

ST STEPHEN PASTORAL COUNCIL
OCTOBER 19, 2023

In Attendance: Fr. Hennes Donna Bella **Ron Blaha**
 Phil DiSalvo **Lynn DiSalvo** Jim Ford
 Jenn Knapp **Randy Stroik** **John Sullivan**
 Mary Sullivan

Excused:

- I. The meeting began at 6:01 p.m. with a prayer.
- II. Welcome: We welcome Mr. Joe Kinsella to our Council.
- III. Old Business:
 - A. Elections:
 1. We need to have a member volunteer to be the co-chair of the council and the secretary. Kristi has been the Secretary and can continue if that is the group's wish.
 2. Ron Blaha offered to be co-chair, and all accepted. Kristi will remain secretary.
 - B. Youth Ministry Sweepstakes:
 1. We are still waiting for the final donation to arrive to be able to share the final profits from the evening.
 2. Approximately 160 people enjoyed the spaghetti dinner, and it was a great evening to view an outdoor movie.
 3. Funds from the sweepstakes have already been used to help cover expenses for the Confirmation Retreat, and we hope to take our high school students to "The Answer" rally in La Crosse in June 2024
 - C. Automated Chimes:
 1. The company we had been working with is no longer in business, and their stock was sold to another company. Fr. Hennes had contacted the new owners, and they were to come out this summer but have not yet.
- IV. New Business:
 - A. Stained Glass Windows:
 1. Dr. Ford was contacted by a fellow parishioner who acquired the stained glass windows from the Convent. We would be open to returning them to the parish if they were to be used in the Notre Dame Center. All agreed that if they are in good condition, we could work them into the plan. Fr. Hennes will reach out to the parishioner.
 2. Fr. Hennes also shared that an exterior light fixture was also returned that could be used.
- V. Committees:
 - A. Sacred Worship:
 1. Will be interviewing a new organist for Sunday Mass.
 2. The calendar has been completed for the remainder of the calendar year.
 3. Christmas will be a bit busy with the regular schedule, followed by Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses and the St. Stephen's Feast Day.
 4. There are four new youth interested in being servers, and we will work them into the schedule in the new year.
 5. We are still in need of a few more Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.
 - B. Education:
 1. School enrollment is up, and the new 4K class is a great addition.

2. The religious education program is off to a great start
 3. Christine Sommers is our new DRE and wants to do more with the High School Ministry.
- C. Buildings and Grounds:
1. The city is replacing some sidewalks,
 2. Window air conditioning units did not work out for the school as they had hoped. There is still a desire for air conditioning, but the parish can not justify the cost for the few days a year it is needed and the great expense.
- D. Family Life:
1. Exploring the opportunity to hold a pancake breakfast.
 2. Will look at schedules to see if there is a date to hold a welcome for Christine.
- E. Justice & Peace:
1. We will be collecting items for Veterans in November along with the Amvets.
- VI. Mission Statement:
- A. Mr. Blaha shared a packet for us to review in regard to the creation of Mission and Vision Statements. The hope is that we can build off of our strengths and find ways to increase membership and participation.
 - B. We are looking to have the Committees define their goals and roles at the parish, with the hope that we can then increase participation.
 - C. We are to review the packet and will have further discussion in the future.
- VII. Next meeting:
- A. Thursday, December 14 at 6 p.m. in the Rectory.
 - B. This will be our Christmas gathering, please bring a dish to share.

Joint with Finance Council:

Joined by: Jacob Stiemann, Sue Kedrowski, and Christine Sommers

- I. Welcome, Miss Sommers:
 - A. We welcomed Miss Christine Sommers as our Director of Religious Education. She was our eighth-grade catechist last year. Miss Sommers shared a brief introduction of herself.
- II. Inspired by the Spirit Campaign:
 - A. The current status of our campaign was shared.
 - B. The Diocesan portions are completely paid, and all funds received will stay with the parish for our project.
 - C. There was a request for an update in the bulletin, and continued communication as we where we are in the process.
 - D. A group will gather soon to discuss contractors.