



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Council Minutes November 15, 2016 6:00 pm

In Attendance:

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

Members-At-Large: Ryan James (President), Tony Hansmann (Vice-president), Kerry Laman, Pete Metzger

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

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

Minutes from last meeting approved electronically.

Reports from Commissions

Finance & Administration

October was a 5-week month. Total income was less than planned; however, YTD income is \$38,202 higher than last year at this time. Comp/Fringe expense was down due to Huntsville paying part of Fr. John's salary and one staff member was off for three months. There has been no increase in the Healthcare expense for this fiscal year.

Installation of electronic doors in the Hall and all the entrance doors to the church was approved in last year's budget and are currently in the process of being installed.

Nabholz has agreed to replace the windows in the church that are leaking at no cost. This work should be completed in December. Also, our reserve for future roof replacement is currently \$64,600.

Net proceeds from this year's festival totaled \$16,800. Half of these funds were distributed in November in the form of grants to various ministries of our church. The grants included funding for music training, purchase of Spanish bibles, a video projector, and an upcoming retreat. The remaining funds will be distributed in May 2017.

The Committee for the Future is currently working on choosing an architect from three finalists - two of which have been recommended by the diocese. The goal is to have a selection made and approved by the diocese by February 2017 and a building committee established by March 2017. The building committee will report to the parish council on a regular basis.

Formation

Parish Religious Education programs for K-12 are now being held on Sunday, Monday and Wednesday nights. There is still a great need for catechists as teachers and assistants. Edge is also in need of core team members to help lead small groups.

On December 17th, all Hispanic ministry leaders will gather to discuss their ministries and goals and how the different groups can work together. The theme of this night is encouraging personal encounters with Christ.

Bishop Taylor has asked all parishes to participate in a 3-year initiative for Hispanic lay leader's role in evangelization within the church. Our parish leadership team will be trained for 6 months and then they will spread the initiative throughout the community.

The parish mission with Catholic radio host Gus Lloyd was a big success. There is no scheduled parish mission for 2017 in order to focus on ministries. We are in discussions with Fr. Phillip Scott for a Parish mission in 2018. Fr. Scott has a tremendous story of mercy.

Karen encouraged everyone to mark their calendars for the Ozark Catholic Conference, August 5, 2017. There will be two speakers Sherry Weddell and Horacio Trujillo. Ms. Weddell is the co-founder of the Catherine Siena Institute. Both Karen and Msgr. David recommended Ms. Weddell's book, Forming Intentional Disciples. Mr. Trujillo is a well-known speaker in the Charismatic movement. Tentative theme for both speakers is your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Discernment for those considering the diaconate is currently in process. Nine months of discernment classes have now been completed and candidate applications to the diaconate formation program were submitted to Little Rock in October 2016. Interviews and testing will be held in December/January. Candidates for the upcoming formation program will be selected in May 2017. Diaconate formation is a 5 year formation program.

School Update –

In her absence, Ryan James gave school principal Karla Thielmeier's prepared report:

*Phase 1 of 3-year Upgraded Technology Infrastructure plan is complete.

*Continue to schedule tours for families interested in school. There are 17 students on pre-K interest list and 17 on Kindergarten for the 2017/2018 year.

*New 3rd and 4th grader in November. Potentially an additional 3rd grader for November.

*New 20-hour/week school nurse – Laura Scudder, RN

*SVdP 7th and 8th grade athletic teams are now part of the Ozark Activities Conference which includes St. Joseph, the New School and NWA Classical Academy. Girls' Volleyball and Girls' Cross County both took 1st place and recent events.

*School has welcomed special guest speakers including: Congressman Steve Womack, 40/29 TV anchors Una Lee and Daniel Armbruster and Marine Corporal Aaron Mankin.

*Msgr. David, Karla Thielemier, Principal and Maritztella Salinas, Teacher visited Notre Dame during the summer to take part in the Latino Enrollment Institute. Program gave guidance in how better to attract and serve Latino students. Assigned mentor, Ms. Marianne Pelletieer, visited SVdP and was impressed with number of Latino students currently being served. There will be a follow-up conference Feb 7-9 in Scottsdale, AZ.

*Nine SVdP graduates were recently inducted into the Bentonville High School National Honor Society.

It was noted that our school is the greatest recipient of church donations. SVdP contributes 15-18% of the school's overall budget.

Ryan also added that high school committee is planning to open NWA's first Catholic high school in 2018. John Rocha, the recently hired administrator of the school will be moving his family to NWA over the Christmas break. Plans are to bring on another administrator to oversee internal aspects of new school.

Liturgy and Worship –

It was noted that the parish has over 18,000 registered members and only 4,500 regularly attend weekend Mass.

