



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting –February 13, 2023

Elected Members Present: Julie Laurenzi, Michael McGovern, Tom Fobert, Beth Schick, Hector Hernandez, Gale Britto, Kate Gallaher-Carson and Anne Savastano

Elected Members Absent: Rosa Gonzalez

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, Deacon Carl Locatelli and Mark Carson

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe and Peg Hoblin

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: Deborah Harrison and Chris Worthington

The meeting began with prayer at 6:48 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2023, were approved and seconded.

Julie Laurenzi opened the meeting by stating the guests would speak first.

Overview of Live Streaming and Youth Ministry with Deborah Harrison and Chris Worthington

- The new laptop is being used – but with the old camera because the new camera, which records the sound and video, needs a home, a place on which to be mounted. Various potential locations were checked for clarity, quality of sound, interference from the air purification system, etc. It was suggested by a PC member who is also in the choir that another sound check be run during a Thursday choir practice.
- The choir loft seems to be the best location for the streaming equipment. The laptop would be in the loft, too. However, the person streaming doesn't need to sit there; he or she could set up and sit somewhere else. The downside of placing the camera in the choir loft is that the altar is far away. Someone could zoom in and out, but viewers might find this distracting. There is also the potential of running wires into the bridal room, but that room is accessed by many people because that is where the Prayer Blankets are stored.
- Deb and Chris will train the streamers and provide a training manual. The system is pretty foolproof even for those who aren't particularly tech savvy. A VPN, or direct access point, could also be added so that Deb could log in remotely if there is a problem. She will check the church's security protocol.

- There are between seven and 15 people watching Mass at home on Saturdays; 35-40 most Sundays.
- Switching gears to the Youth Ministry: The LEGO Build-Off attracted 75 people, which encompassed 33 children within 18 families – a new tool for evangelization! Unfortunately, in a feat that couldn't be duplicated if you tried, one of the glass entry doors was cracked during the event.
- There is a concern about sustaining the Youth Ministry program. While family-oriented events such as the LEGO Build-Off have the potential to get more families involved, many families aren't prioritizing their faith. The Youth Ministry is looking for ideas to pull the kids and families in.
 - To qualify and clarify, the Pizza and Prayer event after Ash Wednesday is not meant to be a fun pizza party. After fasting, the pizza represents community and the Body of Christ, and Lenten reflection is planned. It is the type of activity that might garner interest. The youth ministers can't shine a light if the kids aren't involved.
 - The youth ministers have three teens - and get frank input. Teens are pulled in so many different directions today. Chris and Deb are trying to figure out ways to engage young people, to meet them where they are so as to establish trust and honest dialogue – with a goal of helping to deepen their faith within the context of today's issues.

Deborah Harrison and Chris Worthington left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

- The WeShare website has been updated to allow donors to absorb the processing fee, which goes into the fuel account so no taxes are paid on that money. There are six more users and recurring donations have increased.
- The cost to repair the door is \$650.

Education and Faith Formation

Here's what's on the Religious Education calendar:

- Confirmation candidates will be making prayer blankets on February 17.
- There are 11 children making their First Holy Communion this year, and the First Eucharist retreat is March 11.
- The Stone Soup Feast will be served up on February 24.
- The Lenten Family Movie Night is March 3, and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" will be shown.
- Mary's Way of the Cross is scheduled for March 10.
- The next Children's Mass is at 10 a.m. on March 19.
- The Children's Live Stations of the Cross, where the kids will be acting out Jesus' passion, will be presented on March 24.

The reorganizational meeting of the Adult Faith Formation Committee takes place next Sunday after Mass.

Christian Services

Nothing to report.

Social Activities

There was a concern about the use of the kitchen on Saturday, March 18, and a potential conflict between the Repast after Connie Capria's Memorial Mass and the St. Patrick's Day Dinner that evening. Pam and Rick have spoken and worked out any potential hiccups. The number of people in attendance at each even will be controlled, and the ticket prices for the dinner will be determined soon.

Worship and Spiritual Life

- Most was covered in the first half of the meeting.
- There will be a Lenten insert in the bulletin.

Art and Environment

Easter flowers will be ordered March 1.

A new Art and Environment team will need to be found for Christmas as Jessica and Kim are stepping down after Easter.

Archangels

- Twelve members were either newly certified or recertified in CPR and the use of the AED equipment.
- Three weeks ago, a man yanked the front church door open during the Saturday Mass. Dennis met him in the vestibule, and while agitated, he wasn't confrontational and decided to leave of his own volition. The video of the incident, which includes the man photographing the church before entering, was given to the Town of Crawford Police Department as a precaution.
- The loft is locked, and the hall is locked 30 minutes before Mass.
- Discussion ensued about keys for the East Wing door. Could copies be given to some Archangels? It was pointed out that the key only unlocks the door from the outside, and has no use inside where the push bar is used.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

The carpeting in the chapel is showing some wear and tear. Perhaps we should get an estimate to see if replacing it is feasible.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Nothing to report.

Other Business

Anne Savastano brought up her concern about high school graduates and college students. There are no programs offered in the years between Youth Ministry and Adult Faith Formation, and that age group tends to be walking away. Is there something that can be done to give like-minded young adults the opportunity to meet, socialize and support each other?

Discussion ensued about a similar program though the Archdiocese – and how the word would get out because this age group isn't coming to church.

Permission was granted to pursue this on a local level.

The meeting closed at 7:53 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti