

ASSUMPTION PARISH

September 26th, 2016, 1:00 pm
Parish Centre, Board Room

Present: Father Patrick (Pastor), Father Robert Mmegwa (Assistant Pastor), Carmel Behan (St. Gerard's), Charlene Bourcier (Maranatha), Fraser Field (K of C), Frank Nadalini (Building Seismic), Loretta Netter (PEC), Betty Rae (For Lu Wuthrich, CWL), Anne Wate (Secretary).

Absent/Regrets: Nadine Desilets (Safe Environment), Liz Brach (HATW), Reg Levangie (Maintenance), Christine Schreiber (PTA), Anne Schweitzer (Sr. Youth), Betty Wilson (Sliammon/Sacred Heart).

1. Opening Prayer at 1:01pm: Fr. Patrick Tepoorten

2. Adoption of the agenda: Moved by Loretta Netter, 2nd, Charlene Bourcier, approved.

3. Adoption minutes of May 29th, 2016: Moved by Anne Wate, 2nd Fraser Field, minutes be adopted as presented. Approved.

4. Correspondence: none

5. Committee Reports:

5.1 Building Seismic Committee – Presented by Frank Nadalini

5.1.1 The committee, consisting of Father Patrick, parish members Frank Nadalini, Jim Agius, Izzy Hawryluk, Karen Prentice, Gino Francescutti, and Hector Beauchesne, was struck to undertake the Archdiocesan mandate to examine all parish structures for seismic upgrade. The Initial study determined the Assumption School Gym, Assumption Church, and Assumption School, are all at a very high risk of collapse in the event of an earthquake. Frank added that parishioners need to keep in mind the gym is utilized by more than just our school community, and, post upgrade, could be used for community shelter, etc., in the event of a disaster.

5.1.2 Structural architect John Wallace Engineering was hired to assess our parish structures further and, after a preliminary screening on the upgrade required for the school gym, has confirmed the initial risk factor of collapse is valid. The parish seismic committee is currently reviewing Mr. Wallace's final report on the gym but it is certain the gym presents the highest risk and will be the most expensive to upgrade.

5.1.3 There are different upgrades available:

5.1.3.1 One option available at a blanket *estimate* of \$500,000., is an interior reinforcement where reinforcing bars are put inside the concrete blocks. The concrete blocks used in our school gym structure contain three cells. Frank said it will take more to reinforce this type of block than it would a two cell block as there's not much room in the cells for the reinforcing bar, but being aware of the type of block we are dealing

with helps in making the proper decisions for how to proceed with the reinforcement should we proceed with this method.

5.1.3.2 A second option is an exterior reinforcement. There are no financial cost numbers available yet for this type of upgrade.

5.1.4 Information gathering is still underway. As a committee and parish we must review all information carefully to make an informed decision regarding methods and costs to achieve the upgrade. When a concrete plan is decided upon, all information will be made available to all parishioners, who have been very supportive.

5.1.5 John Wallace Engineering is expected to begin the study of the remainder of Assumption School in the spring.

5.2 Parish Finance Committee – report by Nemi May, presented by Fr. Patrick

Report on cash and bank accounts as of September 21, 2016

5.2.1 Bank Balance forward - \$119,494.00

5.2.2 Accounts payable - \$1,416.

5.2.3 \$6,580.00 in reserves for boiler debt.

5.2.4 \$30,412.00 in reserves for Hands Across The Water.

5.2.5 \$5,524.00 in reserves for St. Gerard's.

5.2.6 \$14,184.00 in reserves for PTA project.

5.2.7 \$2,299.00 in reserves for Seismic project.

5.2.8 Cash and bank balance as of September 21st, 2016 - \$59,079.00

5.3 Parish Education Committee – submitted by Loretta Netter, vice-chair

Teachers, parents, custodial staff and parishioners all worked diligently to prepare our school, playground and grounds for a smooth opening. See PTA report.

5.3.1 The school year started off with a bang! All classrooms were blessed by Father Robert on the first day of school. We have had Photo Day and the Terry Fox Run already.

5.3.2 Finding out that one of our buses needed repairs that could only be done in Surrey caused some quick problem solving. Thanks to School District 47 for the loan of one of their buses! This very generous offer is truly a miracle as Father T. has said! (Father Patrick added, "The repair bill for the Thomas Bus is extremely high").

5.3.3 As of September 19, our enrolment is 157, which includes 4 International and 21 First Nations students.

5.3.4 Electives for grades 7-9 have started.

5.3.5 The Spiritual Retreat for teachers took place on September 22, 23, with Bishop Ken Nowakowski facilitating the retreat.

5.3.6 Meet the Teacher night will be on Sept. 27.

5.4 Assumption School PTA - submitted by Christine Schreiber, Liaison

5.4.1 Many parent volunteers worked tirelessly upgrading the Assumption School Playground over the summer months. Several pieces of equipment were removed for safety reasons, the ground was leveled and new ground cover was applied to meet current safety regulations. Two new pieces of equipment were installed, the new swing set and disk swing, and an outdoor classroom was built. Many donations from businesses and individuals alike were received and the PTA is currently compiling a list in order to complete formal thank yous to all. Phase I of the playground is complete and once a new PTA executive is elected for the 2016-2017 school year, planning and fundraising for Phase II will commence.

5.4.2 PTA is actively recruiting an executive and will report to the PPC once up and running.

5.5 Catholic Women's League – submitted by Lu Wuthrich, presented by Betty Rae

5.5.1 The President and Past President are away unexpectedly at present so the CWL asks for patience and help as the other members work towards getting the fall activities organized and working.

5.5.2 Betty Rae and Evelyn Rigby (who is currently the President of the Provincial CWL) attended the Provincial CWL meeting over the summer. Betty reported to the local council on how impressed she was by the organization and content.

5.5.3 Our members are busy organizing two events:

5.5.3.1 Saturday, September 24th, Fall Rummage Sale - Please drop Rummage off at the Gym on Friday, September 23rd after 400 PM.

5.5.3.2 Saturday, November 26th, Parish Bazaar- last Saturday in November.

We are still in need of four volunteers for various tasks. A reminder that this is a Parish event and not only a CWL event. See 7.3 under New Business.

5.6 Knights of Columbus – submitted by Don Bourcier, presented by Fraser Field

5.6.1 June 13 – Election of Officers for the 2016-2017 Fraternal Year

5.6.2 Sept. 25 – Installation of Officers by the District Deputy Peter Horsfield

5.6.3 The Knights looked after the bar for Father Dass' going away party.

5.6.4 The Knights also set off the smoke alarm at the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption & Father Roberts welcome BBQ. We invited the Fire Department.

5.6.5 The 2 recipients of our \$500.00 scholarship were awarded to David Infanti & Alex MacDonald.

5.6.6 The Golf Tournament scheduled for Sept. 17th was postponed due to rain until Oct 15th, weather permitting.

5.6.7 Our first pancake breakfast since June will take place this Sunday Oct. 3rd.

5.7 Youth Ministry

5.7.1 Senior Youth:

5.7.1.1 Father PT reported the senior youth have begun to gather Friday nights at St. Gerard's again this year....with one Friday a month gathering at Assumption School Gym. 15 Youth attended the first event.

5.7.1.2 Fr. Robert attended the first gathering and gave a short presentation on his vocation. He asked the young people what they hoped to achieve in gathering together. He suggested they develop an outreach program to the community....doing yard work for and visits to the elderly, etc.

5.7.2 God Squad: Father PT reported there is no activity happening with this age group so far this fall as no one has come forward to organize.

5.8 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine - CCD – submitted by Fr. Tepoorten

5.8.1 Catechism (PREP) began on September 15, 2016.

5.8.2 Six children are enrolled in classes attending Assumption prep. Nine children are homeschooled for their religion classes. The parish organizes the texts for both groups. The children who attend classes come at 3:45 on Thursdays.

