

PARISH AGM 2017 – Q&As

Fr. Maurice:

Q: What is the best thing happening in our parish today?

A: The people who are always ready and willing to volunteer in the parish, are the people who will give priest encouragement and boost coming into a parish. How are parishioners responding to requests? How are parishioners relating amongst themselves? These are the markers of pass/fail for a priest. Great improvement in terms of hospitality in our parish.

Q: If I have concern/question what is the best way to get it to the Father?

A: Father will try to address any question as quickly as possible. You may come to office and meet with him, write something on paper and give it to the office staff to pass onto Father or use email. All emails addressed to Father will get a reply immediately. If you see Father anywhere (outside of the church) you can stop him for a question at any time.

You can also use the office staff to get things across to Father. It is good to rely on the office staff to help keep order, and keep the records of everything that happens in the parish. That way, if Father suddenly was transferred, you already have your concerns recorded through the office.

Nicole Schoenberger:

Q: Has there been discussion on hiring full/ part- time music minister?

A: We already have Marieta Paul, is employed part-time in the office and as our music minister. It is unlikely that we will move to a full- time music minister for budget reasons, but also because Marieta is effective in a part-time capacity. It is very hard to find people to commit to music ministry. We need to focus on asking people to join, as when people are personally invited, it instills confidence. There are many talented people in parish who could be involved in music ministry, but are waiting to be asked.

Phil Schmidt:

Q: If I want to join choir or any other ministry, what do I need to do?

A: People can join ministries at any time throughout the year. If there is a particular ministry you are interested in, check the bulletin for their contact information, or contact the parish office. There is a Lay Ministries brochure with descriptions of the all the ministries as well as the contact info for each Ministry Lead available from the parish office.

Q: I am so saddened to see Father Karl's \$40,000 organ just sitting there, how can you fix the situation?

A: Simply put, the organ is not used that much because the parish is very limited in people who have skills for playing organ. Anyone with organ skills is invited to email PPC to discuss further.

Q: It is Important that we expand parish involvement on Parish Council and other committees, how do you see this being possible?

A: If the question is regarding adding more members to Parish Council, it is already a very large group, and it would be unwieldy to add even more members. If is about how we can get people more involved in the parish, we have a vibrant parish community. While we have lots of good things that go on, we see a lot of the same people involved in those ministries. We saw in our presentation that we have a lot of families and parishioners, but not all are active. We have to reach out and ask people, as often people are very willing when asked but less likely to themselves step forward.

Q: While new program requests will be considered based on needs, existing programs, etc. How does parish council determine if there is ministry needs outside of program requests? Is there a proactive parish needs assessment done periodically?

A: This is not formally done currently. The approach that we are following is that outlined in Divine Renovation. Begin with a Vision Statement. Then put goals in place to move towards vision, underneath goals, specific initiatives that will get you there. We will get there, but in different way from needs assessment.

Bill Van Hoof:

Q: Will the roof project impact the church for the 4-5 month duration?

A: Our hope is that we can still use the church throughout, as most of the work will occur to the exterior. The bulk of the work should be done during the weekday, which may mean weekday services will be held in the Parish Hall due to noise. There should be no problems on weekends. We will have to see how it goes. There may be periods where we have scaffolding sitting in church, but we will try to keep it out of way. We will probably be taking the stained glass windows down about a month before the work begins in order to keep them protected.

Laura Callbeck:

Q: How is the fund raising coming for the roof replacement?

A: We can't get started until we have the final numbers. Once the contract is done, early in the new year we will know. We have made arrangements with archdiocese for loan if need that.

Q: Can you explain how much money goes to the diocese? You stated we owe 125k for this year. Is this calculated using last years donations?

A: The cathedraticum is based on 23% of previous year's parish donations. It is only calculated using regular Sunday donations, not those designated to special funds such as the Building Fund.

Q: How do we get this financial info to the whole parish?

A: This is an area we are currently working on. The plan is that we will have a brief presentation to the parish after each mass to give them an update, and then a more formal complete presentation when we do our annual financial report.