

Parish Council Minutes – 15 April 2023

Attendance: Fr. Eickhoff, Fr. Jirovsky, Mike Weiss, Barb Chall, Mary Egler, Travis Haberman, Chris Lautenschlager, Bob Sullivan, Steve Sladky

Opening Prayer: Fr. Eickhoff

The minutes for the 11 March meeting were reviewed. Two changes were recommended for the minutes. Under the Stewardship Committee report, identify Chris Lautenschlager as contacting Fred M. Under the New Business discussion of the church kitchen shared use, identify the organizations that the members represented. Barb Chall made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Bob Sullivan seconded the motion. Minutes were approved with the two amendments.

Pastor's Updates:

- the new priest assignments have been published. Fr. Schwenka has been reassigned. Fr. Johnson has been assigned as the new assistant. The priest transfer date is 19 June. The plan is to have a send-off gathering for Fr. Schwenka on 17-18 June and a welcome gathering for Fr. Johnson on 24-25 June.
- acolytes were sent out to South Haven, Saunders Medical Center Long Term Care, and the home bound on Easter Sunday. The plan is to start scheduling 3 acolytes on Sundays due to the home bound list having more parishioners sign up.
- Bobby F and Jancye C were welcomed into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Pastor's Financial Report:

- council members were provided with the current parish financial reports. The parish financial status was reviewed. Council members reviewed the tithing for this year compared to this time last year.
- council members were provided the recent Mass Census Data report that was provided to the Diocese. The items on the Mass Census Data report were reviewed. Council members reviewed the property conditions of the parish assets. Council members discussed parishioner registration and database updates to ensure current contact information, the schedule to have the new HVAC unit for the church installed, and the need for an additional hot water source in the church kitchen.

Committee Reports:

- Stewardship/Evangelization** – council members discussed the future plan for the parish website. A suggestion was made to video the presentation by Scott W on “Our Lady of Guadalupe” to place on the parish website. The presentation is scheduled for Sunday, 23 April.
- the committee is working to zone the parish and then designate parishioner representatives in each zone who could provide assistance to parishioners in their zone who request help.
- council members discussed ways to get parishioner demographics updated when changes occur, either using a paper form or a possible QA code. Who would enter or update the changes was also discussed.
- the plan is to hold a parish fair on the weekend of 3-4 June to get the word out on the parish ministries and organizations available and to give parishioners the opportunity to sign up to join a ministry or organization. The Parish Ministries and Organizations pamphlet has been updated.

Building, Maintenance & Safety – Women's basement bathroom – the drywall has been hung, mudded, sanded, and painted. A second coat of paint will be applied. Tim M will be installing the suspended ceiling.

-Knights of Columbus and church kitchen – still waiting for the delivery of the new fryer. The rest of the appliances have been installed. Council members discussed the idea of adding a convection oven to replace the gas oven. Council members discussed who could oversee the

cleaning of the kitchen to ensure it has been cleaned after being used. It was suggested to have Raleen V check it regularly and after it has been used. Council members discussed another meeting of the representatives of the parish groups that use the kitchen to meet to update the kitchen use rules.

Church bell – the Verdin Bell Company suggested that we also replace the bell hammer after they had a closer look at the bell parts at their shop in Cincinnati. The bell hammer replacement will add approximately \$3000 to the cost of the bell repairs.

-Choir loft and choir stairs carpet – after the choir loft structural condition has been checked, the new choir loft and choir stairs carpet will be installed.

Education – the Neumann High School Advisory Board met on Wednesday, 12 April. The schedule for the 2023-2024 school year was discussed.

The next St. Wenceslaus Catholic School Advisory Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 19 April 2023. The next Neumann High School Advisory Board meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, 21 June 2023.

Finance – the next finance committee meeting is scheduled for 1 May.

OLD BUSINESS:

School Update – teachers and staff departing at the end of the school year are: Dave B, Amy R, Jeanne H (PE), and Pam T. The following staff has been hired for the next school year: Megan K – PE and Title I; Luke W – 5th grade; Kelly T – 6th grade. The resource teacher position is still open and applications are being reviewed.

St. Michael's hymnal – Jacqueline K will lead a youth choir to sing for the Confirmation Mass. Want to have a meeting with the choir leaders quarterly to discuss music selection and the introduction of new music.

Men's Ministry – have talked to the Knights of Columbus and shared some ideas for future plans.

Town Hall meetings follow up – the tentative date is Sunday, 22 October.

Totus Tuus – a suggestion was made to possibly increase the cost for students from outside the parish who attend Totus Tuus at St. Wenceslaus this summer due to the increased program costs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Council elections – council members discussed the timeline for elections. Bob Sullivan made a motion to have candidate nominations submitted in January 2024 to elect 2 new members in February 2024 to get back on schedule for council elections. Chris Lautenschlager seconded the motion. All were in favor.

New ministry proposal: Communications and Promotion – Bob Sullivan has drafted a job description for a position of Communications and Promotion in the parish to operate under the Stewardship Committee. Subcommittee members mentioned were Gene C, Fred M, Amy H, Ryan M, Bob S, Carmen S, Pat B, and Scott W.

Parish Council Retreat Day – council members discussed a council retreat day that would begin with Prayer and then be used to discuss where the parish has been over the last year and where we want the parish to go in the coming year, to discuss the Communications and Promotion position and how it would fit into the parish, and to update the Parish Council By-Laws. The Parish Council Retreat Day is scheduled for Wednesday, 17 May, from 5:30pm to 9:00pm in the church. A suggestion was made to have the assistant pastor attend the parish council meetings after the new assistant arrives.

Next Meeting: 13 May 2023 at 6:30am

Closing Prayer: Fr. Jirovsky

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Sladky