

Holy Trinity Parish Pastoral Council  
Meeting Notes  
*November 18, 2015*

Present:

Kirk Willison, President	Ned Hogan, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Constance Herron, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Paul Maco	Patrick Browne	Vincent Dennis
Diane Oakley	Richard Podulka	Linda Arnold
Cecilia Boudreau	James Thessin	

Absent:

Jennifer Gagnon	Christopher Hale
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Staff / Committee Guests:

Diane Favret, Director of Development; Dan Donovan, Chair, Development Committee  
Rose Mary Padberg, Director of Parish Life; Marylou Shiels, Chair, Parish Life Committee

Parishioners in attendance:

Paula McCabe

## OPENING

The meeting was called to order by Kirk Willison at 7:15 pm.

Mr. Willison led an Examen of Gratitude as the Opening Prayer.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Willison called the Council's attention to the Notes on the meeting of October 28, 2015. Mr. Maco moved their acceptance, with one minor change. Ms. Oakley offered a second, and the notes were approved for publication by acclamation.

A question was raised about the potential parish response to the Pope's call to welcome Syrian refugees. Fr. Gillespie agreed that it was worthy of discussion.

## PASTOR'S REMARKS

In his remarks, Fr. Gillespie address three key areas:

1. Construction Task Force – he has asked Fr. Bill Ryan, who is an architect by profession, to lead an effort to prioritize prospective capital improvement projects around the parish. With the able assistance of Tass McCarthy and others, Fr. Gillespie expects to have a pipeline of future projects by the end of this academic year.
2. Adult Education – Fr. Gillespie recalled the history of Adult Ed in the parish, and asked Ms. Arnold to reflect on what had been the pattern. She recounted that the parish had weekly speakers at 10:15 am in the theater with about 100 – 125 people in attendance. Topics were typically thematic and included review from Social Justice, Liturgical, Spiritual, Theological and Scriptural perspectives. Fr. Gillespie expressed an interest in renewing this program, if only on a monthly basis. He announced that Fr. Robert Kaslyn, SJ, who is the Dean of Canon Law at Catholic University, will present on Divorce and Annulment and the Papal Synod in January

2016. Other ideas that are bubbling up are to focus Adult Ed on the Year of Mercy proposed by Pope Francis.

3. March Madness – Fr. Gillespie, working with Cecilia Boudreau and other younger members of the parish are beginning to plan an event around the NCAA basketball tournament. Plans are to bring folks together for a game in Trinity Hall.
4. Toy Sunday – Later in the meeting, as a point of information, Fr. Gillespie announced that there will be a change in the process of Toy Sunday (December 13 this year). There was some discussion, but the purpose of this was to inform the Council, so that they will be aware and be able to support the parish’s decision in this matter.

## **REPORTS FROM PARISH STANDING COMMITTEES**

1. Development Committee – Ms. Favret provided an overview of the programs of the Development effort for the parish. The 2015 Pledge is at 96% of goal (or \$2,880,000). The 2016 Pledge was launched last Sunday and we have 66 responses offering \$165,000 as of 11/18. She announced dates of the 2016 Pledge phonathon (January 11, 13, 19 and 21 – it was pointed out that January 11 is the night of the NCAA football championship, possibly not a good night to call! She said she would review and make adjustments if appropriate). The Capital Campaign (goal has been readjusted to \$12.5M) is now at \$11.4M (or 91%) with only 650 donors, and there are still 20 “lead donors” who were previously identified for major gifts who have not yet committed to the campaign. She also reviewed efforts of Holy Trinity School, and the Home/School Association.
2. Parish Life Committee – Ms. Padberg and Ms. Shields presented information on the programs of the Parish Life Committee, including the rejuvenation of the Parish Picnic and the nascent Care Givers Network. They are pleased with the level of participation (almost all programs are full to capacity) and there has been no information reaching the committee of unmet needs in the parish at this time. One area that they hope to work on is to develop a new approach to the “Zip Code Brunches” to gather parishioners in a social setting that is community-building.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

1. Facilities Committee – Mr. Podulka reported on the completion of the schools project and that there has been a determination to delay the interior renovations in the main church until the summer of 2017. The restoration of the windows will go forward in 2016.
2. Social Justice Committee – Mr. Maco reported on the progress the committee has made over the past several years. He also reported that they had a very well received retreat with Martina O’Shea in October.
3. Spirituality Committee – Ms. Arnold reminded PPC that there will be a Retreat in Daily Life from December 5 – 12, during the Advent Season.
4. Finance Council – Mr. Dennis reported that Ms. Favret had presented at the most recent Finance Council meeting and that she has followed through with the strong recommendations from the Council to follow-up with 2014 pledgers who did not renew for 2015. This has resulted in \$250,000+ in new pledges for 2015.
5. Education Committee – Mr. Thessin reported that they had not met, but that he wanted to commend Sarah Seligman, the new Youth Minister.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

Mr. Thessin spoke briefly about the need to be a lead parish on issues, since we are uniquely positioned in DC and have access to many decision makers and influencers in the “halls of power” in DC. To that end, Fr. Gillespie spoke about the upcoming fundraiser for Cardinal McCarrick that will

be coordinated by the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University. He anticipates that he will have an opportunity to meet many influential people who might be asked to participate in programs here at the Parish.

## **CLOSING**

Mr. Willison reminded members that the next regularly scheduled PPC meeting is Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

Mr. Podulka closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Ned Hogan