

# St. Olav Catholic Church Parish Council Meeting Minutes, 30 January, 2019

## In attendance:

Egil Mogstad, Maria Fe Sæther, Theodor With, Marc Dhainaut, Dominika Kowalczyk, Klaus Andersen

Maria Selmer-Olsen participated under item 02/19.

## Absent:

Unn Madsø, Slawomir Czuba, Beata Turek

## **Item 01/19: Approval of summons and agendas.**

Summons and agendas were approved.

## **Item 02/19: The participation of children in High Masses.**

### Background:

It seems that the reasons for giving a liturgy of the word for children during high masses are little known in our parish. The Bishop has established guidelines for this liturgy, where he among other things says: *"The Mass is the centre in the life of the whole Church and in the life of each believer. This applies to all the baptized, including children. The participation in the Mass is a central part of their faith education, and of their growth in faith. Children have their own specific capacities, which are different from those of adults, and should be paid due attention."*

The catechists in the parish have in cooperation with the parish priest established guidelines for the practical implementation of the liturgy for children in our parish.

### Recommendation:

It is a concern for the entire parish that children are integrated into the celebration of the Mass in a good way.

- The Bishop's guidelines for the liturgy of the word for children (and their background) must be made better known in our parish, e.g. by publishing them on the board in the parish centre, or by distribution of folder.
- Once a month, a child/ family Mass should be held, preferably in the high Mass on Sundays.
- The parish priest should announce the start of the children's liturgy in the Mass.
- Bibles for children should be purchased, and lent out during Mass (the purchase of image books containing religious subject matter has already been recommended by the parish council in item 17/18).
- The church hosts could be asked to distribute bibles and other books to families with small children, and make sure they are being returned after use.
- The importance of the work that the catechists are doing to accommodate children in the Mass should be highlighted on appropriate occasions.
- The parish priest should be a driving force in the work for understanding of, and increased tolerance for, child behaviour during Mass, e. g. by announcements to the parish.
- Teaching lessons for parents while their children are having first communion catechesis should be offered.

Possible changes in the practical implementation of the liturgy for children should be discussed with the catechists before they are introduced.

## **Item 40/18: Accounts for 2017.**

### Background:

The parish council is also the finance council of our parish. According to the statutes laid down by the Bishop the council is asked to undertake an internal approval of the parish accounts. The accounts are to be examined by an auditor before they are reviewed and approved by the parish council. The council has been advised that DeLoitte is not our auditor.

### Recommendation:

The parish funds mainly come from public allowances. Accounting should be undertaken according to ordinary accounting practises, and the same requirements to transparency and impartiality should apply in St Olav parish as in the civil society in general.

The accounts for 2017 will be reviewed again in the next meeting of the parish council.

The parish council thinks that the financial officer of the prelature (who as a rule is also the auditor of the parishes) and the parish accountant cannot be the same person, and asks for clarity regarding the question of who is in effect our auditor.

## **Item 03/19: Recommendations from Deloitte regarding the economy in St Olav Parish**

### Background

Deloitte has been used as consultants, and has reviewed parts of the accounts for 2017. According to an agreement with the parish they have performed some controls, and recommended routine changes regarding traceability for collections, and for trading with close relations, among other things.

### Recommendation:

The parish council would like to have a comment on the improvement proposals launched by Deloitte when the accounts for 2017 are put forward for a new review.

## **Item 04/19: Any other item.**

No items.

Minutes by Klaus Andersen

Egil Mogstad  
Sign.

Maria Fe Sæther  
Sign.

Dominika Kowalczyk  
Sign.

Klaus Andersen  
Sign.

Theodor With  
Sign.

Marc Dhainaut  
Sign.