Goals have been formulated to organize and coordinate training and recruitment for EMC's, greeters, altar servers and lectors. Bilingual Training for ushers, lectors and EMC's will be held in March.

On November 30th at 7:30pm, Lessons and Carol's ecumenical celebration will take place in the Worship Space. The event is free and a collection will be taken to support the NWA Children's shelter.

On December 4th, the parish will celebrate the 40 year anniversary for Msgr. David. We will combine the 10:00 a.m. English Mass with the Noon Spanish Mass and have an 11:00 a.m. bilingual Mass. Bishop Taylor will be here to celebrate Mass with a catered lunch to follow. Msgr. has requested that in lieu of gifts, a second collection be taken up at all the weekend Masses to support tuition assistance scholarships for our school.

December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass schedule is as follows: Vigil - 6:30pm in Spanish on 12/7 and 8am All School Mass and 6:30pm English on 12/8. The Nicaraguan community will set up a special home altar in the gathering space and will share a meal after the Vigil Mass.

On December 11th we will have our regular Sunday Mass schedule with the Our Lady of Guadalupe procession beginning after the 7:30pm Mass followed by prayer, a play, dancing and Midnight Mass. Also on Monday, December 12th Mass will be celebrated at 8:00 am in English and 6:30 pm in Spanish.

There will be two phases for Christmas decorating: Phase 1, December 2nd Advent greenery and Phase 2, December 22nd, the remaining Christmas decorations will be put out.

The Christmas Mass schedule is as follows:

12/24 – 4:00pm Children's Mass (English)

12/24 – 6:00pm Mass (Spanish)

12/25 – Midnight Bilingual Mass

12/25 – 10:00am Bilingual Mass

Parish Life –

*Knights of Columbus will be helping with preparation/clean-up for Msgr. David's anniversary celebration.

*The last newcomers' event for this calendar year was held in November.

Social Outreach

Caregivers Ministry – Currently 14 people involved (including 3 men). In December there will be a Christmas social event and a retreat is planned for the spring.

Food Pantry – 60 gift baskets were prepared for Thanksgiving distribution. Sam's Club has donated \$500 and Wal-Mart \$1,000. Monthly students from our school volunteer and bring food donations. Number of people being served continues to increase.

Haiti – The annual Haiti appeal was very successful. There were over 900 envelopes turned in and \$56,000 (usually about \$20,000) was raised! Approximately \$31,000 will go towards the recovery efforts from the recent hurricane and the remaining amount will be for teachers' salaries and supplies. The plan is to have the repairs to all the schools completed within the next year.

SVdP Society – a total of 85 families applied for this year's Love Tree program. All of these families will receive some form of assistance.

Ministry for Homeless – SVdP will continue to serve a meal once a month to the homeless in Rogers. Sr. Lisa and Elden Blakeley are doing an EXCELLENT job leading this initiative. SVdP dinner for the homeless is usually the third Thursday of the month.

Helping Hands Next service days is Saturday, 11/25 from 12-4. The store needs help during the week. They have a big need for food/money in the food pantry.

Respect Life - Sheila thanked everyone for their generosity to the Respect Life Council. Activities would not be possible without St. Vincent's support.

*The End of Life conference with Fr. Petri had a very poor attendance – 12 people. It was suggested a Saturday morning may not be the best time for attendance.

*40 Days for Life was a tremendous success with over 280+ people in attendance from various denominations. A constant presence of people was maintained from 7am – 7pm, seven days/week for the 40 Days. Many new contacts were made, several women asking for post-abortion healing/prayers approached the vigil and at least one woman changed her mind and made an appointment with Loving Choices instead of going to the abortion center.

*Mystical Rose, NFP and Theology of the Body education classes for young women, finished in November and the girls reported they wish the classes had not ended so soon. A new session is TBA as Amy's first baby is due in December.

*Project Rachel Ministry is working on first Spanish post-abortion healing group. Start date will most likely be in the spring of 2017.

*NWA March for Life is scheduled for Sunday, 1/22/17 at 2:30pm. Marchers will meet at St. Joseph in Fayetteville and walk to the Planned Parenthood abortion center. A social at St. Joseph will follow.

*Sheila has almost completed bioethics certification from National Catholic Bioethics center and will continue with a Bioethics Masters in Science from the University of Mary in ND.

Financial Update-

Budget goals will be discussed at our next parish council meeting. Commissions should be thinking about requests for fiscal year ahead. What is your “Big Idea” for the New Year? Set your bar higher. Consider things that are missing that would help to enrich the parish. What are things that you’d like to see be done in the parish that you currently don’t see. For example, everything from lighting to education enrichment.

Next meeting will be **February 21st, 2017 at 6:00pm**

Fr. Stephen closed with prayer at 8:15pm

Motion to approve by Bob Maloney
2nd by Annette Echevarria 12/10/16