

MINUTES OF THE ST. PIUS X PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

September 14, 2021

The regular meeting of the St. Pius X Parish Council was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 7:00pm in the parish house. Council members present: Fr. Brian Simon, Mike Wiley, Sarah Severson, and Laurie Miller. New members Joe Sovell and Lee Rausch were also in attendance.

Staff present: Lisa Guthmiller, Stacie Weinheimer. Absent: Joe Stahl, Tawana Grueb, Colleen Lamb. Parish members Nola LaRosh and Jerry Rausch were also in attendance.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Father Simon. Greg Lorenz, Sarah Severson, and Mike Wiley were appointed to the Finance Council. Combined meetings of the finance and pastoral committees will be held unless there are large projects that need funding. In that event, separate meetings will be held.

The meeting agenda and minutes of the last meeting were approved by the council with a motion by Mike and second by Laurie and council in agreement.

The parish finances and reports were discussed. Father reported to the council on a donor payment to help cover the cost of the YFF materials this year. He then explained the FORMED.org website that the parish is now subscribed to and that the payment was split with Sacred Heart. He will be using the resources on this site for the high school classes this year. The council then approved the annual report for the diocese. Next Father Simon discussed the need for the parish to start sharing more of his expenses, including costs for the rectory in Gettysburg, continuing education, clergy days, visiting priest expenses, etc. and that he would like to start reporting actual charges per month instead of the flat shared cost on other expenses as it is setup right now. Other shared expenses will be reviewed also.

New Business: Mike brought to the council's attention the drainage issues with the rectory driveway and foundation. He stated that he has asked Bob Yackley to bring some gravel in and received an estimate from Jay Alexander for concrete removal and replacement of \$4,800.00. Council held a short discussion and JR suggested we should put in a sump hole during the process also. This was agreed upon by those present. Mike stated that the work would be completed this fall. All agreed to the plan presented and the project was approved by the council after a motion by Laurie and second by Sarah. Mike also mentioned that he found water stains on the wall by the baptismal font, and he will take a closer look at it soon and that the sump pump monitors work great as he was alerted at 3am a couple weeks ago when one went out in the furnace room.

Committee Reports:

Religious Education/YFF: Altar server training was discussed. Training for 4-6th graders is needed and Father would like some adult helpers for this and to help at Mass. Stacie will be doing a group text to parents to see who would like to become a server. Mass attendance as a part of YFF was discussed. Opening Mass Wednesday went well but started/ended too late. There was also a discussion on praying the Rosary before Mass. Stacie commented that there are members in the Respect Life committee that are thinking and praying on possibly taking the lead on this project.

Respect Life: Stacie presented the report from the Respect Life Committee. She stated that their baby bottle fundraiser had concluded and 577.83 was raised. The committee will donate to the YFF program with a portion of the funds. They will have 2 new babies for Welcome Sunday this October and for planning purposes asked if there would be a lunch.

Social Concerns: Laurie informed the committee that the new funeral committee list is finished, and no action was taken on the Sunday Lunch committees. She also suggested that with new fundraising needs that it may be best to leave the lunches up to those individuals/groups that are needing to raise money. The changing demographics and current situations in relation to the lunches was also brought up. Sarah stated her opposition to the lunches saying that as a chairperson it was extremely difficult and frustrating trying to find people who were willing to help. Because of welcome Sunday in October, it was decided to ask for volunteers for a lunch to see what kind of response there would be. A sign-up sheet will be set out and Father will announce this at Mass.

Maintenance: The council thanked Mike for his work on the new sign and Father said he would like to see something on the back side also. Mike has also been getting the TV and computers for the zoom sessions set up. Father explained to those present of the need to have a physical presence with the kids as often as possible and traveling every other Wednesday is the best option. He brought up that he needed to teach because we did not have any teachers or assistants to help and in class instruction would be better for the kids to share their faith. Parishioner Jerry Rausch expressed his disappointment with the way things have been going since Father arrived. The constant changes, the homily comments about our families and how we are failing our children, marriages not in the church and other negative messages are causing people to be turned off and resulting in a declining attendance. Mike also commented on how empty the church is and that we are headed down the wrong path if things continue the way they are. Stacie then talked about the need for more evangelism and welcoming in the parish to help get more people in the pews and that this has been an ongoing problem that she had many conversations with Fr. Kopel about. She heard positive comments about how special the welcome Mass was and that the new curriculum they are using is awesome and maybe holding a short Mass before classes would be a good idea. She also stated that more involvement with these activities is needed and it would be nice to see both parents and grandparents participate at the YFF activities rather than sitting in their cars waiting for their kids. The Gettysburg commute/HS YFF was again discussed with Sarah stating her opposition to the proposal and that other parish members driving the kids is not an acceptable solution. Further discussion on the issue was held. Father also stated that if no agreement could be found that he would just cancel classes.

A discussion on the Lay Minister Safe Environment training/background checks was held with Mike bringing up the diocese policy on homebound Eucharistic Ministers and that there was no need for everyone to be completing this training. Regarding Eucharistic Ministers at Mass, it was brought up by Sarah that since the sanitizer was moved from the Altar that she has noticed that people were forgetting to use this before distributing communion and given the on-going health issues that people need to be reminded to follow proper protocol.

With no further business the next meeting date was set at November 2, 2021 and a call to adjourn was made. Closing prayer was led by Father Simon.