

PARISH COUNCIL

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

In Attendance: Msgr. David LeSieur, Deacon Ronnie Hoyt, Judene Kuszak, Tom DeRose, Sandra Kugler, Karla Thielemier, Ryan James, Dennis Eccleston, Tony Hansmann, Fernando Serrano, Sheila Pursell, Kathleen Reed, Debi Snyder, Jeff Snyder, Bob Maloney, Patrick Mahoney

Meeting called to order by Ryan at 6:35pm. Msgr. David said the opening prayer and asked God to guide us in our mission and vision. Upcoming 3rd Sunday of the Lent. Scrutiny's at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses.

November meeting minutes – Bob Maloney moved to approved and Dennis Eccleston seconded the motion.

Progress Reports

Finance & Administration Commission – Jeff highlighted that SVdP Society highlighted improvements - awning for Food Pantry has been approved so that recipients can receive food more easily during inclement weather, The Hall has been painted and an updated battery emergency lighting system has been installed in the church.

Kevin Carter, chair for **Committee for the Future**, gave a brief summary of activities completed and future goals. Committee began in April 2014 and hopes to have mission complete by the end of 2015. Sending survey to all ministries and commissions to study current and future needs. The group has already met with F&A and studied the original Building Phase II plans, Liturgy and Worship Commission, and Formation Commission. Scheduled for 2015 – Parish Life commission, School and Social Outreach.

Committee works hard to consider parish responsibility as well as deanery, discussion of high school as well as needs of diocese. Information gathering, enabling ideas and serving within our community. Ryan asked what is estimated completing date and Kevin estimated info gathered by the end of 2015. Priorities will be identified and established on main areas that need to be addressed.

Formation Commission – Ken Hunter is new Commission chair but unable to attend PC meeting as he is away planning for next St. Andrew retreat. Ken is “on fire” with this ministry and is doing an excellent job in leading and motivating parishioners to attend.

Tremendous success of Fr. Alejandro mini-parish mission which held in Spanish February 6th & 7th, 2015, and in English February 8th & 9th, 2015. Consistently 450 people every session!

Goals are to have all ministries to support goals as a whole – work together. Each ministry knows what the other ministries are doing – in terms of space and resources, but also drawing everyone together as one. Ministries will be coming together once a month for joint formation. St. Andrew started as a small group but is now a significant parish ministry developing prepared leaders for the church. Using bulletin to highlight a different ministry each week, using gathering space kiosk to highlight particular ministry. Website being updated has been a tremendous support – e-mails blasts are well received.

Looking at ideas for next year's parish mission. Each ministry should have the key ideas of what they will do but the different ministries work together. Msgr. suggested the ministry emphasize religious vocations during this year of the consecrated life. Deacon Ronnie encouraged us all to reach out to current seminarians and novices.

Matthew Kelley is sold out – 800 people. Shows what can be accomplished when we as a deanery come together to sponsor an event.

School – 2nd/3rd grade bibles provided by PTO. Karla is working toward full set for each class.

- * Ice bucket challenge raised \$3.4 thousand for Haiti and canned goods for food pantry
- * Quiz Bowl team doubled this year so additional responders are needed (Parish Festival grant)
- * Current student enrollment 351 with an average student/teacher ratio of 18 to 1.
- *Script program has allowed to purchase new computers for our computer lab.
- * School won a national competition with FBI and had representative from the agency visit our school
- *School will celebrate 15-year-anniversary of enthronement to Sacred Heart
- *Karla stated that she emphasizes to teacher the most important aspect of the education we give is to bring an awareness of Jesus Christ into every subject area.

Liturgy & Worship Commission – An additional Mass time has been added for Easter beginning at 6:30 a.m. Mass for the first time. Tony Hoyt will lead music. Will take pressure off the crowds at 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Proposing bringing people back to Church: put out permanent signs on Poplar, 49, Walnut – with services posted and special holidays. Come Home for Easter.

Ozark Catholic Conference changed name from Ozark Liturgical conference – 1st Saturday of August. Catholic womanhood. Catholic manhood. Evangelize to family and friends. Catholic culture within the family. Expanding vendors for more easily priced things.

