

Minutes of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

15 October 2015

Parish Council members present: Fr. Cole, Deacon Tom Daw, Chad Grude, Tracy Leverknight, Maria Mutnansky, Cindy Sanders, Jack Secrist, Carrol Wilhelm

Absent: Kathy Gulish (secretary), Connie Loflin

1. The formation prayer was led by Tracy Leverknight at 7 P.M. Cindy Sanders took the meeting minutes.
2. Guest Rachel Bucholz, the Sacred Heart Youth Group leader, presented information and ideas about the Youth Group. She had met earlier in the day with Deacon Daw and Tom Theado, the Youth Group leader at St. Joseph Church in Amherst, to share ideas. The following was noted:
 - a. Rachel sends email messages to group members and their parents regarding meeting times, plus posts the schedule information in the Bulletin.
 - b. She has asked group members what type of events they would like to participate in, and has incorporated their ideas in her plans. Events are scheduled through 16 January 2016. On 25 October, the participants will make rosaries and hold a Halloween fellowship.
 - c. Teens from freshman to high school graduate are eligible to participate. There are currently 14 teens who meet that criterion. The smallest meeting has had one attendee, with the normal attendance being two.
 - d. Discussion ensued about ways to increase participation. One idea was to have the teens teach Confirmation classes. Rachel will discuss this further with Chuck and Tracy Leverknight and Anne Linden. Another idea was to have collection envelopes for teens wherein they could submit information on services they have performed. Additional ideas included having a teen-led Mass, at which the Youth Group members would function as lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, servers, etc., and perhaps having the group host a coffee hour.
 - e. After her presentation, Rachel departed.
3. The September meeting minutes were approved as modified, revising the names of those who provided committee reports.
4. Pastor's Report: Fr. Cole reported that the St. Pauly clothing donation shed had been in operations for a week. The required sidewalk in front of the old rectory has been started and

reseeding begun. Trenches were required at the new rectory for the gas line, phone, and cable.

5. Old Business:

- a. Cindy provided information about the new Parish Council member selection process. Parishioners interested in serving were invited to remain after Mass on the previous weekend. From this, and by direct contact, seven candidates have expressed interest in serving. Cindy had drafted a letter and updated questionnaire to be sent to these candidates from Fr. Cole. He will review and update, as desired, and send to the candidates. Responses will be due prior to next month's Parish Council meeting, at which time current Council members will discuss, pray, discern, and then note their choices for the two available positions by anonymous ballot.
- b. Cindy led a discussion about potential additional ministries that might be offered at Sacred Heart, based on a review of the list of ministries previously provided by Carrol Wilhelm. Possibilities included a Parish Nurse Program (Tracy will discuss with nurse Doris Wald), Vacation Bible School (Cindy will discuss with a possible leader), a Welcome Ministry to greet and meet with new parishioners, posting photographs of baptism recipients and parishioners or family members who are U.S. Armed Forces service members, having additional servers for funerals, and having a list of possible mentors who could share information on their experiences (surgeries, medical treatments, giving birth, dealing with grief, etc.).
- c. The idea of having a ministry retreat and/or ministry fair was discussed. Cindy had drafted a potential letter and form that might be sent to current ministries in order to update existing ministry information. Fr. Cole will consider this further.
- d. Fr. Cole will ask Michael Todhunter if he would be interested in being the youth representative on Parish Council.

6. Reports from committees/commissions:

- a. Finance Council: Fr. Cole reported that the next meeting is scheduled for 03 December. As already noted, additional funds had to be expended to provide the required trenches.
- b. Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN): Cindy reported the dates for hosting are as previously scheduled.
- c. Parish School of Religion: Chad stated there are 57 PSR students, not including the 8th grade Confirmands. The youth made rosaries that will be blessed on 18 October, prior to Mass.

- d. Peace and Justice: Jack reported that there was no meeting that month. There will be a retreat led by Sr. Mary Ann Flannery on 23 October.
- e. Social Programming: Maria reported the Pig Roast was a success, with 82 attendees. 12 Family Promise participants were provided meals, as well as 6 shut-ins. Leftovers will be used for a fund-raiser for Family Promise. The next event scheduled is the Clam Bake; 27 tickets have been sold to-date.
- f. Sunshine Committee: Jack reported cards go to parishioners as information on situations is received.
- g. Spiritual Life: Chad stated he will attend the next meeting, scheduled for 22 October at 7 P.M.

7. New Business:

- a. Deacon Tom noted the need for transportation, both for a current shut-in, and for Mass attendees, such as college students. It was agreed that information on available drivers could be posted in the Sacristy. Deacon Tom also reported we have two new sacristans and five new servers.
- b. The Parish Council gathering in December may be held on 10 December, due to scheduling conflicts. This is the annual Christmas gathering that welcomes new Council members and bids farewell to those whose terms are ending.
- c. Fr. Cole reported that the Bishop will bless the church at the Saturday evening Mass on 07 November.
- d. Maria asked about the use of the old playground equipment, now located on the adjacent Family Promise property. Fr. Cole stated that Sacred Heart children may use this equipment.

8. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 P.M. The next meeting will be held on 15 November at 7 P.M. In the Education Building.