

DECEMBER 14, 2023
ST. STEPHEN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Present:

Ron Blaha

Lynn DiSalvo (Phil, Finance Co, rep)

Dr. Jim Ford

Joe Kinsella

Jennifer Knapp

Randy Stroik

Excused:

Donna Bella

John & Mary Sullivan

- I. Meeting Began with prayer at 6:05 p.m.
- II. Old Business:
 - A. Automated Chimes
 1. Chime Master stopped by in November to review our system. While the technician onsite could not enter the tower to view the chimes, he had the notes from the last technician. A bid of \$13,000 was shared, with an explanation made that there may be additional costs due to incidentals. It was also noted that there would be more annual maintenance, especially in the first year.
 2. It was shared that we do have \$3,000 set aside for this project. The consensus of the group was to talk with the Finance Council to see if this is a project that we could move forward with.
 - B. Mission Statement Check-in
 1. It was noted that some of the committees have been contacted about working on a Mission Statement. The hope is to have more input for the February Meeting.
 - C. Campaign Updates:
 1. Inspired by the Spirit - Updated numbers regarding pledges, amount received, and participation were shared. We continue to work with contractors for input on the project.
 2. Diocesan Annual Appeal - Updated numbers were provided.
- III. New Business
 - A. Outdoor Nativity
 1. Our outdoor nativity arrived was up for the night of the City Christmas Parade.
 2. Straw will be placed when Jesus is added at Christmas. The Kings will arrive for Epiphany.
 3. Storage will be the garage for the stable base, with the remainder of the stable being stored in the school building. The statues will return to the rectory basement.
 4. Assistance is needed with take-down and storage. Les' Upholster will assist with take-down this year so that we can learn the proper way.
 - B. Ministry Questionnaire
 1. A questionnaire put together by Ron Blaha was shared with the council. It was requested that council members take some time to answer the questionnaire regarding the Parish Council as a starting point.
 2. This questionnaire could be helpful in multiple ways as we work towards stronger committees and growth of participation.
 3. A request was made to begin referring to our Committees as Ministry Groups, with the feeling that it might be more welcoming. The "On Consultation" document does refer to them as committees.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Sacred Worship

1. New Missalettes are out for the 2024 Liturgical Year. They are exploring the opportunity to move to a hardcover hymnal that could be used for multiple years. While the upfront costs would be higher, there would be long-term savings.
2. Our new organist has been playing for the 8:30 a.m. Mass and all is going well.
3. The weekend of the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas will be busy as we have the full Sunday Schedule, Christmas Masses, and the Mass for the Feast of St. Stephen on Tuesday.

B. Education

1. The committee recently met and welcomed Christine.
2. Advent Blue Books are available, and we will have books for Lent as well.
3. The St. Nick's Family Party was a great success, and we plan to hold it again with a few adjustments.
4. We will begin promoting attendance for "the Answer Rally" in La Crosse in June 2024. There will be a push for our High School youth to attend with their costs being covered by the Youth Ministry Sweepstakes. All others are welcome to attend for a small fee. The deanery will be covering the costs of busing for our parishes.
5. Plans are forming to start a youth group in January, a Lenten High School Retreat/Day of Reflection; and a Middle School event in the summer.
6. During Lent, we look to offer a few opportunities.
 - a) Friday Lenten Soup Suppers following Stations of the Cross.
 - b) Video Series "The Art of Dying Well" on four Thursdays, with possible invitations to Funeral Homes to participate as a way of sharing.
7. This year we will offer a Christmas Gift of a small Creche to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of The Crib of St. Francis
8. Pacelli
 - a) The 4K program is going very well.
 - b) Enrollment for the system is up, with the greatest improvement in the middle school
 - c) There is a new Campus Minister, David Dachel who is adjusting well.
 - d) Mr. Przekurat is doing well.
 - e) The Cardinal Crusade will be held in February and will be promoting this event through bulletins.

C. Buildings and Grounds.

1. Continue work on moving forward with the Notre Dame Center.
2. There was an electrical surge that damaged some circuit boards for the boilers. Gary is working to get them fixed, and we will file an insurance claim.
3. A new snowblower will be purchased this winter.
4. An Assistant Snow Removal Technician has joined the staff and will assist with snow removal before school hours.
5. The night custodian has been doing a great job.

D. Family Life

1. A donut social was held for our new DRE and went well.
2. Still looking to do a Pancake Breakfast soon.

E. Justice and Peace

1. A collection was held during the month of November for the Veterans at King. Many items were donated.

- V. The meeting ended with prayer followed by a brief social.
- VI. Next Meeting: February 29, 2024 at 6 p.m.