

Minutes of Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

January 16, 2015

Parish Council: Fr. Robert Cole, Deacon Thomas Daw, Chad Grude, Carrie Kubicki, Tracy Leverknight, Connie Loflin, Maria Mutnansky, Cindy Sanders, Jack Secrist, Carrol Wilhelm
Kathy Gulish (secretary)

Absent: Deacon Tom, Carrie Kubicki

Tracy led the formation at the beginning of the meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes from the November meeting were approved as submitted.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

a. Update on sale of rectory, bid award, architectural drawings, construction schedule:

At the December holiday gathering of Council, Father Cole had given a synopsis of the progress with the sale of the rectory and construction plans. At that time, construction plans had been put out for bid, but the bids that were received were all in excess of the amount budgeted for construction. Those who had submitted bids were given the option to redesign or redraw the plans, keeping within the parameters of our basic requirements, to attempt to bring down the construction costs to an amount that would be affordable. Bob Schmitt Homes submitted new plans and a new bid of \$398,000, which was slightly under the amount we had budgeted.

The paperwork was then sent to Bishop Lenin, and he was also apprised of the details of Family Promise's desire to purchase the current rectory. The Bishop has given his approval for the sale and for construction, and it is now in the hands of the diocese's legal office to work out the sales agreement with Family Promise and the construction agreement with Bob Schmitt Homes.

Father Cole has met with the builder to select trim, carpeting, siding, etc. and will continue to meet as needed to make additional decisions. The construction price of \$398,000 included a certain number of upgrades, and Father Cole felt that it might be possible to lower the cost even more if we were to forgo some of the upgrades. Father Cole commented that since many of the products are already high quality, upgrades may not be necessary. Additionally, there are still some minor tweaks to the floor plans. The final construction cost is dependent on the outcome of these decisions but once made, we will submit that number to the diocesan legal office to draw up the contract. The contract must be signed before the actual construction drawings can be done.

Family Promise is still the prospective buyer for the current rectory. They have offered to allow Father to continue to live in the rectory while construction is proceeding and to allow us to run the parish office out of the rectory. The changes that had to be made to the sewer and electric due to the pending sale are finished. We will still have to cut off the driveway from the current rectory to the main drive to the church, and we will have to put in a sidewalk in front of the rectory.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Discussion of the book Rebuilt

Father Cole and Cindy reviewed what had led Council to read the book, with the idea that there might be some points that could be applied in our own parish. Council has had a preliminary discussion of the book with members sharing their thoughts on the content. Cindy

asked the new members of Council to also read the book. Although Spiritual Life Committee and Parish Council have both read the book, Father clarified that each entity would have read the book with a different focus. Father expressed that he would like to develop some sort of mission statement that would define what we are as a parish, what our purpose is, and give some direction for our various parish groups to act as a unit with a common purpose. One observation that was made was that the various groups in our parish do not seem to be connected and that might be something to work on – to build the unity of the groups within the parish and make them more cohesive.

b. Focus on food and supplies

Council had discussed previously establishing a focus on making sure that our food pantry is always full. One proposal had been to put out bags for people to take home, fill, and then return them to church. Although the food pantry was full prior to Christmas, it is now a bit low so members felt that this still should be a project for Council. Cindy and Kathy will check on the cost of bulk canvas-type bags that could be made available to parishioners to fill for the food pantry. Jack suggested making paper bags available for a couple months to see how successful it would be and then proceeding to something more permanent.

c. Ministries Pamphlet

Cindy passed out the finalized Ministries Pamphlet with the current contact people. Hopefully the basic pamphlet will remain usable in the future and only the insert with the contact names will need to be changed. Father will pass out the pamphlets to new parishioners as they register.

NEW BUSINESS:

a Orientation for new members

Cindy passed out the calendar of annual events to familiarize the new members with those things we do on a regular basis. New members were also given a copy of Parish Council by-laws. Cindy distributed copies of a portion of a diocesan book that dealt with the purpose of parish councils and both Father and Cindy talked about the role of Parish Council. On a side note, Father commented that parishioners seemed to be reluctant to tell him about small issues, such as no cups in the restrooms. Father Cole encouraged parishioners to let him know about things like that and he will try to rectify the situation. Council also shared a few suggestions with Father for solving this issue.

b. Selection of liaisons to the committees

Committee liaisons for 2015 are as follows:

Finance Council – Father Cole

IHN – Connie Loflin

PSR – Chad Grude

Peace and Justice Committee – Jack Secrist

Social Programming – Maria Mutnansky

Spiritual Life – Chad Grude

Sunshine Committee – Jack Secrist

Youth Group – Carrie Kubicki

c. Nominations for Council Chair and Vice Chair for 2015

Cindy Sanders was nominated and elected to the position of Council Chairperson

Tracy Leverknight was nominated and elected to the position of Council Vice

Chairperson

d. Election process

Cindy expressed that she feels that our current election process is cumbersome and wondered if there may be a better way to come up with the list of nominees for the Parish Council election. Cindy shared a process that she had learned about in which nominations were done in a more open manner during Mass. Council members were encouraged to talk to people in other parishes to find out how they conduct elections and to try to come up with some suggestions for alternate ways of creating the list of nominees.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

(Since new liaisons were just appointed, Cindy had collected reports from several of the commissions. Also, Tracy and Kathy reported on Youth Group as Carrie was absent.)

1. Finance: (Fr. Cole)

The next meeting will be Feb. 12, and by that time, hopefully we will know what progress has been made by the diocesan office on the construction contract and the sale of the rectory.

2. IHN: (Connie)

The IHN dates for 2015 are the weeks of July 5, August 23, and November 22. We also need to pick one more week for 2015, and the possible dates are the weeks of Feb. 8, May 24, June 28, and Dec. 20. Sue Kubicki relayed the information that it would not be the week in May as we could not get a good support base of volunteers due to Oberlin graduations.

Sue Kubicki also relayed the information that the family that Sacred Heart adopted received the gifts on their lists. The gifts were purchased, along with gift cards, and delivered to the center.

We were scheduled to host IHN the week of Christmas, 2014, but the families all found housing right before Christmas. Therefore, although we were prepared to host, there were no families at Sacred Heart during the Christmas week.

3. PSR: (Chad)

After a two week holiday break, PSR was back in full swing. Preparation for First Reconciliation has begun, and we have another 2nd grade student, bringing the class total to 4. In December, we received notice that the PSR media grant Anne Linden had applied for was awarded from the Rooted in Faith grants in the amount of \$1500. A new wide screen TV and dvd/blue ray player have been purchased. A projector is also being purchased. Anne commented that these items will benefit the whole parish and the programs we offer.

4. Peace and Justice Committee: (Jack)

Peace and Justice discussed a Mass intention for Gil Miranda. It has already been scheduled for March 22 and members of Peace and Justice will present the gifts.

There will be a fundraiser dinner for SEPA on Feb. 14 at First Church. There will be 120 tickets available.

Diane Vruels and Sue Palmieri will update P&J stations.

Peace and Justice will be discussing the book Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life. The discussion sessions will begin Jan. 29 and run through April 23. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to hold the sessions at 11:00 am, for an hour or so. However, they did not rule out the possibility of holding the book discussions during evening hours at future times.

Lorain County Catholic Action Commission will hold a retreat Jan. 24 at the Oberlin Train Depot from 8:30 to 1:00. Mary Grigolia will facilitate the retreat. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

5. Social Programming: (Maria)

Fish fries have been scheduled for March 20 and March 27. Sue Kubicki relayed that they would like to do about 4 fish fries during Lent, 2016. They would also like to schedule a weeknight fried chicken dinner or spaghetti dinner for 2015.

6. Spiritual Life: (Chad)

Spiritual Life met on Dec. 4th and continued their discussion of Forming Intentional Disciples. Members of Spiritual Life had attended a diocesan sponsored presentation on this book on Nov. 18th. One point that Eric Carpenter felt was made was that there is a need to intentionally shape the atmosphere, experiences, structures, and spiritual culture of a parish. The Parish Mission was planned for Sunday, Feb. 22 and Monday, Feb. 23 with Father Mark Ott.

Spiritual Life acted on a suggestion from one of their members to obtain and distribute copies of Matthew Kelly's book Rediscover Catholicism at Christmas Mass. Eric reported that 150 copies had been distributed, and preliminary feedback thus far had been encouraging.

7. Sunshine Committee: (Jack)

During 2014, 60 cards were sent out. There were 23 Thinking of You cards, 21 Sympathy cards, 12 Get Well cards, 2 Welcome cards, 1 Congratulations card, and 1 Birthday card.

8. Youth Group: (Carrie)

Members of Youth Group helped deliver Christmas gifts to Welcome Nursing Home. Since they were not able to distribute the gifts directly to the residents as the residents were still at lunch, several youth group members, parents, advisor Rachel, and Joe McCormick enjoyed some impromptu fellowship at Lorenzo's Pizza.

Youth group has begun to meet twice a month. During one of their meetings, they worked on making fleece blankets.

The next meeting of Parish Pastoral Council will be Feb. 19 at 7:00 pm in the education building.

Formation Prayer: Jack