5.8.3 There are three grade nine girls who coach the two children in grades one and two; one man who coaches the grade six child; and one grade seven Confirmation teacher, who coaches the grade sevens.

5.9 Pro-Life - submitted by Sharon Wright, president

5.9.1 Wednesday, September 28th following 8 a.m. Mass there will be prayers at the monument and then those that are interested will go for a walk. Remember to wear your "Life Walker" t-shirts.

5.9.2 Saturday, October 1st... LIFE CHAIN... we will gather at the conference room (Assumption Parrish) at 9:30 a.m. for refreshments and instructions. We will proceed to Joyce Avenue and spreading out between Duncan and Glacier. This is a gentle reminder that Life Chain is to be a time of prayer and if there ever was a time to lift up our community, province and country with regards to ALL life issues it is now. If you would like to join the chain after it has started please come down to the old Max Cameron parking lot and my van will have extra signs. If you have any questions please give me a call at 604-485-2329.

5.9.3 And finally two members of our executive met with our Member of Parliament Rachel Blaney to discuss life issues with her. Below is Evelyn and Kathy's report. As you read the report you can see very definite areas that need our prayers.

Evelyn and Kathy met with Rachel Blaney, MP at 5:00 pm Saturday Sept. 17 for our 15 minute meeting.

5.9.3.1 Kathy first asked Ms. Blaney why she voted against conscience protection for health care professionals and facilities. Ms. Blaney responded that she

didn't do that. Kathy said that she checked on the internet just before the meeting and according to that, Ms. Blaney had voted against. Ms. Blaney was not aware that there even was such a vote. Evelyn was able to provide the date the vote took place. Ms. Blaney will check Hansard and report back to us. She does in fact support conscience protection, but does not consider referral as participation or in need of protection.

5.9.3.2 Next Kathy and Evelyn addressed Bill C-225, known as Cassie and Molly's Law, which would make a crime against an unborn child a separate offense from the crime against the mother. Ms. Blaney told us she is pro-choice and that this proposed legislation crosses a line. The fact that this proposed legislation is intended to protect women who choose life for their babies is irrelevant to her. She suggested that 'we' should instead be looking into the reasons that pregnant women are more vulnerable to crime. Ms. Blaney suggested that perhaps poverty was a contributing factor. Because of the time restraint, Kathy gave one simplistic reason for both the poverty and the crimes - young people being immersed in the concept of sexual pleasure, with little or no emphasis on love, marriage, committed relationships or the benefits of stable families.

5.9.3.3 Before leaving, Kathy gave Ms. Blaney a copy of Canada Family Action's 27 point checklist "to ensure protection of vulnerable citizens within the community they serve."

5.9.3.4 Evelyn gave Ms. Blaney information regarding the dispensing of Mifegymiso, the abortifacient, recently approved by Health Canada. It can only be administered in the presence of a doctor, and since there are doctors who respect life from conception to its natural end, she wondered what would happen to those doctors who refused to take part in or refer for this procedure. Evelyn also left Ms. Blaney the following information she had regarding Vote #61.

Vote #61 (Taken from Journals parl@gc.ca)

That, in the opinion of the House (a) it is in the public interest to protect the freedom of conscience of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional who objects to take part directly or indirectly in the provision of medical assistance in dying;

(b) everyone has freedom of conscience and religion under Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms;

(c) a regime that would require a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional to make use of effective referral of patients could infringe on the freedom of conscience of those medical practitioners, nurse practitioners, pharmacists or any other health care professional; and

(d) the government should support legislation to protect the freedom of conscience of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist or any other health care professional.

5.10 Maintenance – No report

5.11 Sliammon - Sacred Heart Church – submitted by Betty Wilson

5.11.1 Archbishop Miller visited Sacred Heart to thank volunteers who made the renovations possible. Mass and social held on September 11th.

5.11.2 Deacon Rennie Nahanee visit to Sacred Heart in August. Rennie is from the Squamish First Nation in North Vancouver. He was ordained in November. Some people who did not understand the role of Deacon did not know why he had a wife.

