



## **ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

### ***Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – July 11, 2022***

**Elected Members Present:** Christine Forbes, Beth Schick, Michael McGovern, Tom Fobert, Pam Vogt and Hector Hernandez

**Elected Members Absent:** Julie Laurenzi, Rosa Gonzalez and Peter Adams

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Fr. Sean Harlow, O .Carm. and Deacon Carl Locatelli

**Ex-officio Members Absent:** Deacon Michael McCabe

**Recording Secretary:** Deborah Botti

**Others Present:** None

**The meeting, which was facilitated by co-chair Christine Forbes in the chairperson's absence, began with prayer at 6:45 p.m.**

**The minutes of the meeting of June 13, 2022, were accepted.**

### **Ministry Reports were provided:**

#### **Administration & Stewardship**

- The current heating oil provider has forwarded this year's price-cap agreement, which is asking for a prepay amount of \$26, 344 to secure a cap price of \$5.79 a gallon. Inquiries will be made to ascertain whether there aren't better options out there.
- The raffle is proceeding a little more slowly than anticipated. However, there is still another month remaining before tickets are due.

#### **Education and Faith Formation**

Nothing to report.

#### **Christian Services**

Arimatheans will be serving at a Funeral Mass Friday for Margaret Skoufis, who died in mid-June and did come to Mass occasionally at St. Paul's. Her husband is a Town of Crawford police officer and her nephew a state senator, so her Mass could be well-attended.

## **Social Activities**

- Rick needs a \$100 deposit for the Town of Crawford to reserve September 18 for the Parish Picnic, which will feature chicken, burgers and hot dogs. Tickets will be made available after the August Parish Council meeting. In the meantime, Rick should calculate costs to determine if a price increase is necessary. A “Save the Date” will run in the bulletin.
- About 22 people attended the Coffee Social after the 5 o’clock Mass last weekend and approximately 70 on Sunday. The cost for baked goods, juice and lemonade was \$117.

## **Worship and Spiritual Life**

- The Pine Bush Community Band’s summer concert will take place at St. Paul’s on July 25. The Youth Ministry is planning to play a role, perhaps as greeters.
- SPYM members will be encouraged to attend Mass as a group on Saturday, July 30. Pizza and games will follow in Deacon John Hall.

## **Art and Environment**

Nothing to report.

## **Chairperson’s Report - Christine Forbes for Julie Laurenzi**

- The first item on the agenda was to revisit security, specifically the locking of the doors. Fr. Sean has not yet met with Dennis Branham, head of the archangels, to discuss that further – including whether it would be the archangels who will let people in after the doors are locked. In the interim, Father has just received notice from the Archdiocese, indicating the need for churches to set up a safety committee and submit a security plan, which reinforces his opinion to keep the doors locked.
- If the doors are to be locked after the start of Mass, entry should only be through the East Wing. A sign will be needed at the main doors to direct latecomers to the East Wing, and then at the East Wing advising what they need to do to gain entry.
- The following is the schedule of “special events” for which there will be an accompanying Coffee Social:
  - August 28, Blessing of the Backpacks (Sunday only)
  - September 10-11, to include the Parish Meeting on September 11
  - October 15-16, Ministry Fair
  - November 5-6, Parish Council Elections and Bake Sale to benefit the Prayer Blanket Ministry

After November, the first weekend of the month can be targeted for Coffee Socials.

- It was decided that those ministries in particular need of more volunteers would have the opportunity to speak briefly at Mass in the weeks leading up to the

Ministry Fair. Here's a blueprint:

- September 17-18 - Dennis for the Archangels
- September 24-25 – Deb and Chris for the Youth Ministry
- October 1-2 – Christine on behalf of Ushers, Altar Servers, Choir and Art & Environment
- October 8-9 – Christian Services

Discussion ensued about the categories, the combining of all liturgical ministries and whether the weekend of September 10-11 should be used as well.

- It was proposed that a corresponding table be set up in Deacon John Hall with a representative from that week's featured ministry who can answer questions not covered in the brief presentation.
  - Father Sean will provide the "What This Ministry Means to Me" weekly bulletin spotlight.
- Then backing up to the Parish Council elections:
    - September 10-11 – Call for nominees – in the bulletin and on the website
    - October 3 – Nominations due
    - October 22-23 – Bios and photos of the candidates will be posted
    - November 5-6 – Elections
    - Parish Council support will be needed to watch the box during the voting process as well as to help count.

### **Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean**

Nothing further to report.

### **Other business**

It was noted that there were many late arrivers to the 10 o'clock Mass last weekend. People were pulling out folding chairs – although the centers of most of the pews were open. Could the greeters/ushers encourage people to move in? Discussion ensued about the emotional button that can be pressed when seating is perceived as being forced.

Training/rebranding will happen after the Ministry Fair and after the security plan is finalized. This concern can be addressed then.

**The meeting closed at 7:50 p.m. with prayer.**

**Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, August 8, 2022, at 6:45 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti**