

# Board/Guild Formation & Informational Meeting

On January 19, 2019 interested parishioners of St. Peter Fisherman Parish attended a meeting at Holy Name parish hall to begin planning a new parish-wide guild, *Friends of the Fisherman Guild*. Fr. Philip Clement opened our meeting with a prayer at 9:35 a.m. and a sign in sheet was passed around. Fr. requested anyone interested in serving on the BOARD to put an asterisk by their name (Fr. would like to have two representatives from each of the four churches). The Guild has the opportunity to raise funds that are needed for the parish to operate and build a sense of community, and the board will organize parish events, fund raisers, and community outreach efforts. The Board will meet once a month to discuss potential projects. Parishioners not on the Board will be asked to volunteer their time, talent, and treasure to ensure planned events, etc. are successful.

Fr. shared some insight on the organizational structure and workings of the Church at large, the diocese, and the parish. Fr. explained that the diocese receives 12.75% of all funds raised or from collections within the parish. The diocese uses these funds to pay for the priest's salary, insurance, seminarian's studying to be a priest, and the salaries for the people who work in the diocese office, as well as a host of other outreach endeavors. At the parish level, the administration of the parish is dependent on the offertory collections at Mass, as well as any other donations received. Fr. shared that we are currently in the black not in the red, but that the offertory money received is not enough to cover all costs and we do get assistance from the diocese and our summer visitors. Fr. feels that "Where God leads – God provides," and that we always need to live within our means."

The central focus to of the Guild to build a sense of community. Yet a necessary component of building community will also be to raise funds to care for the community. He gave an example that we were very successful with raising funds in the Altar Linen & Vestment drive. People donated because they had a sense of stewardship; some people donate money, some their skills, or their time, or all of these. Members of the former guilds are dying because they are getting older, we must have a sense of pride and necessity in the people who have kept it afloat for years – we are evangelist for Jesus.

Fr. asked everyone to introduce themselves and what church they attended. Fr. shared that he had the privilege in another parish to be involved in a food pantry that gave away 7 tons of food. Fr. would like to see dinners in the halls like the St. Patrick's super held at Holy Name parish hall and we need to understand we are St. Peter the Fisherman Parish and we need to support our efforts and we all share in the funds that are raised. Right now, we need to revisit the use of our buildings like for Summer Keys in Lubec; and compare the use of the building to the amount paid for use of our buildings. Diocese says we can rent out our halls provided we follow protocols that are set up to protect us. The parish hall in Machias is used for an emergency shelter for one of the local elementary schools.

Fr. shared an observation & ideas with the group – there were 3 men at our meeting; it is the natural tendency for women to give their talent & time this is what usually happens in and out of the home. Fr. would like to have a Saturday morning where the men of the parish can come together and have breakfast or coffee; to grow into a men's club (not at the exclusion of women) but the fact that men are not tended to spiritually. Also, he would like have 1 person at each church be the eyes for maintenance and the 4 will meet as a group to discuss what needs to be done at the churches and then break to do projects, (at SH, HN & SM) the handicap ramps need repair and are not up to codes). One person shared that Lubec, at one time had a Knights of Columbus organization for the men. Fr. said men are now Masons with a sense of belonging. This group would be for men of the parish "all". However, Fr. also realizes that he is spread too thin and may not be able to attend all these meetings – finance council, guild board meetings etc. That is why he needs the Guild to come back and report back to him on proposed fund raisers, projects, make calls for the meetings, etc. "Every good leader is a good delegator." Fr. shared we need to be proud of our parish; he has fixed up the office at the rectory at Holy

Name by painting the office and using left over floor materials from the recent project to fix the St. Francis room.

Fr. shared that he is all about transparency with the diocese and the people. He then asked if there were any questions, these are some questions asked:

- Does the diocese get 12.75% from all money – YES, all money raised. The only time the diocese does not is if there is an endowment left to either a specific church or the parish. In this case what ever was the desire of the person who left the endowment is followed. Also, they would not get a percentage if we decide to have a “capital campaign” for our parish, e.g., new roofs, heating systems, etc.
- This area previously had bingo/beano possible to have them again? Fr. said he would have to check with the diocese on this issue
- We do not have a lot of things for the senior citizens – all were in agreement. This is a possible project for the guild to arrange something for seniors
- Holy Name had a garden for the past two years and they donated the food to the local food pantry but they are in need of people to help with this project; there is still funds in the account. This was a grant from the diocese to St. Peter the Fisherman Parish
- Previously we rented out the halls but there became an issue with insurance. Fr. shared that the halls can be rented but the person renting must have insurance & they can purchase it from the diocese
- Beautiful rectory in Lubec not being used – perhaps we can hold a retreat. Fr. shared that it is being used by him occasionally. Bishop wants the pastor in Machias because of the hospital but Fr. would like to have one day a week in Lubec where he can be in Lubec and talk and meet with people
- Open hall up as a shelter in towns for the homeless (this could be looked at)
- We need to reach out to the middle age people and bring them back to the church – perhaps through some community service projects
- Offer a vacation bible school in the summer
- Create and sell a parish directory, HN had one in the 90’s with phone numbers
- GOAL is to have 1 or 2 things monthly to raise funds & 1 project to be accomplished at each church per year

Fr. asked what were some of the past fund raisers –

- Mother’s Day & Father’s Day breakfasts
- St. Patrick’s Day supper
- Harvest Supper
- Masses outside
- Chowder and games on a Sunday
- Lobster & Steak supper

- Christmas Dinner for the community
- Christmas Fair (St. Michaels – very successful)
- Soup and sandwich (during the winter)

Fr. then asked what are some things we could do that we haven't done

- Formal dinner
- Valentine's Day Dinner
- 50's Dance
- Prepare meals & deliver them to homebound parish members
- Have "International Dinner" food from other countries
- Tea party
- Reach out to the high school children who need assistance
- Welcome basket for new people in the parish
- Parish Bazaar during the annual Blueberry Festival

The Board will keep a calendar of events but all events must be approved by Fr. first. The next steps are:

1. To choose Board members (Fr. will do this)
2. Board will have a meeting to come together again (have a pot luck) however the Board may want to meet to discuss a strategy prior to calling the meeting
3. For the 1<sup>st</sup> year we want to choose a few landmark events
4. Board will be responsible for volunteers for events

Fr. shared that during Lent he will be in Machias on Fridays and have a 'Lenten Mission.' The meeting closed at 11:10 with a prayer from Fr. Philip

Respectfully

Barbara Sellitto  
Scribe

**Attendees – Sign-In Sheet @ 1/19/19 Meeting for the Guild Formation**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>
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