

## **EPIPHANY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**April 14, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Conneran, Fr. Thomas Dufner, Jane Fabozzi, Joeleen Famoso, Miles Kennedy, Mike Kraft, Paul Lindemann, Wendy Mueller, Jean Phillippi, Colette Selby, Jay Tomaszewski**

The minutes of the March Council meeting were approved as written. There were no participants in Open Mic this evening.

### **Guest Presentation – Pro Family Forum ([profamilyforum.org](http://profamilyforum.org))**

Kevin Petersen of Pro Family Forum provided information to the Council on heterosexual affirming therapy. He shared that being gay is a self-chosen identity and not everyone with same-sex attraction (SSA) identifies themselves as gay. He shared his personal life story. For years he declared himself as gay but with therapy and help, he changed his lifestyle and is now happily married.

Change therapy is not for everyone, but can be affective for those who choose it. There are trained, licensed therapists who can provide psychological services for a wide variety of issues, including unwanted SSA. There are politicians who are being influenced by gay activists to outlaw this therapy because they don't want people to consider living heterosexual lives if they have SSA. New Jersey has already outlawed change therapy for children, and the President has called for an end to so called 'conversion' therapy.

Kevin is committed to helping make this information available to the public, and is sponsoring informational billboards. Fr. Dufner told the Council that the information is consistent with church teaching.

We need to share the following facts:

1. Having SSA, regardless of its origins doesn't mean one has to live a gay lifestyle.
2. Change or Reparative Therapy is for people with unwanted SSA, and is not so called 'conversion therapy', which isn't always practiced by licensed professionals and isn't promoted by Pro Family Forum. Activists intentionally refer to all change therapy as Conversion Therapy so the life-saving work of professionals can be discredited.
3. The church says changing your sexual orientation is not necessary, but we are all called to a life of virtue and chastity.

Mike Kraft asked the Council members to reflect on this information and a discussion will be placed on the May agenda concerning this subject.

### **Commission Focus – Finance**

Miles Kennedy presented a report on the purpose and scope of the Parish Finance Council. They are a mandated body that has an advisory and consultative role with the pastor of the parish. They must observe both canon and civil law in sound management of the temporal goods of the parish. Some of the specific responsibilities are:

- Study budget requests

- Submit a balanced budget

- Review financial reports on a regular basis

- Review maintenance and utility costs

- Oversee parish investments

- Provide advice as to the management of parish funds and banking arrangements

- Evaluate compliance with diocesan fiscal policies

- Review fundraising activities to assess the effectiveness of them

The Finance Council is comprised of 7 to 9 members who serve three year terms with the possibility of two additional consecutive terms. Members should have expertise in management and/or finance and able to attend the majority of meetings.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

#### Faith Formation

A job has been posted for a summer internship. Summer registration has begun with 45 youth signed up for VBS, 3 for the Summer Stretch, 33 for the Extreme Faith Camp and 1 for the Mission Steubenville Conference. Family Fun Night will be held after the 5:30 Mass on April 18. The theme is a beach party. First Communions will be held in two weeks and Confirmation is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**The May Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 pm.**