

St. Damien of Molokai Parish Council

2 May 2022, 6:00pm

St. Joseph Church Hall

## Council Minutes

- I. Call to Order & Opening Prayer
  - a. Meeting called to Order at 6:00pm by Peter Arsenault, President
  - b. Father Melnick led Parish Council in opening prayer
- II. Scripture Reading – Pete Arsenault
- III. Attendance & Ministry Affiliation – Jackie Reardon, Secretary (see attached list)
- IV. New Business
  - a. Review and acceptance of council minutes – a motion to approve the March 2022 council minutes was made by Agnes Pier.
  - b. The motion was seconded by Stan Kulas and passed, with no objections.
- V. Reports from Standing Committees

### Liturgy Committee: Stan Kulas

1. Lenten Retreat: Deacon Arthur Miller's Lenten Retreat, held the evenings of March 28<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup>, had very good attendance, and was well received.
2. Triduum Attendance: Overall, the attendance for the Triduum was high. All of the Easter Masses were well attended.
3. Pentecost Sunday: Pentecost Sunday is June 5<sup>th</sup>. All parishoners will be encouraged to wear red to Mass on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
4. Luau: Our Parish Luau will be held on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> (which is Corpus Christi Sunday). A procession will take place from St. Gabriel Church to the Stewart Farm after the 11am Mass.
5. Soup for Souls. Deacon Carl reported that both Soup for Souls and the "Do You Believe" series were well attended.
6. Catholic Grandparents Association. Parishioner Maureen Yuscavitch is organizing a new Ministry, based on the Catholic Grandparents Association. This program started in Ireland, and, its purpose is to assist and guide Grandparents, who are serving as guardians for their Grandchildren, with raising their Grandchildren in the Catholic Faith. Maureen is in touch with the US co-founder, who is providing her with resources and a mentor. The goal is to have a working plan, and a presentation to interested parishioners, the weekend of July 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Buildings & Grounds Committee: Peter Arsenault

1. There is a drainage issue on St. Gabriel School grounds which abuts residential properties causing drainage issues for both the school and a residential neighbor. Parish is in coordination with the of Town Windsor regarding repairs.
2. A new Grotto is being constructed at St. Gabriel Church, by Kenneth McGraw, a parishioner, for his Eagle Scout project. Parishioners have been invited to purchase bricks, and have them inscribed, and placed as part of the patio.
3. Parishioners need to be mindful of the drainage structure at St. Joseph's Church parking lot. Cars are not supposed to be driving over the gravel area designed for drainage.

#### Evangelization Committee: Janet Pieper

1. Two new families have registered with our Parish since our 14 March meeting.
2. The new Health, Wellness and Caregiver Ministry is set to host their first speaker on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, on the topic of hearing loss. The purpose of the surveys that were completed by parishioners (both on-line and through paper handouts), was to gauge topics of interests and the preferred times for presentations (day vs. evening, etc.). The surveys will be reviewed by the Ministry.

#### Social Action Committee: Jim Welsh/Annemarie Nasuta

1. A Parish dinner was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, at St. Joseph Church Hall following the 5:15pm Mass. Attendance was good.
2. The next dinner will be held in the Fall.
3. There will be a meeting to help plan the Luau, on May 11<sup>th</sup>. A Save the Date Announcement will be placed in the bulletin. The committee would like to see press coverage of the procession from St. Gabriel Church to the Stewart Farm.
4. The Social Action Committee has begun to hold meetings again (the latest one was held on April 25<sup>th</sup>, and the next meeting will be held in October). Among other items, the Committee would like to focus on support for the parish through the purchase of gift cards. The Committee will also be coordinating a Back-Pack Collection for the start of the school year.
5. Donna Chapman shared an update on the Habitat for Humanity project. To date, 17 parishioners (including members of the Knights of Columbus), have volunteered to assist with construction of one of the homes the weekend of August 13<sup>th</sup>.  
--There will no longer be a "Faith House" as part of the project.

#### St. Gabriel School: Karla Neville – Principal

1. An Open House for preschool was held.
2. Two tours were requested for potential 7<sup>th</sup> grade students along with requests for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.
3. Staffing continues to be a challenge. It has been difficult to fill the Science Teacher position.
4. Upcoming dates: May 25<sup>th</sup> is Field Day; June 3<sup>rd</sup> is Graduation; September 1<sup>st</sup> is the first day of school.
5. A Professional Services Day will be held for 3 days in August.
6. Marketing St. Gabriel School is another challenge. Different ideas/ways are being considered/implemented to both educate the public about St. Gabriel School, and boost enrollment.
7. The school was visited by the Office for Inspection—the overall grade was good, but immunizations were a problem.
8. The recent comedy night raised approximately \$1,200.00 for the school.

