

*Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church*  
*Minutes of Parish Council Meeting – May 16, 2016*

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**In attendance:** Fr. Ron Sajdak, Fr. Mark Itua, Fr. Daniel Ogbeifun, Deacon Tom Friedman, Margaret Cusack, Kevin Dean, Rob Fohl, Michele Mogavero, Bob Poczik, Jeff Schoenborn, Amy Vosson Vukelic, John Wilde, Fred Zazycki

**Excused:** Catherine Friedman, Jerry Sentz

**Guests:** Lee Grunert, Dennis Mahaney, ChurchGROWTH conference attendees, as well as a number of parishioners.

1. Meeting opened with prayer and a light supper.
2. Review of Parish Survey Results – Jeff introduced Lee Grunert of Focused Marketing Associates to review survey results. Lee presented the highpoints of the survey. 800 surveys were completed (of 2300 families).
  - a. Transition to the new pastoral staff has been well received.
  - b. Attributes of parish: homogeneous parish, multigenerational (average age 58), 2/3 don't have children at home, highly educated (2/3 have bachelors or graduate degrees), majority live in Clarence. Welcoming, friendly parish.
  - c. Satisfaction was high of parish. Parish finances rated highly. People, even when did not have children, thought it was important to have a school and support it. (75% believe that Catholic education is important.
  - d. Weekend masses rated positively, including music, homilies.
  - e. Language (accents) not a problem for the youth, some difficulty for elderly. Sound system and placement of speakers part of the problem.
  - f. Parish is warm and friendly, open, family oriented, open to reaching out to others.
  - g. Most get their information from the bulletin. About half are open to electronic communication.
  - h. Opportunity to get people more engaged in their faith. About 30% have a personal involvement in their faith (prayer, reading scripture, study) outside of Mass on a daily basis.
3. Report from the ChurchGROWTH conference participants with Dennis Mahaney as Guest
  - a. Dennis Mahaney commented on evangelization. We need to be a church as much about sending as we are about gathering. Need to think about the purpose of a parish.
  - b. John noted that 22 people attended the ChurchGROWTH conference. Growth is not about numbers, but about individual spiritual growth which leads to reaching out to others. Meghan Rogers, while sharing an experience she had at the conference, noted that it struck her when she heard that we are happiest and most joyful when we utilize the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.
  - c. Further discussion on this topic at future meetings.
4. The meeting closed with prayer.

Next meeting: Monday, June 20. Future meetings: July 18, August 15. Meetings take place in the Msgr. Paa Center at 7:00 PM.

MJD 6/18/16