



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**  
**CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Parish Council Minutes**  
**May 16, 2017**  
**6:00pm**

In Attendance:

**Staff:** Msgr. David LeSieur-Pastor, Fr. Stephen Gadberry-Associate Pastor, Dc Ronnie Hoyt-Parish Manager, Tom DeRose-Facilities Manager, Sandra Kugler-Director of Finance & Admin., Karen Peters-Adult Formation Coordinator, Suzie Perry-Liturgy Coordinator, Karla Thielemier, Parish School Principal

**Members-At-Large:** Kerry Laman, Tiburcio Duran, Fernando Serrano, Pete Metzger

**Commission Chair:** Annette Echevarria-L&W, Ken Hunter-Formation, Lorenzo Salas-Formation, Sheila Pursell-Social Outreach (Secretary), Jeff Snyder-F&A

In the absence of Ryan and Tony, Kerry ran the meeting.

Kerry and Msgr. David opened with prayer at 6:05pm

Minutes from last meeting approved electronically.

President Ryan James was unable to attend due to a high school scholarship award ceremony for his daughter. It was noted both Rogers and Heritage high schools highest GPA award winners were graduates of SVdP School.

Dc Ronnie announced that Tony Hansmann has stepped down as Parish Council Vice President and Kerry Laman unanimously approved as the new vice president.

**Open**

Karla Thielemier, Parish School Principal, asked for approval for fence around the school. We will be losing one parking space but will also create a safer environment for children. East fence is to basketball post and it will restrict cars in crossing area for children and will contain a roll back gate. During school hours gates will be locked. Locks will be open during Masses and anytime school is not in session. Locks will be key locks. The fence will make it easier to monitor where the children are on the playground as some children have wandered off. It will also prevent unauthorized persons from picking up children and keep strangers from coming on campus. The gate will lock open and shut. Recommendation was given by the parish council to invest in good quality gates and locks as the gates should be easily moved by the smallest of staff/volunteers and locks should last. Any and all entrances to the school will be through main door by the office.

Cost of fence is approximately \$22,000 and money was raised at the Tapas N Tinis event. Fence will be complete before the beginning of the new school year. Council voted 9-1 in favor of fence. One voice of dissent due to concern that the fence does not welcome people in the neighborhood to use the grounds for a park as was the original intent for the area.

## **School**

SVdP has 66 new students enrolled for the 2017-18 school year. Several students took a Mission trip to Appalachia. NWA Science and Engineering Fair resulted in many awards for the middle school.

## **Ozark Catholic Academy**

John Rocha – Updates on new High School Ozark Catholic: John is the founding Head of School. Still on track to opening Fall 2018. Will open regardless of the number of students but are estimating 50 in year one (with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades) and 200 by year 3 (with the addition of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades). School is planned to be housed at St. Joseph in Tontitown for the first 5 years. Currently working on lease and will submit to Bishop for approval.

John held two panel discussions with Principals at SVdP and St. Joseph. Sixty-five attended in total. He has interviewed faculty for school.

Fundraising, Culture, Vision: Recruit families not students. Parents first, faculty supports parents and then students. Goal to raise \$500,000 by August 2017 for administrative personnel, facility rent, plus marketing and development materials. Another \$500,000 raised by January 1, 2018, will enable the hiring of the opening staff, facility rent, books and materials, and continued marketing and development. Fundraising Plan: Seeking support from individuals. Tuition estimate is \$9,000 per year.

## **Finance & Administration**

For the month of April, expenses are approximately \$6,000 less than budget amount and net income \$11,000 over budget.

Festival Grants: Only 3 applications received for the May distribution. Net amount from Parish Festival is divided in half (1/2 in November and 1/2 in May). Tithe was given back to the parish, 5% to the maintenance reserve fund and 15% to social outreach (Mercy project: monument for the miscarried babies buried at the SVdP Cemetery). Funds were awarded to: \$500 PSR for religious books, \$1,900 for baby changing tables throughout our campus, \$500 Mothers Growing in Faith for program materials, and the remaining \$3,573 unrequested funds was donated to the SVdP School scholarship fund.

The parish owes 592,000 to diocese on current church building loan. Motion was presented by F&A to prepay ten months of additional principal in June, which will leave twelve months of payments on the loan. The council voted unanimously to accelerate payments on debt.

Building Committee - Bishop has approved hiring of architect. Don Span and Kevin Carter will co-chair the building committee consisting of eleven members. They plan to give first submittal of plans on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to the bishop. Project could be between 3 to 5 million dollars depending on what parish is willing to support. Rob Brothers is the fundraising committee chairperson.

## **Formation**

Karen Peters stated that approximately 560 young people received the sacraments over Easter. Bishop reported this was the largest confirmation Mass he has celebrated. There is always a need for more catechists.

During Lent, PSR students raised over \$2,200 and Life Teen students over \$700 for our Haiti ministry.

Ozark Catholic Conference: Karen challenged all parish council members to invite 10 people to attend the event. Sherry Weddell, author of *Forming Intentional Disciples* for English and Jesse Romero for Spanish will be the speakers. Cost has been reduced to only \$25 per person so that more people have the financial ability to attend. Approximately 650 people needed to attend to break even.

Tiburcio said he will make regular announcement on the Sunday weekly Spanish radio station.

## **Liturgy and Worship**

Seven priests were present for reconciliation service from 4pm – 7:30pm, prior to First Eucharist and Confirmation weekend. Confirmation celebrations were held Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and First Communion at all the weekend Masses May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Celebration for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fatima on May 13<sup>th</sup> with a special blessing of the Fatima statue.

## **Parish Life**

Jerry Kihn has graciously volunteered once again to head up our annual parish festival scheduled for Sunday, September 24.

Hospitality after Mass will be held June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for Fr. Stephen's farewell to the parish.

## **Social Outreach**

Caregivers Ministry: No meetings during the months of July and August.

Food Pantry: 2,120 families served. Due to Mercy Hospital and Wal-Mart provided generous food donations food costs were lower in Feb \$1,629 & April \$1,500. Normal food costs is \$2500 – \$3,000 per month. Thanks to donations only spent about \$250 this month for additional food.

SVdP Society: Seeking more members. They continue to visit an average of 8 English homes and 2 Spanish homes per week. Walk for the Poor is scheduled for the Saturday before the weekend parish festival.

Helping Hands: Next service days is Saturday, July 8th 12pm-4pm. Adults are always needed. Students must always call in advance so that Helping Hands has time to prepare work for young people.

Respect Life: 40 Days for Life completed April 9<sup>th</sup> – biggest attendance to date; 307 sign-ins. Next 40 Days for Life will be September 27<sup>th</sup> – November 5<sup>th</sup>.

onehourwithme.com: New web-site and an ecumenical outreach for people to pray at Planned Parenthood during their open hours throughout the year.

New session of Mystical Rose will begin in the fall – August 22<sup>nd</sup> – October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sheila Pursell participated in Death Penalty panel discussion at NWACC.

**Other**

Dc Ronnie also announced that 69 couples have been accepted into the next deaconate program. There are 11 couples from St. Vincent and 7 from St. Raphael in Springdale.

Msgr. David announced that Karla Thielemier has resigned as SVdP School Principal. Alice Stautzenberger has been hired as the new principal and will begin August 2017.

Our next parish council meeting will be August 22, 2017

Closed with prayer at 8:15pm