

Elmira Catholic Parishes Church Hall Meeting: October 30, 2017

Comments, Questions from Evening Session, 6:30-8:30 pm

Questions:

- 1. Where does money go from sale of buildings? Dave Quinn: Goes to stable patrimony—so belongs to the parish—can only be used with signature of pastor and bishop; to be used for big capital programs.**
- 2. Some positives to changes already: hoped it would also be a way to build unity—get to know all priests and deacons, but it seems frenetic right now—especially after summer—haven't seen continuity from Mass to Mass with homilies; so is there any thought about a way to get more continuity, community, and stability? Father Rick: says it's challenging, with all of our senior priests and deacons; not sure if Father Scott has ideas here—and some people have said that they enjoy the variety. Another parishioner spoke to how well the variety is working; Father Scott, Father Rick, and Father Mac work the church before and after Masses and build "family"—recommends other person tries a different church.**
- 3. Convenience of the variety of Mass times has been very appreciated—and allows community building because you see old friends. Very comfortable with the changes in schedule.**
- 4. Would it be possible to have a children's Mass at every church, not just St. Pat's: Father Rick says it will be offered at other churches too since kids go to all Masses.**
- 5. What is offered to high school kids? Elena is working on it; an issue is how busy high school kids are. Father Scott would like to see more involvement of ND kids in parishes. Elena says the Confirmation program is rolling along—more involvement with ND; 21 will be confirmed in June; 38 for 2018. Youth Group will be facilitated by Matt Griffin who will help Elena—started with Car Wash and service by the Youth Group and Confirmation teams; visited some homes to do raking; 13 teens did Walk for Life for Southern Tier Pregnancy Resource Center. She said it is very difficult for scheduling to find dates to offer programming. They are offering CASE training. 6-7 th graders with Sister Sue will be ready for Confirmation classes in 8th grade, to hopefully allow more deep study and discipleship development. We could use volunteer team leaders.**
- 6. How do we define Evangelization which came up during the Power Point? For example, His Tabernacle has youth bus, TV programs, etc.—how many of us have actually offered our great parish through program like "come home" or get new members? Father Rick said we talked about getting a little lift bus—could advertise on side of the bus—to get members to events.**
- 7. It seems like there is a problem with the Mass ministry list—Father Rick says people don't all show up. Do we have Mass coordinators at all churches? Father Scott is having Liturgy Committee study all Masses with visits so we can organize a uniform parish-wide system. Parishioner also says that we need a meeting to insure that all ministers do the same thing. Father Scott says that we are working on it and will have training sessions.**

8. When will the new liturgical ministry schedule come out? Mary and Arlene are working on it right now, this weekend's ministers will be called, and then it will be on the mailed schedule. Mary M. requested that ministers who are at Mass and see a need, please step up. She also reminded liturgical ministers that when we schedule the training session, people need to come.

9. His Tabernacle bus visits neighborhoods and hands out fliers to families—offered liturgy, lunch, crafts, etc.—and that's how they became so big! Lesson to be learned.

10. Youth programs development is a tremendous need—although most Mass attendees have gray hair, not even just in Catholic churches. We need to sell our product—why is this product good for the consumer? How do we recruit younger people to come to Church? Would like to see a Recruiting Committee that would identify the product, how it would become valuable, and then how do we sell it? What Bill Irwin said—this is Evangelization. George Maloney volunteered for the committee. Elena would like to meet George to discuss programs for 18-40 year olds—would like to bring these young people in and ask them what their needs are, what their feelings are, create opportunities to engage with priests and other parishioners. Elena is trying to make bonds with Elmira College—we are not connected to Father Joseph's (SMOM) Sunday Mass. Please contact Elena to volunteer.

11. Why don't all the priests say the same Creed? Father Rick—priests have the choice of either Nicene or Apostles' Creeds.

12. What about 3 Hail Mary's after Mass? Could be extended to all parishes from Christ the Redeemer, if Liturgy Committee and Father Scott agree.

13. Younger parishioner says that what draws people to church now are not childhood memories or traditions—it's conviction—they want to see a "Church on fire!" Less about cultural comfort and more about being on fire with Jesus! Applause!

14. Could we have 2 4 o'clock Masses on Saturday, especially with winter coming on? Father Rick—also discussed at afternoon session. SMSS is very crowded. Please rethink it.

15. Requesting for a young family with 3 children—move 10am Mass to 10:30 so Religious Ed kids could attend Mass.

16. Concerned about the availability of handicapped parking and seating for the 4pm Masses—street parking is hard, accessibility needs to be considered.

17. At Curseo last year, it seemed that all the booming parishes were running the Life Teen program. Have we ever looked at that?

18. 3 Hail Mary tradition started—to keep people in church at end of Mass—differences of opinion for what the Hail Mary's are for?

19. Lourdes Fund?—what happened to it? It's intact and part of the \$ ¾ million assets of CTR.

20. 5:30 Mass at St. Peter and Paul—parking is getting harder as it gets darker and maybe icy—especially for older parishioners and the handicapped.

21. Why can't Family Mass be at St. Casimir's—applause--may be parking issue—Sister Sue said traffic issue may be related to drop off time for Faith Formation.

22. Lighting at St. Peter and Paul—is it not turned on? Why is it so dark there when they have parking lot lighting and good ramps? Father Rick—parking lots are well lit—maybe need to look at church lights, not just parking lights.

23. Just sharing—for several years, we have had family Mass at 10:30 at St. Casimir—so not seen as an issue. What time did religious ed used to start?

24. Discussion of Mass time adjustments at St. Casimir and Faith Formation times—has changed quite a bit.