



# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

## Parish Council Minutes August 16, 2016

### **In Attendance:**

Staff – Msgr. David LeSieur, Fr. Stephen Gadberry, Deacon Ronnie Hoyt, Sandra Kugler, Director of Finance & Admin., Karen Peters, Adult Formation Coordinator, Suzie Perry, Liturgy Coordinator, Karla Thielemier, Parish School Principal

**Members at Large:** Ryan James, President, Oneyda Reyna, Kerry Laman, Pete Metzger

Commission Chair: Guillermina Aguilar, Co-L&W, Annette Echevarria, Co-L&W, Ken Hunter, Co-Formation, Sheila Pursell, Social Outreach (Secretary), Bob Maloney, Parish Life

1. Meeting was called to order by Ryan and Msgr. opened with prayer at 6:10pm

Minutes from last meeting approved electronically.

### **New Parish Council members introduced themselves:**

– Annette Echevarria, new co-coordinator for L & W. Annette is a former Parish Council President and has generously offered serving once again.  
-Suzie Perry, former teacher at SVdP, has been hired by the parish as the Liturgy Coordinator

Ryan James distributed copies of recent Arkansas Catholic front page article of plans for new NWA Catholic High School. With funding and newly hired principal, John Rocha, plans are being made for to open in the Fall of 2018.

### **Finance & Administration**

Jeff Snyder – F&A

\*A representative from Our Sunday Visitor gave a presentation on increasing parish financial participation. F&A didn't see an inherent need at this time.

\*Expansion of the Pre-K playground was approved subject to the availability of school generated funding. The proposal will be sent to the Diocese for approval.

\* Capital Projects – completed all budgeted projects from with the exception of installing electronic door locks for certain entrance doors in the church and hall.

\* Committee for the Future – An initial discussion was held with the Diocese concerning possible building expansion in the future. Funds totaling \$200,000 has been reserved for potential architectural and fund raising fees. A plan for expansion of 12,000-18,000 feet is being discussed and potential architects are being discussed. Preliminary plans are to establish a building committee in the next six months.

### **Formation**

Ken Hunter, Formation

Several adult formation programs will be kicking off in September.

\*That Man is You – success not only in attendance but sustained attendance

- \*Little Rock Scripture Study on The Letter to the Hebrews
- \*Choice Wine – A program for couples to strengthen their relationship will begin on September 23.
- \*Scripture study and prayer development – “Lord Teach Me to Pray” series
- \*Mom’s and Women Growing in Faith, both English and Spanish
- \*New Life in English planned for September
- \*Eucharist mini-retreat planned for October 22
- \*Grupo – Anniversary event also schedule for October
- \*Youth Formation – Expanding to Sundays, Monday, and Wednesday 28 weeks during the year. There is a need for approximately 160 catechists, aides, security, child care etc. volunteers. There are five training sessions available catechists in August and September.
- \*National Radio Talk show host Gus Lloyd will be at SVDP on Monday, 10/24 & Tuesday, 10/25. The presentation will be offered in English and is titled Loving, Learning and Living Your Faith.

Ozark Catholic Conference: Approximately 430 participants from throughout NWA including Siloam Springs & Hot Springs. Fr. Jose de Jesus Sanchez and Dr. Edward Sri presentations were a tremendous success and many good comments from parishioners were received.

A decision has not yet been made as to whether there will be a Conference in 2017.

### **School Update –**

Karla Thielemier, School Principal Progress Reports – Theme for this school year, “Christ be our Light.”

There are over 100 new students in our Blue Ribbon school. Increased enrollment in our Kindergarten (now 3 rooms) and Pre-K also expanded. Teacher’s Aides have been added to classrooms because of increased classroom numbers.

\*Number of current students at school is around 400-405 students. Probably 420 would be the school’s capacity. There is a wait list for part-time Pre-K, 2nd, and 4th grades. First and 3rd have openings. Middle school: 6th – 8th has a total of 100 students. Seventh grade is at capacity, but both 6th and 8th have openings.

\*Last week Karla held new parent meetings. Record number of volunteers signed up.

\*Staff went to Mt. Sequoia for teacher’s retreat.

\*Pre-K is planning a playground expansion and needs more equipment.

\*Luncheon held for both school and parish staff to get better acquainted.

\*Physical space needed to expand. One meeting room has been converted into a classroom. Speech therapy is conducted at Rogers High School.

\*Scholarships students this year total 22. School elected to take two additional scholarship students because they were middle school students.

Ryan James – High school initiative publicized in the Arkansas Catholic. Deacon Ronnie Hoyt participated in hiring process for new school administrator, Mr. John Rocha. This was a major step, but many more steps to go; curriculum, fund raising, financial plan, building structure, etc. Work has just begun.

Mr. Rocha is looking for talent from NWA Catholic parishes; graphic designer, printer, architecture design, social media, web design, bookkeeper, etc. Projected opening date for the Catholic High School is Fall 2018.

There will be a meet and greet on August 24th at 6:30pm in SVdP gym with John and parents from SVdP school. Meeting is scheduled with all the priests in the deanery on 8/25.

### **Liturgy and Worship –**

\*Suzie, Annette, and Guillermina reported the new choir chairs have been installed.

\* A change is being implemented with the votive candles. The glass candle holders will become permanent the votive candles will just be placed inside the glass holder. In the past, every purchased candle came with its own glass holder.

\*A goal for this year is to recruit and train additional parishioners for EMC's, greeters, altar servers, lectors, etc. The plan will be to address one ministry at a time.

\* On December 4th the parish will celebrate Msgr. David's 40th anniversary as a priest at a special 11am Mass that Sunday morning and reception afterwards. There will not be a 10am English Mass or a noon Spanish Mass that day.

### **Parish Life –**

Bob Maloney stated that Anthony Phelps has been elected as Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus. Anthony's position will take effect September 1st

\*Parish Festival will be held on September 25th and the committee will be led by Jerry Kihn.

There is a nine member committee formed to assist Jerry in the planning for the festival.

Volunteers from many ministries throughout the parish are supporting each of the committees. The planned attendance is approximately 5,000 people.

### **Social Outreach**

Caregivers Ministry –Will resume their meetings September 10, 2016. This year will be including a study on the Psalms titled "Encountering God in the Psalms"... besides our regular support group meeting. The group currently consists of 12 women. Meeting date changed to the second Saturday of the month.

St. Vincent de Paul Society - Friends of the Poor Walk set for September 24th, and the annual Coat Sale will be at the end of October. They are joining forces with Life Teen for our Christmas Love Tree event.

Food Pantry –Events:

\*A very important Grant Writing Session sponsored by the NWA Food Bank in September. The main feature will be a list of all the Organizations and Funding entities that are interested in the area in which we serve.

\*A disaster/Security Seminar is again sponsored by the NWA Food Bank in September.

\*The "Mercy Angels" will be bringing the Mobile Unit to St. Vincent De Paul to give free flu shots. This will occur September 24, 29, October 3, and 10.

Goals:

\*Carol DuFour is replacing Madeline Murell as Volunteer Coordinator and her goal is to establish a volunteer data base, so that we might better answer the question; how many volunteers do you have? Current volunteers are great but numbers will drop as school starts.

\*General Mills has agreed to call Pete when they are going to change out their sample room and we can have those samples which will be a major gain. Pete is currently working other vendors to participate with donating sample merchandise.

Household served for the month of July: 806. Total People served 3,501

\*Pantry has the best group of Angels that anyone could have. Prayers are said before each session, the smiles on their faces and the compassion and love in their hearts is a blessing beyond description. Everyone is treated like they are, our best friend and in the Year of Mercy to feed the hungry is our mission.

Vince and Sandy Pinalto have made the transition to new coordinator very smooth. The help they gave and continue to give has made the job much easier - a debt of gratitude to them.

Homeless Ministry Sister Lisa has been given the responsibility lead a community effort to address homelessness. She has established a community committee to work on this initiative. There are 8 people from SVdP on this committee along with representatives from other churches, Mercy hospital, and several outreach organizations in Rogers.

To begin this initiative, it was decided to get to know the people who are considered homeless and learn their story. Every Thursday night, the homeless in Rogers are invited to share in a meal, are offered counseling and support services, clothing, toiletries, etc. The average number of meals served is about 80. Since April 2016, SVdP Church provides the meal and service one Thursday a month and will continue to do so until August 2017. There are 30-35 parishioners currently participating in this ministry.

Haiti Ministry - School in Haiti is set to begin on September 12th. This will be the first senior class and are scheduled to graduate in May 2017. In total we support 11 schools, approximately 2,500 students and 91 teachers. Our main building project for the last six months has been the building of 6 outhouses that have flushable toilets. This project should be finished by the time school starts.

Annual Parish Haiti Appeal is scheduled for October 8th and 9th. Father Ricardo (current pastor) and Father Rodolphe (previous pastor) will be visiting us that weekend and will celebrate in each of the weekend Masses.

Helping Hands - Our last parish work day was July 9th. Eleven new (first-time) volunteers proved invaluable assistance as we were competing with vacations, deaconate discernment classes in other parts of NW Arkansas, and some retirements from our core group of volunteers. Two new volunteers were bilingual and even had people in our RCIA program help out. Announcements after Mass are a big help for volunteer recruitment. John Carney, parish coordinator for Helping Hands work day, was particularly grateful to Ryan James, Maria Teresa Valenzuela and Janet Cardenzana for their help. Next work day scheduled for November 26th. Especially need men to help with large/heavy donations in the back.

Respect Life

\*Mystical Rose – Ten sign-ups with 7 parents present for parents meeting on 8/11/16. Goal was Jr/Sr High school girls but mostly junior high signed up. All the girls are Hispanic except for one and all from St. Vincent except one who is from St. Stephen. First meeting is 9/25 and will go every other Thursday for 6 sessions.

\*Yum Yo's Fund Raiser: 8/24/16, 4:00pm – 9:00pm. Just says, "Respect Life!" and RL will receive 15% of sales – 5% of all other sales. Next Yum Yo's fundraiser will be on 9/14 in Fayetteville.

\*Going "fishing for souls" at Benton County and Washington County Fairs. Respect Life will have a booth Tuesday, Aug 9, Saturday, Aug 13, Tuesday, Aug 30 and Saturday, September 3 respectively.

\*40 Days for Life, Wednesday 9/28 – Sunday, November 6th. Opening rally will be Saturday 9/24 at 10:00am in front of Planned Parenthood. Respect Life has received a letter of Endorsement for 40 Days from Bishop Taylor!

\*End of Life Conference October 15, 2016, 9:00am – 12:00pm at St. Vincent de Paul. Fr. Thomas Petri, O.P. – Ethicist, Dominican House of Studies in Washington D.C. "Suffering for the Glory of God" and "Euthanasia: When Good Intentions Go Bad. Cost is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

### **Financial Update-**

There is \$829,000 of cash available in the church savings/checking accounts. We currently owe \$802,000 on the building loan,

The Diocesan Deaconate discernment meetings- will be ending in September – Each of the candidates will be deciding in October if they plan on applying for the five year formation program. Please continue to keep these discerners in your prayers.

**Next meeting will be November 15, 2016  
Fr. Stephen closed with prayer at 8:15pm**