

# SAINT FRANCIS PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2017 – 6:00pm in the School Library

Chuck Foy called the meeting to order. Father Eric led us in prayer.

**ROLL CALL: Present** - Fr Eric, Jackie Slocum (secretary), Julia Brenner, Beth Dendinger, Chuck Foy, Brian Hines, Ron Johnson, Cheryl Kaufer, Mike Lifto, and Joe Loesch. Absent – Wade Kowalchyk and Bob Larson. Excused - Kathy Steffen and Karen Webster.

**The minutes and were approved with the addition:** The Confirmation candidates attended Mass with Bishop Callahan at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the BEET grant was for religious education and youth ministry. The agenda was approved.

Father Eric welcomed new members Julia Brenner and Brian Hines.

Pete Huppert was asked to come to the Pastoral Council Meeting to give a heads up on the parish financials. Pete gave us all a graph showing adult envelope giving for the past two years. There was a significant drop in the past two years. There was a drop of \$39,000.00 in the past year. Pete asked that the council brainstorm on how the parish could get more income. This will be on the agenda for a few months,

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Sacred Worship – Bob Larson & Karen Webster

No report.

### Social Justice –Beth Dendinger and Julia Brenner

- The jail reading program is still going very well. The program will not be active during the set-up of the new jail. It will continue after the move.

### Education – Joe Loesch and Brian Hines

The Education Committee met Tuesday, September 12 at 4:00pm

#### St. Francis School – Chuck Buckel

Total students enrolled for the 2017-2018 school year is 91.

Several early challenges needed to be overcome this year:

- A new Food Service Director needed to be hired. The USDA requirements for this experience/education for this position are very restrictive as St. Francis has to meet the same requirements as a school with 2000 students. Eventually, Chuck was able to get a variance to allow hiring Nancy the new director. .
- The new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher needed to be hired on short notice. Cathy Swanson stood in as a substitute during the hiring process. Tessa Davis has been hired as the permanent teacher.

### Religious Education – Joan Foley

- Sunday school will begin on September 24 for 3 to 5 year old children including kindergarten students.
- Grades 1-5 will be using the Faith and Life Curriculum in place of the Family Formation Curriculum this year. Jane Cain came for a teacher in-service to help with adapting the new curriculum.
- Grade 6 has been moved to the 7:00 to 8:30 pm time and will be using Edge. This is a Youth Ministry Program that follows the progression of the Catechism.
- Grade 7 will use Theology of the Body again. There will be a parent meeting coming on Sept. 27.
- Grade 8 studies the T-3 Timeline which is the Old Testament.
- Grade 9 uses the Thy Kingdom Come – The life of Jesus according to the Book of Matthew for the first half of the year. This class will begin the Confirmation Studies after Christmas.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade will begin their Confirmation Studies using Decision Point from Dynamic Catholic – Matthew Kelly.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Candidates will be using these 2 months to learn apologetics before being confirmed on Oct. 14, 2017
- There is a total of 171 students in the RE program

### St. Francis Home & School – Becky Beissel

- Welcome Packages - Packages were sent out to new families this year. Contained flash cards for students and a welcome note to mom and/or dad.
- Back to School Night - Created checklist for families to complete and offered a \$50 prize drawing for completed entries. Additionally Home & School Booklets which described the charter, officers, meeting and fundraisers was handed out.

- The first Home and School meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th.
- Fundraiser Updates: Last year was the first year of having fewer fundraisers, but focusing on making each one bigger/better. It proved to be a big success as the total fundraiser profit increased about \$10,000 over the previous year. The same strategy will be continued this year.
- Gala (formerly Wine & Wishes) will take place Saturday, November 4, 2017. The event will take place at the Ridgetop this year (venue donated by Amy H) and will include a sit down meal. The committee is working extremely hard this year and is hoping for 200 in attendance and an estimated profit of \$40,000.
- The "Friends of St. Francis" newsletter/pledge campaign has increased the number of addresses from approximately 800 to approximately 1200 however the newsletter content/creation is behind schedule.
- The Carnival committee met last week to start planning for this year's carnival. The event will take place Sunday, February 25, 2018. They are proposing raffling off a 4-wheeler. Joe Loesch agreed to contact Randy Brickner for advice on the logistics of conducting such a raffle. Estimated profit for this event is \$25,000.
- Walk for Virtues. The H&S officers have challenged the committee with increasing profit to \$10,000. Last year's profit was \$9131

### **Family Life – Cheryl Kaufer and Mike Lifo**

- Two events are planned for the next two months. Hangtime is after the homecoming football game Friday, September 15 and a hayride is planned for Saturday, October 21. There will also be Youth Masses on the third Saturday of the month.
- The mission trip group will be serving soup suppers after Mass Saturday, October 7 and they will continue to serve these suppers during the winter months.
- There is a lot of interest in getting a bus to go to Joyful Noise next summer.
- There was a behavior issue with the Mission Trip this year. The Catholic Heart Workcamp has a code of behavior and next year there will be an additional St. Francis code of behavior that the parents and the youth will sign. The 2018 Catholic Heart Workcamp trip is being planned to go to Nashville.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Father Eric welcomed the new members Julia Brenner and Brian Hines. They were given a Book on Consultation in the Parish.
- Father Eric is going to arrange for a resource person to do a workshop for the Parish Pastoral Council. All members should attend this workshop.
- **RCIA.** This committee has been very active. They meet every two weeks. There will be an item in the bulletin to see if anyone is interested in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If so, they will start the classes in January.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Distribution of Holy Communion**

- When the choir is in attendance, a Eucharistic Minister will be assigned to give Communion to the choir members.
- No one should receive Communion in the hand and carry it to someone in the pew. Father Eric will bring Communion to anyone that can't come up for Communion. The ushers should let Father know if anyone needs Communion.
- Father also mentioned that the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist would need an ongoing orientation seminar.

#### **Bulletin – New Format**

- Jackie Slocum, parish secretary brought a sample of a new format. The parish council discussed this and there were a few questions like if there was any cost to the parish. It was suggested that we have someone from the company come and talk to us at the next meeting.

#### **Christmas Masses**

- Christmas Masses are at 4:00pm on Sunday, December 24 and 8:30 and 10:30am on Monday, December 25.

#### **Diocesan Appeal**

Our target went down from last year. Our target last year was \$66,691.00 and this year it is \$64,350.00. A difference of \$2,341.00.

#### **Wednesday Evening Supper**

- The Parish Pastoral Council will bring the food and serve this supper on Wednesday, October 11.

#### **Building and Grounds**

- The roof for the rectory garage will be replaced in October. They also would like close the north side of the breezeway and put siding on the outside and finish the inside.
- The rest of the lilacs at the St. Francis Cemetery will be trimmed next spring.
- The committee was wondering if they could have a small budget for little things that need to be fixed. They would always consult with Father Eric before they made any purchases.

- The spout coming off the school will be fixed so the water does not go on the sidewalk and freeze during the cold months.

#### **Estate Planning**

- It was suggested that we have someone come and talk to parishioners about estate planning.

#### **Diocese of La Crosse 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

- Father Eric showed the parish pastoral council the St. Francis Parish pages of the pictures and history that will be in the anniversary book. The books will be available in October.

#### **Thank You and Appointment**

- Father Eric thanked the outgoing members for all their hard work. Father Eric appointed Mike Lifo to be co-chairman of the Parish Pastoral Council and Mike will also attend the Finance meetings. Father appointed Chuck Foy to Finance Council.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00pm.**

**The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:00pm.**