

Parish Council Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2019

In attendance: Fr. Mike Comer; Deacon Tom Dushney; Cindy Hassan; Bridget Kaiser; Kathy Stevie; Craig Davidson; Michael Sketch; Mary Jo Schuerman; Steve Oberjohn; Cindy Duesing

Absent: David Boyle; Mark Rosing; Mary Ann Kelly; Lynn Molitor; Kathy Stevie

The meeting began with prayer.

Minutes were approved with the suggestion that we should include a list of members in attendance and those who are absent.

Old Business

- The Hospitality potluck was a success, thanks to Mary Ann Kelly and Cindy Hassan. About 35 people attended. There was a short presentation. The Hospitality Committee consists of a core team of coordinators who will make sure every event has a chair. One core team member, Maureen Thelen, is putting together a volunteer database. Previous chairs have notes on how to organize the events and will put together binders to help new volunteers. So far, there is no chair for the parish picnic.
- The chairs in the hall are badly in need of cleaning. Steve Oberjohn said he would ask the carpet-cleaning vendor he uses to give us a price on cleaning them.
- For Evangelization Weekend, Deacon Tom pulled together lots of materials, in spite of only having two weeks to prepare. Not many people stopped by at the table to ask questions, but Fr. Mike said we're sowing seeds. Personal invitations work best. The two witnesses who spoke at the Sunday Masses did a wonderful job. Bishop Foys is very concerned about the drop in RCIA numbers across the diocese (this is a nation-wide problem). Some parishes had no one in RCIA this past year.
- Fr. Mike said his job is to empower parishioners to evangelize. Toward that end, he will be presenting a two-year series of talks, called "RCIA for Catholics" that will consist of sections on dogma (the Creed); morality (the 10 Commandments); worship (the sacraments) and prayer (the Our Father). We will record these on StreamSpot. Father asked if there was a way to make it more readily available on the website (it's on the home page now), but it would require downloading the video, editing it and storing it separately on our YouTube channel, then creating an archive of links.
- The Life in the Spirit seminar on Saturday, May 18, was not well-attended, and not many from Mother of God came, said Fr. Mike. He is thinking about other ways to engage parishioners in deepening their faith, such as, Christ Renews His Parish; a parish mission or retreat, featuring a dynamic speaker.

- Tanya Steger is stepping down from chairing the Education Committee. Dave Braukman has expressed interest in taking on the role. The committee has largely had a social justice focus. Fr. Mike is hoping it will concentrate on how to have a more personal relationship with God.
- Teresa Bowman is retiring. Caroline Olberding will be the new sacristan. Someone raised the question of having a reception for Teresa, but she indicated she didn't want one. There was another suggestion to have parishioners send her cards of appreciation.

Grounds and Maintenance

- The steps leading to the parking lot across the street should be finished this week. The cost was originally estimated at \$30,000, but because the contractor is re-using the rock slabs, the cost will be closer to \$15,000. This repair is covered by the parking lot fund, which consists of the revenue we take in by monthly rental of parking spaces. This money also covers the cost of maintaining the grounds.
- At the mention of grounds, two parish council members raised concerns about the bushes that grow along the front of the east lot, blocking drivers' view of oncoming traffic and pedestrians as they pull out of the lot. The request was to trim them back or remove them entirely.
- The parish will have to replace a boiler that went bad at a projected cost of \$45,000. The other big project coming up is the painting of the steeples. The contractor was chosen, but he was in a serious accident last year, which postponed the work until this spring. However, we received word from Don Knochelman in the diocesan office saying something has gone wrong with the bid, so it may have to be rebid. The cost of painting the steeples will be over \$200,000. Both the boiler and the steeple projects will be covered by the money in the accumulation fund.

Mission Statement

Parish Council began to discuss the mission statement and how it should be revised. Fr. Mike asked council to consider what is our relationship and responsibility to the people who are moving into the area around our parish.

There was a lively discussion about:

- How to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- How to facilitate that relationship so people are on fire in the fullness of faith
- Do people still trust the Catholic Church in light of the ongoing sex abuse scandal?
- What can we learn from megachurches about meeting people where they are in their faith and bringing them along?

Fr. Mike suggested that reading the first two chapters of *Rebuilt* for the next meeting might help with our discussion.

Council also agreed that the Mission Statement has to be embraced by parishioners, so they should have some input in the process of developing it.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. There will be no Parish Council meeting in June. The next meeting is scheduled for July 22.