5.12 Maranatha – submitted by Charlene Bourcier

5.12.1 We have had an easy and relaxing summer. We just help out whenever we are called on to help whether setting up or taking down tables and chairs, attending masses for people who wouldn't otherwise have many people come.

5.12.2 We have already had one well attended Coffee and Muffins and are happy to provide this opportunity for our parishioners to socialize after mass.

5.12.3 10 People from our parish attended the Catholic Charismatic Conference in Vancouver this past weekend. There were so many people and the speakers were awesome and inspirational. The theme was "The Mercy of God" and Bishop Sam Jacobs and Dr. Margaret Schlientz were the speakers. We have a lot to ponder after their talks.

5.12.4 We don't have anything planned for the rest of this year but are ready to serve.

5.13 Faith and Light – no report

5.14. Safe Environment Program – reported by Fr. Tepoorten

Father has received Nadine Desilet's resignation from this role. He has someone in mind he will approach to take over the position.

5.15 Hands Across The Water – submitted by Elizabeth Brach

5.15.1 Everything is going very well with the family. They are very capable and independent and so grateful for having been sponsored by our parish and our community of Powell River. The children are all in school. Education is highly valued in their society. The eldest son is upgrading his English at VIU here in Powell River.

5.15.2 Recently HAW was given a grant by the United steel workers through our connection with Barry Butula who is a member of the Union. This money will be used to help support the family. It will make our job easier so that we will not need to do more fundraising.

5.16 St. Gerard's – presented by Carmel Behan.

Carmel Behan is taking over representing St. Gerard's on the PPC. Fellowship continues to develop at St. Gerard's with teas and rosary prayer groups each week. As previously reported the senior youth gather in the church basement on Friday nights.

6. Old Business

6.1 Sanctuary lights at Assumption – Fr. PT has put in a call to Ian Milson, Falcon Electric. He has also contacted Anthony Canil, Foxtrot Electrical.

6.2 Stewardship Workshop and Ministry Fair – This event would be an opportunity for each parish group to promote their groups to all parishioners. Charlene moved and Fraser seconded we have the event after the 4:30 pm and 10:00 Masses on the November 6th weekend. Approved. Charlene and Anne will meet with Father PT on Wednesday morning, September 28th, after the Holy Hour, to discuss planning this event.

6.3 Sound System for the hearing impaired at Assumption – see 7.1.

7. New Business:

7.1 Parish Maintenance Collection – boiler debt, sound system upgrades, rectory flooring – Fr. Patrick is asking the monthly Parish Maintenance Collection continue once the \$6,580.00 boiler debt remaining is paid. Maintenance concerns are always evident in our aging parish. Two pressing issues are the replacement of the inadequate sound system in Assumption Church with a system that will aid the hearing impaired, and the flooring at the rectory, which is 35 years old now and needs to be replaced. Anne Wate moved, seconded by Fraser Field, we continue the Parish Maintenance Fund indefinitely after the boiler debt is paid off to be used for random maintenance issues that arise in Church of The Assumption parish. Approved.

7.1.1 Father has been looking for someone qualified to give us some idea of what updating our sound system with a quality product would entail. Tabled

7.1.2 Charlene suggested we, as a parish, celebrate the paying off of our boiler debt, as we did when we had our mortgage burning party. All agreed it is important to celebrate our successes as a parish family. Tabled for further thought and planning.

7.2 Welcoming new parishioners – The CWL will devote their Coffee and Muffins in the months of September and March to welcome new parishioners.

7.3 Volunteers/conveners needed for Fall Parish Bazaar – Four key volunteers are needed for the Parish Bazaar scheduled for November 26th. Conveners for the doll booth, the candy booth, the plant booth, and the raffle ticket sales are needed desperately. ***We are reminded that this is not just a CWL bazaar but a PARISH bazaar!!*** All representatives are to take this appeal to their groups and encourage participation from their members.

8. Next meeting: Monday, November 21st, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the Assumption Centre Board Room.

9. Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

10. Closing prayer...Fr. Patrick