

**Mission Statement:** Encounter Jesus, Serve Others.

***Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church  
1003 North Tyler Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205  
January 19, 2016***

The Parish Council meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mary Hightower, President. The meeting opened with prayer.

Members present: Diane Scroggins, Barbara Grafe, Jeff Byers, LuAnne Seay, Chris Schaffhauser

Members absent: Kevin Ehemann, Nick Ferrara, Joan Swenson, Chad Sievers, Ben France

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes of the December 1, 2015, Parish Council meeting were approved.

**Finance & Administration:**

Shelley Tienken reported for Finance and Administration. Shelley reported that for the year, we are operating ahead of our income budget. This is partially due to the \$9,000 ahead in collections as a result of a couple of large donations received in December. Expenses are trending higher than budget due to high utility costs and unbudgeted banner expenses. Balances for saving accounts held at the diocese were presented. It was noted that all but one second collection year-to-date have significantly higher than last year. The LifeStraw water project collection in December brought in almost \$6,500.

**Building and Grounds Committee:**

Father Erik reported several projects that are in the process of being addressed. Among them are replacing roofs on some of the buildings on campus; re-vamping or constructing an area on campus where Holy Souls children are picked and/or dropped off for school; erecting new Stations of the Cross; and adding on 133 more niches in our Columbarium (around the curved wall near the Shrine area). Father Erik mentioned starting a Capital Campaign like the one we had in a previous year to fund these projects and other smaller projects. He asked the members to be thinking about someone(s) to lead the campaign.

**Education and Formation Commission:**

Jeff Byers reported for the Education and Formation Commission. Discussion was held about the "Year of Mercy" tree that has been placed in the vestibule of the church. Ideas were discussed about the potential of placing the tree in a more visual area so that people would stop and remove a tag from the tree to reflect upon. Speakers and programs on various subjects continue to the planned and presented.

**Evangelism Commission:**

Father Erik stated Pope Francis has declared that all Catholic churches plan for a "24 hours of Mercy" March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. At Holy Souls, March 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday night) would begin the event with Stations of the Cross, followed by all night adoration. Priests would be available to hear confessions also. Several events, activities and prayer time would follow on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, ending after the 4pm Mass. With regard to planning activities, Father Erik suggested that members google "24 Hours of Mercy" to see what other churches are planning and get some ideas.

**Parish Life Commission:**

Father Erik said that the Newcomers Reception has been canceled for now. After new members are elected to this Commission, then this event, as well as others, will be reevaluated.

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**Social Concerns Commission:**

LuAnne Seay reported for the Social Concerns Commission. The Angel Tree was very successful as well as the Thanksgiving and Christmas food drive. LuAnne mentioned that Social Concerns will be utilizing a scoring system for how grant application recipients are awarded.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business.

**New Business:**

Father Erik talked about Pastor Ben Parkinson, Fellowship Bible Church, coming to Holy Souls on April 12<sup>th</sup> and presenting a talk about "A Personal Relationship with Jesus". In turn, Father Erik will present another talk on April 13<sup>th</sup> "Why Do We Still Need To Belong To a Church?"

Father Erik discussed different ideas for having a pilgrimage to the "Holy Door" at Good Counsel. Possibly the idea of walking to Good Counsel was mentioned and how to accomplish this.

**Pastoral Comments:**

No pastoral comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

***The next Parish Council meeting will be February 23, 2016, 6:00 p.m. Parish Hall.***

Respectfully submitted,

Edna de Noble  
Recording Secretary