

**Parish Council**

**2015-2016 Annual Report**

(July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016)

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## Parish Council

### 2015-16 Annual Report

(July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016)

#### **Purpose of Parish Council**

Bishop Jenky directed Parishes in our Diocese to establish, re-establish, or renew their Parish Councils with the hope of making our Diocese Parishes more Vibrant. The Council shall be a vehicle for fulfilling the pastoral mission of the parish. It will do this by fostering growth within the parish family, sharing of spiritual gifts and talents, encouraging positive relationships among all members of the parish, and by collaborating with other parishes, especially those in its cluster, region, as well as the wider community.

The Council is a consultative body not a governing body that will encourage positive relationships among all members of the parish through collaboration. The main focus of our “new” Council will be to concentrate on our mission:

“Saint Malachy Parish exists to praise God and to teach and serve all His people by living the truth revealed in Jesus Christ and preserved in the Teaching and Tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.”

#### **Organization of Parish Council**

The Council consists of nine at large members, two youth members, two trustees, and Father Pakula. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Council has prayerfully discerned what role each member will serve.

#### **Current Parish Council Assignments – January 2017**

**Chair** - Susan Ford, **Vice Chair** – Nicole Reisner, **Secretary** - Chuck Snyder

**Administration & Planning Liaison** - Charles LoGiudice & Cynthia Wells

**Adult Faith Formation Liaison** - Jacob Samuelson & Jon McAvoy

**Prayerful Service Groups Liaison** - Ryan Wilson & Matthew Ganson

**Youth Faith Formation Liaison** - Brian Seals & Connor Lillis

**Trustees** - Joyce Webb & Ken Werner

In an effort to have the greatest impact and understanding, the Council is reaching out to all the Parish committees to see how we can assist. By fully understanding all that our parish groups do, hopefully the Council will be able to share information with other parish groups and leverage parish resources to the fullest.

To facilitate communication between the various committees and the Parish Council, the various parish committees have been grouped into four standing committees and Parish Council Liaisons assigned as shown in **Attachment A**. Meetings with each standing committee have been held.

### **2015-2016 Status and Results:**

- St Malachy's Parish Council has been reestablished and has met 10 times starting July 2015 thru June 2016. The current list of members is shown in Attachment A.
  - A Parish Council Liaison (s) has been assigned to each standing committee and initial meetings with each standing committees have been held.
- Initial meetings with the Standing Committees have been held.  
Liaison(s) will be gathering and compiling the following information from each parish standing committee:

1. Group Contact (s)
2. When/Where/Frequency of group meetings
3. Main function throughout the year
4. Is the group growing/shrinking/staying the same
5. What are the group's strengths/weaknesses
6. How many group members
7. What are the group's short term and long term goals
8. How does the group communicate with the parish/school/community
9. What assistance could the Council provide
10. What are the group's unmet needs

- A number of committees were invited to present updates of their activities to the Parish Council during the year. The purpose of these updates is to increase the awareness of the good work these committees are doing and allow the committees to raise concerns and suggest areas where there are unmet needs.
- The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee reviewed the status of planning for the Celebration with the Parish Council Liaison. The Committee did an excellent job in planning and executing the Celebration.
- Contacts have been made with the cluster parishes to explore areas where our Parish Councils can work together. Building the lines of communication is still under consideration.
- Concern was raised by the Youth Faith Formation about Parish IT systems in particular difficulties with the maintenance and speed of the systems and the fact that the School recently adopted the Apple platform while the Parish is using the Windows platform. Dave Wolak reviewed the nature of the problems that had been encountered and resolved with the Windows platform. It seems to make sense for

the School and the Parish to settle on separate platforms since Apple has historically been much more focused on education while Windows probably has broader usage throughout the Parish. The wide range of various competing hardware and software make it very difficult if not impossible to find one IT solution that meets the needs of all constituents in the parish community. An overall Parish IT assessment may be helpful in identifying opportunities to streamline communications and manage the costly proliferation due to the wide range of hardware and software suppliers, social media, website design, and IT support.

## **Summary of Concerns, Unmet Needs, and What the Parish Council could do to help**

### **Concerns expressed by the Standing Committees**

Mirroring trends in the community and state at large, the relative proportion of elderly in the Parish has increased. The membership of many existing ministries is lower as and people become unable to continue to participate because of advancing age and/or other commitments. New members need to be recruited to maintain current efforts and expand as the need exists. The Parish Council will work with the standing committees to find ways to communicate the needs for volunteers to the parish and facilitate the matching of skills with the needs of the ministries.

Starting new ministries supporting new and unmet needs can be difficult. The Parish Council will be the focal point to work with new and emerging ministries to offer assistance and support in appropriately growing the ministries.

Communications between the Parish family and the various ministries is essential to determining if the needs are being addressed and in communicating where opportunities exist for participation in the various ministries.

The Parish Council can provide leadership in encouraging the development of efficient and effective means of communicating within the Parish.

The Parish Council will work with the Standing Committees to investigate ways to further increase the Spiritual Vibrancy of our parish

A goal of the Parish Council for coming year is to help facilitate the leveraging of talents and resources through increased sharing and communication between the various ministries.

The standing committees all identified the need to increase participation of all age and demographic groups in the parish. A major goal of the Parish Council for the coming year will be to work with each of the Standing Committees to explore ways to involve more parishioners.

# Thanks

**We greatly appreciate your time and service to our parish community. Thank you for helping spread God's love throughout the world!**

## Attachment A

### Current List of St Malachy Parish Council

<b>St Malachy Parish Council</b>
Fr Michael Pakula
Joyce Webb
Chuck Snyder
Susan Ford
Matthew Ganson
Charles LoGiudice
Jon McAvoy
Jacob Samuelson
Nicole Reisner
Brian Seals
Cynthia Wells
Connor Lillis
Ryan Wilson
Audrey Honzel
Ken Werner

## Attachment B Organization of Standing Committees and Parish Council Liaisons

<u>Standing Committees</u>	<u>Parish Council Representative(s)</u>
<b><u>Adult Faith Formation</u></b>	<b><u>Jacob Samuelson &amp; Jon McAvoy</u></b>
Adult Faith Formation Team	
RICA	
Women at The Well	
Stewardship Committee	
Social Justice Committee	
Just Faith	
Sister Parish	
Liturgy Committee	
Exposition	
Gift Shop	
<b><u>Youth Faith Formation</u></b>	<b><u>Brian Seals &amp; Connor Lillis</u></b>
Youth Faith Formation Team	
School	
Parents Club	
Religious Education	
Vacation Bible School	
Children's Liturgy of the Word	
Youth Ministry	
Youth Ministry Leadership Team	
Scouts/Trail Life	
<b><u>Prayerful Service Groups</u></b>	<b><u>Ryan Wilson &amp; Mathew Ganson</u></b>
Pastoral Care	
Respect Life	
Elizabeth Ministry	
Wellness Committee	
Altar & Rosary Society	
Knights of Columbus	
Winterfest	
<b><u>Administration &amp; Planning</u></b>	<b><u>Charles LoGiudice &amp; Cynthia Wells</u></b>



