**St. Peter Parish Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, October 14, 2019**

**6 p.m.**

**Rectory**

*St. Peter Parish Council Strategic Plan Mission Statement*

*St. Peter Parish is a welcoming community of different backgrounds living the joy of Catholic Faith in the Diocese of Colorado Springs.*

**Attendance:** President J.J. Kaelin, Vice-President Ed Paulovich, Bruce Bishop, John Gormley, Terry Nickel, Paul Zmuda and Father Gregory Golyzniak. Absent-Terry Nickel

**Welcome and announcements by President J.J. Kaelin.**

**Father Gregory Golyzniak opened with a prayer.**

**Adoption of the September 9, 2019 Parish Council Meeting Minutes: Moved by:** First- Ed Paulovich Second- John Gormley **Adopted**

**Around the Table Talk President J.J. Kaelin**

Council members share constructive feedback from our parishioners and staff.

1. *Lack of announcements* during Mass was revisited. The “personal ask” is now missing and this may be affecting attendance at some events. How could this look in the future to draw attention to important activities? e.g. Respect Life Prayer Walk attendance, Donut Sundays, Spaghetti dinner, school’s ice cream social, school’s sporting events, etc.. There are several current forms of communications now in place- Bulletin, St. Peter App, St. Peter weekly e-blasts, our website, Vestibule monitors, ministry emails. Father will discuss this topic with staff and the Liturgy Committee.

Father shared Diocesan Superintendent Holly Goodwin has scheduled a Catholic Schools communication/PR coaching training event November 11and 12. Father and an appointed school volunteer coordinator for this new program will attend. The focus will be on the school PR, but will address the relationship with the parishes.

1. *Difficult questions about the Catholic Church-* The discussion ensued around ways to engage parishioners to ask questions directly to Father Gregory or Father Michael. The suggestion was made to supply a “Question” box in the Vestibule and/or at the receptionist’s desk in the office. Fathers Gregory and Michael can reply to those persons.
2. *Concerns about the second collections-* Feedback is thatthe congregation may be confused as to which basket is for their offertory and which is for second collection purposes. Since second collections are “mandated” by the Diocese, creating the need for second baskets to circulate during the Presentation of the Gifts, there will be a stronger effort to train the hospitality ministers to more efficiently distribute the baskets.
3. *Parishioners are not fully aware of our Upon This Rock Campaign-* Return the campaign thermometer to the gathering space for parishioners to see.
4. *“The organ is too loud.”-* The organ’s speakers are not connected into the church’s PA system and must be controlled separately. Will be addressed.
5. *“The music at Masses is sounding beautiful!”-* Parishioners are singing in the pews and the feedback has been quite positive. A suggestion was made to consider having just instrumental music played after the first Communion song is sung to support a prayerful environment. It was noted, in particular, that our young cantors are doing a wonderful job proclaiming the Responsorial Psalms.
6. *Parishioners are enjoying the homilies.-* There seems to be a strong connection between the Scripture’s intent and our clergy’s messages and takeaways.

**Father Gregory’s Updates**

*UCCS Campus Ministry Center*

* Our parish has raised $176,000 toward the Diocesan Campus Ministry Center at UCCS so far.
* The Bishop is no longer obligating each parish in the Dioceses to help pay for the center.
* Collections and public relations surrounding the center will continue and be encouraged in each parish.
* St. Peter will support those efforts.

*Peter the Rock Chapel and Parish Ministry Center/Upon This Rock Campaign*

* The construction schedule is on target.
* The special woodworking projects in the chapel will be accomplished and donated by three parishioners; Rick Rank, Randy Berry and Pete Derbort.
* Open to move in date-January 2, 2020
* Donations are up to $1.9 million; goal is $3.2 million
* Truck raffle drawing is to be held October 25 during Trunk or Treat. We’ve raised over $40,000 for Upon This Rock (UTR) with the truck raffle
* Laura Flanigan, parish financial assistant, is preparing an updated UTR financial report to be submitted by the end of November.

*Independent Report on the Sex Abuse Scandal*

The report indicated there was one abuse case by a priest reported in the Colorado Springs Diocese since 1982. The priest was not a Diocesan priest but was rather a visiting priest. The full report will be released later this month.

*Youth Engagement is Strengthening*

Sister Phoung has assembled 30-40 interested middle and high schoolers in our parish who are meeting at least once a month for organized activities. The response has been positive.

The Youth Council has been formed including high school, collegiate and young adults.

*Various*

* The design and drawing have been developed for a “man trap” will begin soon at our school. Construction will begin soon.
* Our school administration and School Advisory Council are exploring the curriculum Classical Liberal Arts, which addresses literature, communication and discussions tying Scripture and Biblical teaching into how it applies in today’s culture. It is neither liberal or conservative.
* Deacon Tom Dickinson is now the Diocesan investigator and will also help with audits.
* Our two Confirmation retreats drew nearly 100 persons each (Conformandi and sponsors).
* St. Peter is now at 107% of the goal for the Diocesan’s annual Returning God’s Gifts (RGG)
* We are considering a new program to help increase tithing called The Sunday Visitor. The program will focus more on individuals stories, hardships and thanksgivings than on money.

*Discussion*

* Ways to answer questions about why we do what we do during Mass and other liturgical facts. Idea: Quiz our Fathers!
* Ways to engage and include parents in their children’s faith education. Idea: Schedule monthly events for parents to attend at the new Parish Ministry Center while their children are attending faith formation classes. Topics may include how to reinforce the curriculum being taught to their children and how they can support those messages and teachings at home. Discussions will also include recommended conversations and answers to tough questions offering “tools” to better respond to their children’s questions.
* We are challenged to send our stories to Father Gregory about why we serve, what we do, why we belong, what we appreciate and more.

**Strategic Plan Review**: Vice President Ed Paulovich

The proposed final draft of our updated Strategic Plan will be presented to the Parish Council to include the additions of the following:

***Youth Engagement***

Goal**:** To increase and sustain youth participation in the sacramental life, service, and socialization as evidenced by increased attendance records of the church-related activities by May 2020.

***Financial Health***

Goal: To increase the number of new donors to the parish as measured by financial records 100% by end of June 2020

The Strategic Plan will be shared with parish via our website, bulletin and other communication platforms.

**The meeting was adjourned by J.J. Kaelin at 8 p.m.**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held Monday, November 4, 2020, 6 p.m. at the Rectory.