

St. Mark Parish Property and Finance Committee Meeting

In - Camera - Emergency Meeting

Friday, March 16, 2017

1:00 p.m.

St. Mark Club

PRESENT

Father Brent Brennan
Brent Laton, Financial Administrator
Judie Martin, Vice-Chair
Renata Kimmerly
John Vanderzyde

ABSENT

Glenna Bonneau

1. **TOUR OF RECTORY:** Members toured St. Mark Rectory and saw the renovations in progress. The meeting then moved to St. Mark Club.
2. **CALL TO ORDER:** Judie Martin called the meeting to order.
3. **OPENING PRAYER:** Father Brennan led the group in prayer.
4. **RECTORY RENOVATIONS:**

The Committee asked Father Brennan why the extensive renovations to the Rectory (eg. carpet removal and hardwood refinishing as well and painting of entire building) were not raised for discussion by the Committee when budget planning was done in December.

The question of the dishwasher replacement was raised and concern expressed that the dishwasher was practically brand new. Father Brennan reported that there was an issue with the door closing and was told by a Parishioner that it would cost more to repair than to replace. John Vanderzyde stated that someone should have attempted to determine the exact problem and cost to repair before replacing the appliance.

The proposal to convert the "General Purpose" office into a bedroom was discussed. Father Brennan proposed converting the office into a bedroom with a hospital-style barrier free bathroom. The Committee did not support this idea given that there are five bedrooms upstairs and there is a need for office space for office supplies, photocopier, files, etc.. The fact that the bedroom would only be used on occasion by an elderly priests, etc. did not seem like a good value for the cost of the renovation. The Committee suggested that it would be wise to engage Relief Clergy that would be able to negotiate the stairs to the several bedrooms and bathrooms upstairs. The priests who replaced Father Brennan recently were able to use the upstairs bedroom and bathroom. As a compromise, the Committee suggested that a simple shower stall be added to the downstairs bathroom and the remainder of the room remain as office space. Should there be a need for an elderly priest to remain on the ground floor, a temporary bed could be put in the living room area.

The Committee inquired about the funds to pay for the Rectory Renovations. Father Brennan reported that a Parishioner was donating the funds for the upstairs Master Bedroom renovations and the painting of the Rectory. He stated that he would secure funding from individual Parishioners to complete the rest of the project.

5. **PASTORAL ISSUES:**

Judie Martin explained that since there isn't a Pastoral Council in the Parish, that Parishioners are turning to the only representative group that exists at the moment, the Finance and Property Committee. She stated that she has heard from over 20 Parishioners who were upset about the Prie-Dieus that were placed in the aisles for the Distribution of Communion. She heard from another six Parishioners regarding the notice that was sent to Eucharistic Ministers instructing them to distribute Communion from behind the railings in the side aisles. Judie noted an article that appeared in the Parish Bulletin by Michael Voris and read information regarding this individual's philosophies. Judie stated that it is apparent that individuals in the Parish subscribe to Mr. Voris' philosophies and are attempting to implement them in our Parish. Father Brennan mentioned Cardinal Sarah's comments on the reception of Communion. He also reiterated Archbishop O'Brien's notice in the Parish Bulletin, *"that the norm in the Dioceses and Parishes of Canada, Communion is to be received standing. It is not a case of promoting standing or kneeling, but of promoting the norm, which is standing, while making accommodation for individuals who choose to kneel."*

Concern was also expressed regarding the reintroduction of the use of patens for the distribution of Communion after an absence of over 35 years. Father Brennan mentioned that it was help prevent hosts dropping on the floor. Committee members asked how often hosts are dropped on the floor and Father Brennan noted that it was rare. Judie Martin reported that Parishioners have told her that they are confused by the process and wonder why at this time it appears that they are not trusted to be able to receive Communion properly.

The Committee asked that since there is no Pastoral Council, who is making the decisions to make these changes? The Committee asserted that the decisions were not being made by Father Brennan alone. Father Brennan reported that he was putting together a Pastoral Team but that it would take time to compose this group.

The Committee wondered if the same liturgical changes would be happening at Sacred Heart Parish. Father Brennan replied that there was no request to do so at that Church.

Father Brennan provided letters from the Archbishop regarding the Distribution of Communion and the use of black at Funeral Liturgies for distribution to the Committee.

6. **ADJOURNMENT:** Father Brennan had an appointment at the Rectory so the meeting was adjourned.