



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – June 11, 2024

Elected Members Present: Gale Britto, Julie Laurenzi, Jim Lancellotti, Beth Schick, Kate Gallaher-Carson, Joan Miller, Marisa Block, Hector Hernandez and Anne Savastano

Elected Members Absent: None

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

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Others Present: None

The meeting began with prayer at 7 p.m.

The Minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2024, were approved and seconded.

Ministry Reports were given:

Administration and Stewardship

- Parishioner Ray Andidero, a skilled carpenter, made some adjustments to the front doors, and they are now closing properly. He has saved the church at least \$7,000.
- It makes sense, and is the simplest solution, for the repast team to use a phone to live stream a parishioner's funeral Mass into the kitchen while the food is being prepared.

Education and Faith Formation

- Fifteen families still have not reregistered so Peg Hoblin will be available to do so after both Masses next weekend.
- Seventh-grade books aren't needed. They will be donated.
- There have not been any Adult Faith Formation meetings. However, Following Christ ended on June 9 and Sharing Christ will begin in October and end before

Thanksgiving. It will be open to everyone, regardless of whether the two previous sessions were attended.

- The Sunday Scripture Study will continue through the summer. It is uncertain whether the Men's Faith Sharing Group will continue through the summer or break until fall.
- Youth Ministry updates:
 - A planned highway cleanup was moved from June to September.
 - There will be games in the parking lot after Mass on June 30.
 - SPYM will once again participate in Circleville's Fourth of July parade.
 - An Acrylic Paint Pour with Anne Savastano is set for Friday, July 26.

Christian Services

- The Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound Ministry makes about 110 visits per quarter, and there are nine Eucharistic Ministers. Are more volunteers needed?
- At the Bereavement Group reunion, the possibility of another six-week program was discussed and will more than likely take place if there is enough interest. Also, caregivers are now on the group's radar as they are frequently isolated and in need of support as they care for a loved one with a terminal illness. Training is planned for any new Consolation Ministry volunteers.

Social Activities

Nothing to report – except the Parish Picnic is scheduled for September 15.

Worship and Spiritual Life

Nothing to report.

Art and Environment

Nothing to report.

Other Business

With support from Sierra Cuff, a young adult parishioner who will be alerting her friends, Anne Savastano is ready to move forward with organizing and advising a Young Adult Ministry. She had reached out to the Archdiocese for some direction, but wasn't able to get a return phone call. However, the St. Paul's group will be advertised on its site, as well as Twitter, Facebook, and local churches will be invited to participate.

This ministry is envisioned as an alternative to bars and clubs, offering an opportunity for 18- to 30-year-olds to meet. The inaugural event will be a game night on a Friday in July. Anne will be present to supervise, and light refreshments will be served.

The plan is to meet monthly at first, with it evolving into a self-directed group that decides when and what it wants to do. Attend a baseball game or plan a picnic? Maybe pickleball? Anne will then step back and assume the role of mentor rather than organizer.

She was given the green light to proceed.

Vicar's Report – Fr. Sean

It is hoped that two projects will be completed this summer: The first is to paint the outside stucco. And the second is to deep clean the hall floor, paying particular attention to those spots where the tiles have separated and dirt now resides.

Chairperson's Report – Gale Britto

To put it succinctly, Sunday's Listening Session was a wonderful experience. While it was initially hoped that at least 25 parishioners would attend, the number swelled to more than 70 participants!

The structure of the session was respected – and it worked. There was a facilitator and notetaker at each table, along with four other participants. Each person had 5-10 minutes to address specific questions, and there was no cross-talking. The answers were insightful, and there were so many people sharing from their hearts. It was noted that some "Saturday night people" returned on Sunday for the session, and attendees even included two brand-new couples who chose St. Paul's for its sense of community.

A resounding word heard throughout the session was "community." People want to feel a part of something. In that context, there was also a request for an evening Bible study to accommodate people who work.

The next step is to type up the handwritten notes, which will be distributed to the committee to review and discuss sometime in the summer.

It was decided that the Parish Council did not need to meet in both July and August, and August might be the better choice as many activities resume in September. The chair will be in Ireland so the vice-chair, Marisa Block, will head that meeting.

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

Next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti