



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – June 12, 2023

Elected Members Present: Julie Laurenzi, Gale Britto, Beth Schick, Kate Gallaher-Carson, Rosa Gonzalez and Hector Hernandez,

Elected Members Absent: Tom Fobert, Michael McGovern and Anne Savastano

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

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 8, 2023, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were provided:

Administration & Stewardship

- The Finance Council and Fr. Sean met with our bookkeeper to discuss the proposed budget. The increased giving campaign did well, but didn't quite hit the goal. And although the budget is technically two-thirds better than last year's, which had an approximate \$160,000 shortfall, the 2023-24 budget is still in the red with a \$65,000 deficit. Earnings from this summer's raffle have already been included.
 - Something has to change. Because fundraising \$65,000 is improbable and the Finance Council urges that savings not be dipped into again, the only other option is changes that involve personnel. Details will not be shared until those involved have been apprised.
 - The proposed budget will be reviewed with our regional director from the Archdiocese.
 - Any changes prompted by the new budget will go into effect September 1.
- The Finance Council rejected the Parish Council's revision of the script to be used while calling parishioners who have not returned since COVID. Instead, the Finance Council suggested that the Parish Council take the outreach reins to lessen the potential perception that "it's only about money." The Parish Council agreed.

Education and Faith Formation

- Religious Education is completed for this year, and looking ahead toward next. Re-registration went well with only a handful of families to track down. Registration of new students continues by appointment.
- The presentation on Carmelite Spirituality hosted by the Adult Faith Formation Committee after Mass yesterday was very well-received by the 20 in attendance.

Christian Services

Nothing to report.

Social Activities

There were 96 people and 10 team members at last weekend's Pancake Breakfast. About 20 walk-ins were easily accommodated this time, and there were many new faces. Although the breakfasts are not technically fundraisers, the church came out ahead by about \$250.

Simultaneously, a ChristLife table was set up so that those at the breakfast had an opportunity to have their questions answered about the upcoming series. If there are any other coffee socials during the summer, the ChristLife team will be present.

Worship and Spiritual Life

- Although the weather wasn't 100 percent cooperative on the heels of the air-quality alert, about 30 people still showed up for Ice Mother Ice Cream Truck and parking lot games – or corn hole in the hall when it rained. Some of the older kids arrived late – but played basketball until after 8 p.m.
- SPYM members will have the opportunity to enjoy a fishing derby with the Southern Catskill Anglers on July 1; SPYM will participate in the Fourth of July parade sponsored by the Circleville Volunteer Fire Department, and they will also help out when the Pine Bush Community Band performs on July 31. Parking lot activities are also planned throughout the summer.

Art and Environment

Nothing to report.

Archangels

Nothing to report.

Chairperson's Report - Julie Laurenzi

- Regarding streaming into the hall, which was discussed last month, it was decided

that this would continue for as long as there are volunteers to set up.

- With regard to bringing up the gifts, which was also discussed last month, that cannot be reinstated weekly without ushers. Several parishioners have been approached directly, but so far, no ushers nor anyone to spearhead this ministry have materialized. The Parish Council agreed to be responsible for finding ushers for holidays, should there still not be anyone else to do so.
- Summer always passes quickly and fall is so busy, so a few things to keep in mind:
 - Three Parish Council members will be rotating off this year.
 - Because the numbers at the 5 o'clock Mass are so small, the candidates might not be so well-known. An effort should be made to "market" them.
 - The Ministry Fair will take place in October. A subgroup should be formed before fall.
 - The annual Memorial Mass is the first Saturday of November, the 4th. Along with the chairperson, Kate Gallaher Carson and Liz Locatelli have completed the Archdiocese's six-week bereavement program and are planning a time-limited support group to lead up to that Mass.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

Nothing further to report.

The meeting closed at 7:20 p.m. with a prayer.

Next Parish Council meeting will be Monday, July 10, 2023, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti