

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2015

ATTENDANCE: Fr. Wojciech Pelczarski, Kathy Perlitz, Dorli and Lou Cloutier, Bonnie Benevides, Sharon Snuffer, and Patti Cinea.

The meeting opened at 7:05 pm. The following was discussed:

1. Minutes of September's meeting were reviewed and accepted.
2. **Communication:** In an effort to present the minutes of the Council to parishioners in a timelier manner, it is desired that it will be written, distributed by email, read, corrected, revised, and finalized. Distribution to the parish will be before the next meeting date. Two weeks is doable for the secretary. A basket and sign directing food collection for the **No Kids Hungry Program** will be added to the NW vestibule.
3. **Youth Faith Formation:** Two new families have registered. There is a total of 36 youth registered currently for the program. Twelve youth and 3 adult chaperones attended the annual Diocesan Youth Explosion on October 4th. They joined the 3 other parishes of St. Bernard's, St. Matthew's, and St. Mary's in a joint bus ride to this event. The youth well enjoyed the experience.
4. **Adult Faith Formation:** Four parishioners attended Dr. Scott Hahn's presentation at the Cathedral on October 10th. He focused on the New Evangelization and stressed that conversion is daily opening up our hearts to God and others. It is life long and that religion is not a private matter. He offered these statistics: if fathers attend weekly Mass with the family, there is a 60% chance that the children will continue to attend Mass into adulthood. Even if the mother is devout, and takes her children faithfully to Mass, if the father does not attend, then there is only a 1/5 chance the children will continue to attend into adulthood. There is a change of event in November. Brother Glen Breed, M.S.A. needs to reschedule his presentation. However, Fr. Skip Thompson, M.S.A. has agreed to come to our parish for a presentation on Friday, Nov. 13th. Topic: "God or Nothing". It is a combined faith formation experience, being oriented to both youth high school age and adults. Due to the **Jubilee Year of Mercy** beginning Dec. 8th, the book reading has been changed to newly released, ***The Second Greatest Story Ever Told***. It is focused on God's Divine Mercy.
5. **Property Management:** Ron contacted the company that remediated the cracks on the asphalt parking pavement. Action pending. Lou will follow up. The dead tree located on cemetery side parking lot will be removed shortly. The roof overhang area over the NW church portico will need future attention as water run-off cause's ground erosion plus freezing onto sidewalk in winter. The classroom floors in the Parish Center will be stripped and waxed during week of Thanksgiving. Don submitted 3 estimates for repair to the organ pedal.
6. **Boy/Cub Scouts:** Their proof of insurance has been renewed. It is not based on the academic year and will need renewal before March 1st.
7. **Mass attendance:** Some decrease. Attendance is being tracked by ushers during the month of October. This winter the Sanctuary thermostat will be raised to 62 degrees. Marketing for November's combined faith formation event will include advertisement via local newspapers, contacting local deanery parishes, and WJMJ Catholic radio. Please contact older parishioners who you have not noticed in Mass. If transportation is an issue, consider offering a ride. If there is a need to bring Holy Communion to the home, encourage contacting Fr. Wojciech or Patti.
8. **Tabernacle:** Work to relocate to behind the altar will begin in November. Steps will need to be added to elevate the height of the Tabernacle above the height of a priest for visibility. In its current place a suggestion was to place the Baptismal font. Information will be inserted into the bulletin.
9. **Sleigh Bells Ring Christmas Fair:** \$50 has been paid to the Town to secure overflow parking at Herrick Park. We need help during the week of the Fair for set-up; day of Fair to staff the booths; plus help with moving in crafters both before and after the Fair. This is our biggest fundraiser for the parish with income supporting both community need and parish projects. This helps to avoid using ordinary income for extraordinary expenses.
10. **Ministries:** We are in urgent need of more ushers and altar servers. There are 2 servers both for the Vigil and 7:30 am Masses, and 5 servers at the 10 am. No date yet set for altar server training. Tentatively set for November. Fr. Wojciech will explain the role of servers during faith formation classes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. Next meeting, Tuesday, November 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

