



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – June 13, 2022

Elected Members Present: Julie Laurenzi, Christine Forbes, Beth Schick, Michael McGovern, Tom Fobert, Pam Vogt, Peter Adams and Rosa Gonzalez

Elected Members Absent: Hector Hernandez

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

Ex-officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: None

The meeting began with prayer at 6:47 p.m.

The minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2022, were accepted, as well as those of the special meeting of May 23, 2022.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

As the Finance Committee knows, \$150,000 had to be withdrawn from savings to meet expenses through this fiscal year, which ends in August. A proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning September 2022 was signed and sent to our regional Archdiocesan representative for review before it is forwarded to the Archdiocese. This budget requires another \$140,000 to be withdrawn from savings. After next year and at this rate, there will be about two years remaining before savings are depleted.

The Archdiocese could require us to balance the budget *without* using savings. If so, we would lose staff as salaries and medical benefits are our top expenditures.

We will have to fundraise like crazy.

However, we also have to keep in mind how generous our parishioners are. They sustained us through COVID-19. We met our Cardinal's Appeal goal. It's really difficult to ask them for more.

Education and Faith Formation

Nothing to report.

Christian Services

- The food pantry is ongoing. The freezers in the kitchen and shed are being used so as to maximize quantities of free frozen meats and vegetables available for pick up from the Food Bank.
- Fr. Sean noted that he did away with the “Emergency Fund” as the name could be interpreted to refer to church emergencies. Instead, the “Good Samaritan Fund” has been established to help people in need. That is also where donations earmarked for the food pantry will be deposited.

Social Activities

Rick proposed a Coffee Social after Masses on July 2 and July 3. Discussion ensued as to whether attendance would be impacted because it is the Fourth of July weekend. At the very least, he should not overbuy baked goods. And should this also be the start of a first-weekend-of-the-month Coffee Social schedule?

Worship and Spiritual Life

- The Youth Ministry will be participating in Circleville’s July 4th Parade sponsored by its volunteer fire department. They will be making a float and are opening participation to third-graders through high-schoolers – and any parents who choose to walk behind the float with their children.
Additionally, SPYM is planning a pizza-and-game night after attending Mass as a group on a Saturday, as well as Friday Night Lives and a few hybrid Thursday meetings throughout the summer.
- What a richer liturgical experience last Sunday at the 10 o’clock Mass, which was the first time the two Sunday Masses were combined. There were about 150 people in attendance. It felt like St. Paul’s!

Art and Environment

Nothing to report.

Chairperson’s Report - Julie Laurenzi

- Regarding rebranding the greeters/ushers, a theme to describe their purpose might be one of hospitality and welcome home. We are not a geographic parish; rather, many people drive by other churches to get to us. A meeting is needed to review all their responsibilities.
- Discussion segued from creating a sense of welcome to locking the doors after Mass begins. If a mother leaves with a baby, for example, she can’t get back in – which seems contrary to hospitality. Also, it is believed that the locking of doors is not universal among local churches.
 - Fr. Sean explained its genesis: Locking doors was proposed by Cardinal

Dolan after shootings in houses of worship. St. Paul's contacted the Orange County Sheriff's Office, which offered a workshop that 25 from St. Paul's attended. That is when our safety committee, known as the archangels, was born. The archangels established the methodology, which included locking the doors 10 minutes after Mass begins.

- Whose job is it to open the door if someone starts pounding because it is locked? An archangel? A greeter? Where should they sit?
 - Some Parish Council members felt more secure knowing the doors are locked; others questioned the value of locking the doors when anyone with ill intentions can walk in beforehand.
 - Clearly, there are different perspectives when it comes to safety – not only on the Parish Council but among all parishioners.
 - And we need more archangels.
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- Ushers, greeters and Eucharistic ministers should wear lanyards. This, again, is welcoming. For obvious reasons, however, the archangels do not want to be identified.
 - The parish-wide meeting is scheduled for September 11. The Ministry Fair should probably be sometime in October to allow time to hear testimonials at Mass from members of those ministries in particular need of more volunteers. The chair and co-chair will work on a schedule for the next meeting.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Nothing further to report.

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

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, July 11, 2022, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti