

FEBRUARY 29, 2024
ST. STEPHEN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Present:

Donna Bella

Ron Blaha

Lynn DiSalvo (Phil, Finance Co, rep)

Dr. Jim Ford

Joe Kinsella

Jennifer Knapp

Randy Stroik

John & Mary Sullivan

Excused:

- I. The meeting began with prayer at 6:05 p.m.
- II. Old Business:
 - A. Campaign Updates:
 1. Father shared updated numbers for the Inspired by the Spirit Campaign and Diocesan Annual Appeal.
 2. There will be more direct mention of the Annual Appeal in coming weeks.
 - B. Chimes:
 1. We received a generous donation for this project that will allow us to install automated chimes.
 2. A contract has been signed with Chimemaster, and we are hoping for installation before Easter.
 3. The automated chimes will allow for a set schedule as well as ease of use via computer or app access.
 - C. Mission Statement Check-in:
 1. A listing of current Mission Statements, and committee members was shared.
 2. It was noted that some committees are in need of additional members.
 3. A few sample statements from Parish Councils were shared for inspiration, and all in attendance shared their input. Ron will work on taking these ideas and creating a statement for further discussion.
 - D. Questionnaire Update:
 1. We will not be changing the names of committees to ministries, as the committees should be a collection of ministries.
 2. Ron updated the questionnaire to reflect the use of the term committees and requests that we begin by having the Parish Council members answer the questionnaire first.
 3. The office will email the updated form to all council members. All should take some time to review the questions and write down their thoughts. We will have a special meeting to continue working on this on Thursday, April 4 at 6 p.m.
- III. New Business:
 - A. Parish Council Elections:
 1. We thank Lynn DiSalvo, who has reached her term limits for her dedicated years of services.
 2. The following have stated that they are willing to renew their membership if re-elected:
Randy Stroik, Ron Blaha, Phil DiSalvo, John Sullivan, Mary Sullivan.

B. Bequests:

1. The parish recently received a bequest in memory of Maynard & Rose Tetzloff that was used to purchase a new violet vestment, a Missal Stand and Missal.
2. Additional funds were also used to sponsor new Hymnals that we hope to have for the next liturgical year.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Sacred Worship:

1. The committee is reviewing the hymnal options, and hopes to have a recommendation soon.
2. Our new organist has also been playing at one Saturday Mass per month.

B. Education:

1. Through a generous donation, they will be converting the art room into a STEM lab. Due to this construction, Summer Blast will again be held at the High School.
2. They are also considering adding another 4K classroom on the first floor.
3. Religious Ed is going well.
4. The First Communion retreat will be held on March 9, and there is an optional High School retreat on March 16 at St. Mary-Torun.
5. We are hoping to have a large number of high schools students and parishioners attend the Answer Rally in La Crosse in June
6. Father and Christine will be attending a LifeTeen conference this summer.
7. There are plans to offer a middle school gathering/trip this summer.
8. Youth Ministry Sweepstakes:
 - a) We will again hold a sweepstakes with a corresponding event/meal.
 - b) Our scheduled date is August 24.

C. Buildings & Grounds:

1. We were notified by the city that there was possible problem with the AC unit. Father will clarify more with Gary.

D. Family Life:

1. They have set a date of May 5 for a pancake breakfast.

E. Justice & Peace:

1. Dave continues to do home visits.
2. We hope to again sponsor a table at the First Choice fundraiser.

V. Other:

A. Lenten Mission:

1. The 2024 Mission was well attended. Deacon Strohm was well received.
2. We continue to look for suggestions for speakers for upcoming years, if you have suggestions, please share them.

VI. Next Meeting:

- A. Special Meeting, Thursday, April 4 at 6 p.m. at the Rectory
- B. Regular Meeting, Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m. at the Rectory

VII. Meeting ended with prayer at 7:10 p.m.