

**Church of the Resurrection  
Finance Council Meeting  
Wednesday, December 9, 2015**

In attendance: Fr. Tom Dragga, Nick Babic, Dennis Bodziony, Dave Consolo, Bob Eidnier, Marilyn Emshoff, Alex Hamm, William Hawke, Chuck Maimbourg,, John Shovary, Herb Wilson, Janice Zeller

Absent: Nancy Brown, Ann O'Brien, Bob Sorin

- 1) The meeting opened at 7 PM with an opening prayer by Fr. Tom.
- 2) We reviewed the October 31 financial statements. Sunday collections appear to be running about \$1,000 per week less compared to last year. About \$18,000 was received during the month from Rooted in Faith contributions, resulting in about \$44,000 for the current fiscal year.
- 3) Possible staff salary increases were discussed. Increases had been delayed earlier this year. Dennis mentioned that other parishes and groups within the diocese are averaging about 2% for salary increases. Several concepts were discussed including lump sum, bonus-style payments, timing of the increases, per cents for the increases, etc. and a final recommendation to Fr. Tom was developed, a motion made by Dave, seconded by Nick and it passed unanimously. Details remain confidential.
- 4) We touched briefly on the Grateful Giving program which had been deferred during the August meeting. Fr. Tom stated that at his former parish this program had initially resulted in a 22% increase in collections, but after about a year collections had eased back to around a 10% gain. This item will be addressed again at our April or June meetings.
- 5) For an update on maintenance issues Fr. Tom stated that only minor repairs had been done to the parking lot. The risers have been removed from the music room and that room converted to a general meeting room. Issues with the original church building remain, but will be deferred until the Rooted in Faith campaign is complete.
- 6) Finance Council membership and leadership were reviewed and our chairman, Chuck Maimbourg announced that his present employer prohibits their employees from participating in councils of our type due to potential conflict of interest; consequently, Chuck announced his resignation from Finance Council. Dennis accepted the position of interim chairman through our June meeting.
- 7) We discussed the needed experience and characteristics of future members of Finance Council. Each of us presented our thoughts and recommendations. These included entrepreneurial skills, building maintenance experience, attorney-at-law experience, younger candidates, etc. Several names of existing parishioners were brought forward as potential future members of Council.
- 8) A data sheet was distributed showing October Mass Counts for each year since 2010. Our average for the two weekends in October was 758 Mass attendees, down from 888 last year. Fr. Tom then asked a general question – “Are we meeting the spiritual needs of our parishioners?” Dave offered the idea that the Catholic population in Solon is shrinking due to an increase in the Asian and Middle Easterner population. Janice suggested offering very modern music once per month at one Mass. Bob questioned whether the Diocese offers any assistance for increasing Mass attendance. Another suggestion was to establish a Focus Group with members from Parish and Finance Councils, the Social Justice Commission and Buildings and Grounds. No conclusions were reached.
- 9) Meetings for the remainder of the fiscal year are scheduled for Monday, April 18 and Wednesday, June 8 at 7 PM.
- 10) After a closing prayer by Fr. Tom, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 18, 2015 at 7:00 PM.**