be.

7. Next Meeting

Wednesday, January 24, at 5:30 pm

Pizza will be provided by Pat and drinks by Deb. Anything else by rest of Council.

These minutes have been presented to the best of my ability,  
Deb Slechta  
Parish Council Secretary  
November 24, 2017  
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