



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – August 13, 2024

Elected Members Present: Marisa Block, Julie Laurenzi, Beth Schick, Joan Miller, Hector Hernandez and Anne Savastano

Elected Members Absent: Gale Britto, Kate Gallaher-Carson and Jim Lancellotti

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe, Deacon Carl Locatelli and Mark Carson

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: None

The meeting began with prayer at 7 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2024, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were given:

Administration and Stewardship

Nothing to report.

Education and Faith Formation

- Although there are a few stragglers, most of the children from last year are returning to the Religious Education program. One has left because of a scheduling conflict; another family is moving. A few families are returning but cannot afford the registration fee right now. Books and other necessary materials have been ordered. There is a donor to help purchase new sixth-grade Bibles that have inserts that explain the Gospels in manner that young people can grasp. These will be used for sixth, seventh and eighth grades.
- One goal this year is to take a break from the classroom each week and create an atmosphere of community among the children. The seventh- and eighth-graders will act out examples of Jesus walking with the disciples and teaching them, through his actions, how humans are supposed to behave. Our Youth Minister, Chris, and his wife, Deb, will lead them in song, using some sung on Sundays, to help them then participate at Mass. This won't be a long break but will hopefully

wake up the junior high-schoolers who have been up since 6 a.m. so they will return refreshed and ready to finish their lessons.

- Nothing to report from Adult Faith Formation.
- Youth Ministry has planned events, although there are no dates set yet. Also, Chris and Deb did want to update everyone that they are still using proceeds from the parking lot sale more than a year ago:
 - Back-to-school water balloon toss
 - Highway cleanup
 - Matchbox car race
 - Harvest Festival
 - Packing bags for the homeless

Christian Services

- The Food Pantry and Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound continue to be busy.
- The Consolation Ministry will meet next month to plan another Bereavement Group session in the fall. There has been a lot of interest expressed. They will also begin planning the Memorial Mass in November.

Social Activities

The Town of Crawford Park on Lybolt Road is reserved for the Parish Picnic on September 15. The question was raised as to whether any activities are being planned. Water balloons might be fun!

Worship and Spiritual Life

Nothing to report.

Art and Environment

Nothing to report.

Other Business

Only one person, Andreas, braved the miserable weather to attend the first Young Adult Group gathering on August 2. He and his father identify with Infant Saviour Church but have recently been attending St. Paul's. A September event will be planned with Sierra, who had a scheduling conflict. Anne will remain involved as a mentor.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Nothing to report.

Chairperson's Report – Gale Britto's notes given to Co-Chair Marisa Block

Again, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive from the more than 80 parishioners who attended the Listening Session. The opportunity to listen and be listened to respectfully and without an agenda or complaints was greatly appreciated – and very impressive. One participant even started with “What I say might be controversial,” and there was still no reaction or response, no agreement or disagreement – just listening.

The Listening Session Committee met, and although the written report has not yet been finalized, the committee is looking at what actions can be implemented, such as:

- Providing opportunities for those who are homebound to participate.
- Inviting young adult representation.
- Encouraging those new faces to register and get involved.
- Building on the Holy Spirit's work at the Listening Session. Participants had strong feelings about community spirit, spirituality, feeling welcomed and discussing spiritual life in small groups.
- Establishing more programs, such as a parent-to-parent group or other social interactions.
- Following up with a similar Listening Session in October.

The meeting closed at 7:35 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 7 p.m. Whether the meeting is in-person or via Zoom will be determined after the chairperson returns from vacation.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti