



Parish Town Hall Meeting  
Audience Questions  
Saturday, October 1st, 2016

***Questions and remarks are in response to presentations from Janet Archibald and John Gantert***

***Items in Blue are suggestions only and did not require an answer.***

1) Do GST drivers bring parishioners to Church?

**Answer:** 90% of drivers volunteer Mon – Fri. ISM uses other outreach methods to connect with homebound.

2) Are there home visits to newly registered parishioners?

**Answer:** We have not done so thus far, but we have several sessions during the year where new parishioners are invited for orientation.

3) What was last year's CMA goal?

**Answer:** \$233K for 2015/2016 and \$220K for 2016/2017.

4) What was the sale price and appraisal amount for St Salome's?

**Answer:** Sale price and appraisal amount are both \$280K.

5) Can any part of the Stable Patrimony investment be used annually for operation expenses?

**Answer:** The Diocese allows up to 5% of stable patrimony to be withdrawn annually and used for capital improvements (Not Operating expenses). St. Kateri Finance Council decided to be more conservative by allowing only 4%.

6) Was the bingo closing a recommendation or demand from the Diocese?

**Answer:** A Recommendation. The decision to discontinue bingo was arrived at only after thorough consideration of the pros and cons. Fr. Paul and staff communicated with volunteers first, then with parishioners. In September, the group enjoyed a meal together to celebrate the past, enjoy the moment, and be hopeful for the future.

7) Why is the Diocese recommending the bingo closing?

**Answer:** Diocese is wise to recommend the discontinuance of bingo and various games of chance governed by NY State. The rules are subject to interpretation, thus increasing the risk of non-compliance. By complying with the Diocesan recommendation, the parish is protecting the many volunteers who have worked so hard for so many years.

8) What replaces the bingo income?

**Answer:** We will continue to look at ways to reduce expenses. The parish was / is sustained by many generous contributors and dedicated volunteers in various fundraising activities, including bingo.

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9) Does anyone at the Diocese realize that bingo sustained the Parish for decades?

10) What will replace the camaraderie of the bingo players and volunteers?

**Answer:** Fr Paul asked the staff to recommend socializing solutions. Staff, parishioners, friends and neighbors are invited to be creative and come forward with ideas for social events bringing the community together.

12) Was Bishop Matano invited to attend the Town Hall?

**Answer:** The Town Hall is advertised in the St. Kateri bulletin. Parishioners, friends, and neighbors are welcome to attend. There is an open invitation to everyone, including the Reverend Bishop.

13) How many people have registered for “Financial Peace University”?

**Answer:** 4 couples so far, there is room for 6 more couples. (Carol)

14) Regarding the Offertory Giving... Does the Diocese provide any benchmarks in order to compare to other parishes?

**Answer:** No, because each parish is different economically.

**15) It would be helpful if the Diocese told us what percentage of income is expected of individuals for Collections.**

**16) A suggestion was made for a campaign to encourage parishioners to give \$1 more each week.**

17) The weekly expectations of Collections pie chart in the Bulletin changed. Last year it was \$37K and this year the weekly amount is \$30K.

**Answer:** The weekly Collection budget amount for 2015/2016 was \$37,000. It was adjusted to \$30K for 2016/2017 based on the information gathered during the annual commitment campaign.

18) Will the 2016 CMA campaign video also be available for ongoing evangelization?

**Answer:** The CMA Video is available on YouTube for anyone to view and will remain there for some time. In addition, the Video is also available through parish web-site. Yes, it will be available for use in programs and events as desired

19) Where are the Fatima statues from St Salome’s going?

**Answer:** For the time being the statues will remain at the SS site as many residents gather at the statues for prayer.

20) Can the non-operating expenses reported in the bulletin be broken down?

**Answer:** Non-operating expenses include gains and losses from stable patrimony, revenue and expenses of affiliated organizations, CMA shortfall, and capital expenditures greater than \$2,000 with a useful life exceeding one year.

21) What capital needs are anticipated for next year?

**Answer:** Capital needs budgeted for next year include community gathering space at St. Margaret Mary Rectory, renovation (asbestos abatement and windows) to create multi-use space at St. Cecilia, air conditioning and roof at Christ the King, and Welcome Centers.

23) St Kateri is one of the biggest parishes in the Diocese. Yet, why is participation of young families so low?

**Answer:** We need to collect and analyze data on young family participation in various events. Then we will work together to plan the most relevant activities scheduled at the best times for families.

24) Why are Alpha and Dr Kelly's lecture series being offered at the same time?

**Answer:** It was thought that the events would draw two different audiences.

25) The Catholic Church is persecuted in the USA with law suits. Why has there not been any guidance from the Church regarding moral issues involved with the upcoming election choices?

**Answer:** The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB - web-site: <http://USCCB.org>) provides guidance and programs available for reading/viewing.

**26) An attendee does not hear prayers from Church officials for persecuted people in the Middle East. (Unfortunately, I recalled after the meeting that Pope Francis prays for the people of Syria many weeks after the Angelus.) Pattie**

Respectfully submitted by Pattie Burns