#### Religious Education: Cyndie Glick-Coordinator (read by Pete Arsenault)

1. The First Communion Retreat was held March 27<sup>th</sup>.
2. First Holy Communion will be celebrated at St. Gabriel Church on May 7<sup>th</sup> (at 1pm; it will be live-streamed). There will be 21 First Communicants.
3. Easter gifts for young children were handed out after the Easter Masses.
4. The May Crowning will take on May 8<sup>th</sup> after the 9:30am Mass at St. Joseph's Church and the 11:00am Mass at St. Gabriel's Church.
5. Registrations for the next school year are in progress. 32 students have already been registered. There is a need to recruit Catechists for Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 4.

Letters have been sent to:

- Existing Religious Education families.
- New families with children entering Kindergarten/Grade 1.
- Families of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (for Confirmation Preparation)
- Families of students whose children did not attend in 2021.

#### Knights of Columbus: Steve VanGasbeck

1. The Knights cleaned and spruced up the cemetery.
2. The Knights distributed 40 Easter baskets for shut ins.
3. The Knights have raised \$9,500.00 to date for the Ukraine Fund.
4. Steve is still trying to confirm the participation of 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knights for the Luau procession.

#### Pastor's Report: Father Melnick

1. The Mass on Memorial Day will be held at St. Joseph's cemetery. The altar from St. Gertrude's Church will be used during the Mass.
2. The Archdiocese is still reviewing the contract to sell St. Gertrude's Church.
3. A \$40,000.00 grant has been received, to install cameras in the Churches.
4. Letters are being sent to school families whose children are not attending Mass.
5. Cards with a QR Code are being placed in the pews—this is a way to have Mass attendees who do not use cash, make their offering/donation.
6. The Carillon needs to be repaired due to an electrical problem. The cost of the repair is being covered by the warranty.

#### VI. Election Update:

1. Jim Welsh reported the goal is to have an actual in person election this October.
2. A nominating committee needs to be formed, and then candidates need to be recruited.
3. There should be 13 elected members sitting on the Parish Council—currently there are 10.
4. Five parish council members are up for re-election.

#### VII. Next Meeting: St. Gabriel Church Hall, 6:00pm 10 October 2022.

#### VIII. Scripture Reading: Janet Pieper.

#### IX. Closing Prayer: Father Melnick

Adjournment: made by Peter Arsenault

<b>Elected Council Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Committee Affiliation</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>e-mail</b>
Peter Arsenault, President	Y	Building & Grounds	860-961-4528	petearsenault@sbcglobal.net
Stephen VanGasbeck Vice President	Y	Building & Grounds	860-798-43-4	Stirz88@comcast.net
Jackie Reardon, Secretary	Y	Building & Grounds	860-930-9110	Jacquelinreardon@sbcglobl.net
Alphonsus Aguh	N		413-626-8331	Aguh2000@yahoo.com
Annemarie Nasuta	Y	Evangelization	860-219-1621	amsmith465@gmail.com
Vicky Ascherman	Y	Liturgy	860-918-5900	vickyascherman@me.com
Donna Chapman	Y	Evangelization	860-597-8936	<a href="mailto:donnachapmanJHL@gmail.com">donnachapmanJHL@gmail.com</a>
Jim Welsh	Y	Social Action	860-830-9657	Jpwelsh58@gmail.com
Janet Pieper	Y	Evangelization	860-558-5174	<a href="mailto:jpieper96@aol.com">jpieper96@aol.com</a>
Agnes Pier	Y	Liturgy	860-335-4235	<a href="mailto:ampier@sbcglobal.net">ampier@sbcglobal.net</a>
<b>Ex-Officio Members</b>				
Rev. John Melnick, Pastor	Y		860-688-4905	
Deacon Carl Lickwar	Y		860-528-2544	robertclickwar@aol.com
Deacon Al Cala	N		860-595-6057	
<b>Lay Trustees</b>				
Stan Kulas	Y	Liturgy	860-573-2411	<a href="mailto:Stanley.kulas0919@gmail.com">Stanley.kulas0919@gmail.com</a>
Ann Hickey	Y		860-688-4680	Amh818@sbcglobal.net
<b>Non-elected Members</b>				
Cyndie Glick, Religious Ed.	N		860-683-0366	reled@windsorcatholic.org
Karla Neville, St. Gabriel School Principal	Y		860-989-8776	kneville@stgabrielschool.org
<b>Guests</b>				