



Parish Town Hall Meeting
Audience Questions
Saturday, October 7th, 2017

*Questions and comments are in response to presentations from
Janet Archibald and Lori Klafehn*

- 1) Comment: The large amount budgeted last year for Non-Operating Expense (\$871K) is the result of situations put off.

Question: Is there a list of other capital expenses that were postponed?

Answer: The parish completed three capital projects that were budgeted for Fiscal Year 2016-17. The air conditioning and partial roof at Christ the King was finished in September, the storage building behind garage at St. Cecilia's was abated and removed in December, and the Welcome Information Centers were opened at all three churches in February. Projects that were delayed include the creation of Community Gathering Space at St. Margaret Mary's and the renovation of vacant space at the former St. Cecilia School. Other non-operating expenses for 2016-17 were sealcoating and striping the parking lot at St. Margaret Mary's and computer upgrades for staff. Given the volatility of investment markets, the budget plans for neither a gain nor a loss. The parish benefited from an increase in market value of investments of about \$221,000, partially offsetting expenditures. The budget did include an expense to cover any CMA Shortfall, which was avoided by meeting the CMA Goal.

- 2) What is the plan for STA School?

Answer: On 9/19/17, the Town Board of Irondequoit voted against re-zoning an application submitted by Capstone Development for market rate apartments at the former Saint Thomas the Apostle School. The building at 41 Colebrook Road is currently for sale.

- 3) Comment: If SC school is rented before asbestos is removed, it opens the Parish to liability.

Answer: The former St. Cecilia School has been vacant since Creative Beginnings ended their lease with Saint Kateri Parish in October 2014. The 11,000 square feet of space will not be occupied until it is renovated (starting with asbestos abatement in window seals, under floor tiles, and behind chalkboards). The 2017-18 Budget includes \$300,000 for Phase I of the project, which will only be started if funding is available.

- 4) May we have a push button handicap door at CTK?

Answer: Thanks to a generous donor, one set of doors at Christ the King is handicap accessible.

- 5) Comment: The Parish gave up \$30K revenue from Bingo.

Question: Was ending Bingo a DOR or SKT decision?

Answer: The Diocese of Rochester guides the operations and activities of all the parishes. They recommended that all parishes in the diocese discontinue games of chance (including penny social raffles) because of the increased exposure to risk. Unfortunately, inappropriate actions on the part of people at other parishes have negatively affected all of us. The entire parish owes a

debt of gratitude to the many loyal volunteers who worked and to our supporters who attended Friday night bingo. Over the years, bingo and bell jar together provided a valuable source of revenue offsetting parish operating expenses. Bingo, bell jar and penny social raffles are governed by the New York State Gaming Commission. Saint Kateri Parish proudly confirms that we were compliant with all rules and regulations. Refer to August 14, 2016 bulletin.

- 6) What is the solution for getting around NYS Gaming Commission rules for other fund-raising efforts?

Answer: The parish must adhere to New York State Gaming Commission rules that govern charitable games of chance. Silent Auctions have proven to be a nice alternative and profitable. Refer to website <https://gaming.ny.gov/charitablegaming>.

- 7) May we hold festivals once more?

Answer: The 2017-18 Budget for Fundraising Revenue is \$100,000 for the parish and \$47,000 for the school. As stated in previous responses, the parish chooses to minimize risk associated with games of chance. In addition, we value our wonderful volunteers and respect their time. We need to be creative in our thinking so that we choose a small number of programs / events / activities that engage many volunteers and benefit the entire parish with high returns.

- 8) Comment: Non-Operating Expense was \$600K below the budgeted amount last year.

Question: Did we defer a lot of capital improvements or repairs?

Answer: See response to Question 1).

- 9) Comment: Gifts / Donations / Bequests is a large part of the income budget.

Question: Is there a way of recognizing givers and also alert others to needs and the ways to help?

Answer: The parish is grateful for gifts, donations, and bequests. In addition to sending a heartfelt thank you to individuals and families, we are pleased to acknowledge in the bulletin. Some donors prefer to remain anonymous, so we respect that as well. We published a "Wish List" for One-Time Gifts in the June 11th bulletin and again in the October bulletins. The response has been great! A generous parishioner donated \$10,000 for the Welcome Information Centers and a husband and wife granted our wish for 25 basketballs for the youth participating in CYO.

- 10) What was the decline in Mass attendance between 07/2016 and 06/2017?

Answer: The reduction in mass attendance from October 2015 to October 2016 was about 9%. The next official report will be available November 15th, based on average attendance for the five weeks in October 2017.

- 11) Where does STA stand? Are we supporting LMC? Does SKT pay for maintenance?

Answer: The Latin Mass Community is responsible for operating expenses (including salaries, maintenance, taxes, insurance, supplies) and non-operating expenses (including capital and CMA). The Memorandum of Understanding for Fiscal Year 2017-18 was signed in September.

- 12) Is the amount spent on STA over previous years recorded in financial reports?

Answer: Yes

13) Does the new LMC Memorandum include property repairs and insurance?

Answer: Yes. See response to Question 11).

14) If LMC covers STA expenses, is there a long-term goal or benchmark for LMC to become a separate entity?

Answer: The final report of the Irondequoit Pastoral Planning Group, accepted by Bishop Clark calls for the relegation and sale of both the Saint Salome and Saint Thomas the Apostle parcels. Although an experimental arrangement of no determined length, welcoming the Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Latin Mass Community (SKT LMC) has been put into place by Bishop Matano, the plan for these properties has not changed.

15) Would the STA School be easier to sell if the sale included all buildings at the site?

Answer: Any answer to this would be conjecture, but a whole parcel would probably be more attractive to a buyer than parts.

16) Will SKT offer Christmas ornaments this year?

Answer: Yes, Fr. Paul English and Jack Shevlin designed the "second in the series" for Saint Kateri Parish. Both ornaments will be sold on selected weekends after Mass starting in November.

17) Comment: Request for \$5 increase for weekly collection is preaching to the choir. Only 30% of Irondequoit families contributed to CMA last year.

Question: How do we get other families involved in supporting the Parish financially?

Answer: Live out our Vision and Mission; Develop "One Message" Seasonal Themes; Create small Christian Communities; Host Planned Giving Seminars; Address parishioners during Mass quarterly.

18) Comment: The same faces attend Town Halls.

Question: May we hold stewardship day to get more people involved in more ministries?

Answer: Great idea!

19) Is the Bulletin Financial Report semiannual?

Answer: The Quarterly Financial Report to Parishioners - June 30, 2017 Year to Date includes a full fiscal year of information, starting with July 1, 2016 and ending with June 30, 2017. The bulletin report is published four times per year. The Town Hall is hosted semiannually.

20) Since there is only 30% CMA participation, may we contact Catholics in Irondequoit who are not participating in the Parish?

Answer: The almost 31% participation rate is calculated by dividing the number of households who made a pledge to CMA by the number of households registered in Saint Kateri Parish. Thanks to 1,140 households - AND our anonymous donor who matched increased pledges - the parish achieved 100% of the 2016-17 CMA Goal – for the first time ever! Yes, we are reaching out to Catholics in Irondequoit and across the community.