

St. Stephen, Martyr Parish Council Meeting

DATE: May 28th, 2019

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ATTENDEES: John Gray (Pres.), Crystal Anderson (Parish Business Manager), Margaret Thompson, Linda Hollingsworth, Owen Belby, Fred Barger, Samantha Conaway, AJ Kelleher, Paul Saltarelli, Pam Wilgus, Bill O'Connor, Sarah Watkins, Jinxey Poniatowski, Jamie Cross, Tim Westerman, Christine Bacon (Sec.) and Fr. Brian

Opening Prayer: John Gray

Meeting Minutes: March and April minutes approved.

Finance:

- Pam reported that we are currently at 119% of our Annual Bishops' Appeal (whereas last year at this same point we were at 180%).
- Fr. Brian reported that we have already exceeded our total costs for the Pew Fundraiser. A few people reported to him that they do not want/like the new pews but the vast majority do want and like them.
- The chairs will be donated to a currently unknown but needy church.

Old Business:

- John reviewed our action log and showed us the color coding that showed which tasks have been completed, not completed and should be completed within the next thirty days. We are going to make a concerted effort to complete those thirty-day tasks.

New Business:

- **FEEDBACK:** The only parish feedback anyone received was regarding the pews and the raising of funds which is now a moot point.
- **ELECTIONS:** Two meetings will be held for those interested in being a member of the Parish Council. First meeting is after mass on June 2nd and the second will be held on Monday, June 3rd at 7:00PM for discerners. Approximately thirty names have been nominated. Names will be drawn after each mass on the weekend of June 8th and 9th. New

members will be invited to attend the June meeting. Pizza will be served as they are welcomed.

- BISHOP LETTER: Fr. Brian still needs to find time to edit his letter. We understand 😊

Ministry Reports:

Youth Ministry:

- Jamie reported that fifty plus kids showed up for the EOY party.
- They had a successful Senior Send Off
- They are still having activities throughout summer for those who still wish to hang out.
- There will be a Harvest for Hope trip this July 12-14.
- She also shared that all the youth groups have had name changes. They are the same programs but just with new names.

Liturgy Committee:

- Linda shared that many ministers are not showing up for their assigned masses and often are not contacting anyone beforehand to cover their slot. She suggested and we discussed a “Three Strikes You’re Out” policy. No decisions were made but we will debate in future meetings possible ways to remedy this.
- Crystal mentioned that more frequent training classes for liturgical ministers will start being held to get new ministers for all liturgical ministries.
- Most recent liturgy training took place on May 22nd and 23rd.
- Fr. Brian mentioned that there’s been a lot more spillage of the Lord’s Blood during masses of late. Unsure why. But people will now be instructed that when they see a white handkerchief or other white cloth over the leaked Blood to not pick up or stand on the cloth. Father himself will properly clean the sacred area.
- Fr. Brian mentioned that there will now be four altar servers at most masses as the younger children will now be shadowing the older and more experienced altar servers.
- First Communion and Confirmation masses all went well.

Social Justice:

- AJ announced that we now have a Respect Life chair and her name is Lynette Hanson. She’s already hit the ground running and trying to get

different people to head up different activities under the umbrella of Respect Life which is also changing its name to Life and Dignity.

- Various branches of the Life and Dignity ministry are being advertised as we update the website.
- They are also trying to find ways to make the Catholic church more approachable during a person's time of crisis (such as unwanted pregnancy, terminal illness, etc.). They said that many people fear condemnation by their church when they are in the midst of one of these struggles and they need to feel comfortable enough to turn to their church first.

Parish Life:

- Fr. Brian's anniversary went well as did Deacon Keith's farewell. Both were great success.
- Linda is trying to organize the ministry fair but does not want to do it too quickly and haphazardly. So no date was currently set.
- She also stressed that we are in need of hospitality ministers.
- Fr. Brian suggested possibly having a different ministry highlighted each week in the bulletin (with blurb describing ministry and the need).
- AJ suggested having a table in the back of the church after mass to promote each ministry on those weeks the ministry is highlighted.
- Fr. Brian mentioned that our parish is now at the point where a Stewardship Committee is needed.

Closing Remarks:

- Father had lunch with Bishop Knestout who expressed that he is still trying to get to know his diocese, his churches and his priests. We are to be patient as we give him time to do so.
- Christine mentioned two new ministries called COURAGE for those suffering from same-sex attraction who want to live out their vocations in a way that stays in line with their faith and Catholic teaching, and UPLIFT which is for family members of those suffering with same-sex attraction. Parish Council should refer people in need to these very necessary but not so well-known support groups/programs.

Closing Prayer: John Gray

Next Meeting: June 25th, 2019