

Parish Council Meeting
February 13, 2024

Present: Marilyn Menor, Barb Brandtner, Anna Schadrie, Father Sengole, Nate Runde, Kim Van Handel, Deacon Rich, Lee Rynish, Dori Bluma, Janet Brill, Deb Peterson, Jason Finn, Cathy Krull

Absent: Sue Hahn, John Steltz

The council members were able to take a tour of the new rectory. There were many positive comments; members appreciated the opportunity to walk through and view the completed project.

Members returned to the school and the meeting officially began with a pray led by Father Sengole.

The Parish Mission Statement was recited

Nate asked if there were additions to the agenda, Deacon Rich asked that Prayers for the 150th Anniversary be added. Nate asked for a motion to approve, Deb Peterson made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition, seconded by Ann Schadrie

Nate asked for a Motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting; it was noted that the dates for the Frank Runyeon presentation needed to be corrected to March 14th and March 15th. Deacon Rich made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction, seconded by Barb Brandtner

Father Sengole asked that his remarks be moved to the end of the meeting

Buildings & Grounds: Lee Rynish went through his report, discussion was held on the updates being made to the gym. New shades have been installed; there are plans to paint from the roofline down. There has been a suggestion to possibly stencil some biblical passages on the walls. Research is being done to also possibly add acoustic tiles to the ceiling. Lee asked for any other suggestions to update the space to make it inviting for parish social functions. Lighting update, the new lights have been installed above the alter, but unfortunately the wrong color bulbs were sent with the fixtures. New bulbs have been ordered and will be install free of charge; the parish will also be able to keep the original bulbs. Rectory update, an open house is planned for February 17th and 18th. Father Sengole will tentatively be moving in March 19th. Kim brought it to the council's attention that the apartment will need to be cleaned once Father has moved out. Lee said he would work with Kim to get it done. Lee stated there is nothing to report regarding the cemetery

Christian Women: The submitted report was reviewed. There was a brief discussion on promoting the Catholic Women Vicariate that is being hosted at our parish this spring.

Christian Services: Deb Peterson stated that there isn't a lot to report at this time. She has been following up with St. Vincent De Paul and the holiday giving tree went very well. Currently the hygiene drive is taking place. The members are working to internally restructure and regroup to continue to serve the community. They are still in desperate need of new members.

Worship: Barb Brandtner went over the highlights of her report. Ann Theroux has stepped down from the position of scheduling. Discussion was held on the suggestion of using an app to do this task, but it will need some further research and investigation, as the ones originally looked at would not be cost effective. Kim will take over for the interim until a replacement or another option can be found. In regards to music during mass Sam Goeben will only play one weekend per month beginning on July 1, 2024. A brief discussion was held on a possibly holding a meeting for all cantors to familiarize everyone with using the electronically recorded hymns.

Parish Activities: The anniversary committee will be promoting the upcoming Frank Runyeon Event It will be open to all the local Seymour churches along with those in the surrounding area. There will be a Lenten study-taking place the text is by Father Buras. There is a group trying to organize a 24 hour Divine Mercy Adoration beginning on March 10th after the 10:00 mass. There has also been a suggestion to have a Divine Mercy Novena from Good Friday through to the following Saturday. Father would like to see this take place, it would be important to educate the parishioners on what it is, the history and how to participate.

Finance: Ann Schadrie briefly spoke about the report. She said the rectory is falling within the proposed budget. Deacon Rich reported that Catholic Financial donated \$1000.00 for landscaping to be completed this spring. A short discussion was held on the parish usage of the FORMED app, currently there are 54 members enrolled and using the service.

Missionary Discipleship: The council reviewed the submitted report, discussion was held regarding the number of confirmation students and first communicants. There was also discussion regarding the rising cost of donuts for the bimonthly socials after mass. Father Sengole feels it is important to continue hosting these events, as it is the only consistent social activity the parish has at this time. It was suggested switching to serving cookies, if purchased in bulk at Costco for the first social of the month the remainder could be froze and served at the next event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections will be held in April. The council will be in need of new members as no new members joined the council in 2023. Term commitments will be complete at the end of June for the following members: Jason Finn, Deb Peterson, Nate Runde, Cathy Krull, and Sue Hahn. On Finance the following members will complete their term: Ann Schadrie, Ann Theroux, Penny Schampers, Kevin Janezic. The parish will

also need to elect a new trustee/treasurer. At the April meeting we will need to know if anyone who is eligible is willing to renew for another three year term. The council will need at least two members at large, three would be ideal.

Peggy Saindon reached out Deacon Rich with a suggestion to begin a daily Hail Mary prayer mission leading up to our 150th Celebration mass in September. The council agreed that it was an excellent idea and would follow up with her to have it begin. A sign up book will be located by the Blessed Mother statue in church.

Wish List for the new rectory:

Window Treatments

3 counter stools

Large area rug

2 entry doormats

4 chairs to use with existing table

Twin bed and linens

2 shower curtains with suspension bars

After discussion on the best was to acquire new, well-coordinated items Deb Peterson made a suggestion that a value be placed on each wish list item and then request parishioners to “sponsor” the item with a cash donation. Kim also suggestion an Amazon Wish list. Ann, Barb and Marilyn were going to work on a display board for the open house using both the suggestions to acquire the items needed.

Parishioner invites for the 150th Anniversary mass and events. Kim presented an invite she designed to invite all parish members to attend the events happening throughout the year. She contacted Deb at Express Printing and cost to print and mail them out would be approximately \$340.00 (this includes the cost of postage)

Father Sengole spoke about upcoming changes requested by the Bishop. All parishes will begin reciting the Prayer of St. Michael at the end of mass. Also, there will be a time of silence after the homily and communion for reflection and prayer. These changes will be explained and begin the first Sunday of Lent per the Bishops request.

Meeting closed with a prayer.

Adjourned at 8:25 pm.