

## Parish Council Minutes

8/8/23

### Members Present:

Peter Moles  
DJ Grant

Fran Foley  
Matt Klinger

Sharon Racht  
Jerry Ball

Mary Roulston

### Pastoral Staff

Father Severine  
Janice Corcoran

Deacon Mike  
Donna Hurn

Deacon Dan

### Finance Committee Members

Bernie Corbishley

Nichole Moles

### Parishioners

Vince Cutrie

The meeting began at 7:00 with an opening prayer by Father Severine.

### **Pastoral Report**

Father Severine thanked the staff, financial committee, and council members for coming together to discuss the sexual abuse victims settlement.

On July 27, 2023, Bishop Lucia announced officially the Diocese had accepted the Chapter 11 \$100 million dollar settlement for the sexual abuse victims. The Diocese shared information through three sources including a letter from Bishop Lucia, a video report from Bishop Lucia, and a FAQ document.

The settlement will pay the victims fund \$100 million:

- \$50 million to be paid by the Diocese
- \$45 million to be paid by the Parishes of the Diocese
- \$5 million to be paid by other entities of the Diocese

The settlement money needs to be paid by March, 2024.

### **Background Information**

Last year, the Diocesan office advised all parishes to submit the total amount of funds including cash and investments, both restricted and unrestricted funds by June 30, 2022. This information was used to determine the amount of money that the diocese felt that the parishes could contribute to the victims settlement fund. The money that each parish contributes may only come from unrestricted funds.

The 6/30/2022 amount from Blessed Sacrament was \$487, 966 in our restricted fund, which cannot be used for the settlement. The unrestricted parish funds were \$46,650.

### Parish Settlement Projection

The projected amount of the parish payment is \$15,000. The Diocese will be notifying the parish soon of the exact amount to be paid.

Father and Bernie reiterated that the only funds that can be assessed are unrestricted funds which does not include Hope Appeal donations.

Insurance companies will not be paying toward the settlement. If in the future, an insurance settlement is reached, that amount will be deposited into the victims settlement fund.

Father reminded us of the moral obligation to help the victims and their families as well as the financial compensation. Our parish has three cases and St Vincent's has one case.

As leaders of the parish, Father asked Council members to familiarize themselves with the letter from the Bishop, the FAQ document, and the information from the Bishop's video. The FAQ document is a working document and is being expanded as questions arise. Father advised if we have a question not addressed in the document to reach out to him and he will contact Danielle Cummings.

Information sharing: the Bishop's letter has been shared in the paper bulletin, eBulletin, Facebook page, and website. The suggestion was made to Father for information to be shared from the altar in the coming weeks as our parish settlement amount is determined and also resharing the Diocesan information.

Father closed this section of the meeting with the reflection that for 2,000 years our church has gone through dark phases and God will continue to help us to heal. The Bishop has asked our Diocesan family to pray for forgiveness of the sins of this abuse as well as the sins throughout the history of our diocese, now and ongoing in the future.

### New Council Business

**PPC Sign** - Pete asked for input on the proposed PPC sign for the church vestibule. Bobby will be measuring the area for the final size of the sign and banner. The banner will have approximately 15 spots for pictures of Father, our deacons, and the Council members. There will be a space at the bottom which may be used for announcements and/or member spotlights. Please reach out to Peter with any other ideas.

**New Member:** The Council is pleased to have Vince Cutri express interest in becoming a Council member. The Council unanimously voted for Vince to become a PCC member.

**Proposed Meeting Dates:**

- September 13, 2023 (Wednesday)
- October 17, 2023 - Joint Meeting with St. Vincent's
- November 14, 2023
- December 12, 2023

All meetings will be held in the Andrea Polcaro Room in the Blessed Sacrament school at 7:00 pm. The remaining meeting dates will be determined in the fall.

Deacon Dan shared a Closing Prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Roulston