Ryan asked that everyone encourage within their commissions participation at all the events in the church that lead up to Easter – huge reconciliation services, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, & Easter Vigil,

Parish Life Commission – Display pictures of seminarians at the sanctuary. Planning on religious life booth for the parish festival. Knights of Columbus fish dinner coming up on 3/27 starting at 7:00. Hospitality weekend 4/10-4/11

Social Outreach Commission –

Food Pantry – Dennis reported that there are more people who appear to be economically “middle class” than have been served before. Approximately 750 families served in Feb. Always in need of more volunteers – especially to pick-up and process donations. Spring/summer plans are to repair exterior rotten wood and exit ramp.

Caregivers Caring for Caregivers – 10 women; 7 from SVdP, 2 from St. Bernard and one drives from Eureka Springs. Caregivers meet monthly and will continue through June, taking a break during July and August.

Habitat for Humanity -The first of 3 for the year begins on 3/12-13. Next meeting in is June.

Haiti Ministry – Next mission trip planned for 5/3 – 5/10. A new pastor has been assigned to our sister parish. Fr. Ricardo will be replacing Fr. Cholet.

Funeral Ministry -Five funeral dinners and 260 people have been served since last parish council mtg. Sue Spear has retired as bereavement minister to looking for replacement

SVdP Society - Record number of participants in the Friends of the Poor Walk, successful partnership with the Life Teen for the past year’s Christmas Outreach, hosted Stations of the Cross on 2/20 and received a \$20,000 grant.

Helping Hands Next scheduled work day is 5/23. Management of Helping Hands is always glad to have SVdP volunteers because we are reliable, well-staffed and well-trained.

Respect Life - Sidewalk Advocate training is planned at the Patriarch House for Saturday 3/14, Mass in front of Planned Parenthood abortion center 3/21 at 11:00 a.m.

Council enthusiastically agreed to have SVdP front yard area as a host for the Right to Life Crosses to be displayed in October, Respect Life month. 3,732 crosses will be placed in yard to represent the number of abortions done in Arkansas in 2013. We really want to market the event through Arkansas Catholic, radio and possible television. Possibility of having crosses for a period at St. Stephen and St. Joseph in Fayetteville.

Financial update –5 ½ years on debt remain, \$970,000 cash on hand. Deacon Ronnie proposed that we put \$350,000 down on principal which would save us about 75,000 in interest. Projected payoff 2019 instead of 2025. Msgr. proposed to make payment and Patrick Massey second the motion. \$350,000 prepayment of debt was approved.

Jeff emphasized that the parish tithes to Social Outreach programs. 10% of collections are designated to Outreach initiatives.

Currently 42 seminarians and education costs exceeded diocesan funds available. This year and additional \$25,000, or 1% of collections was assessed by the diocese to support the education of seminarians.

Dennis Eccleston and Patrick Mahoney terms have expired. We need to identify potential nominees for our May parish elections. Send your nominees to Sandra Kugler. We will also advertise in the bulletin.

Judene Kuszak announced SVdP Staff Changes:

Deb Dufford is retiring after about 20 years and CoCo Torres will be replacing her as the leader of the Parish School of Religion-grades K-5.

Soledad Huaracha is moving from Children’s Ministry Administrative Assistant to Adult Formation and Youth Ministry Admin. Asst.

Veronica Martinez has rejoined the SVdP staff as the Children’s Ministry Administrative Assistant position

It was noted that a significant progress has been in the past three years as about 75% of the staff is bilingual.

Open position for 4:00pm Mass Music Minister as Toni Hoyt has been accepted to medical school and will be leaving our parish in July.

Next meeting date is May 26th. Agenda for May: Update on a potential Catholic High School & Budget Planning.

Ryan asked everyone to consider moving the Parish Council meeting start time to 6:00 pm instead of 6:30 pm. He will e-mail everyone and make a decision based on majority vote. Deacon Ronnie closed with prayer at 8:30 pm.