Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2024

Opening Prayer

Silent Roll Call
Parish Council: **Byron Albers, Amy Bergman, Stacie Enneking, Derek Spieles, Jeff Stammen, Emilie Winner, Fr. Ken Schnipke, Kate Hemmelgarn**

Standing Commissions: **Jana Ranly**

Visitors: **Bob and Julianne**

Approval of Minutes
The PPC council members motioned electronically accept the August 2024 PPC meeting minutes.

Standing Commission Reports

Building & Maintenance (Brian Wolf)
- **No updates from Brian.**

Education Commission (Jana Ranly) – submitted via email and has been condensed
- **Please take a tour of the Parish Center. In an effort to make room for our growing number of students, a lot has moved and changed.**
- **Religion classes have started.**
- **1st Reconciliation is November 6th**
- **5th Grade will be going to the Relic Chapel Oct. 23 after school.**
- **Kim and Stacie changed up the 8th Grade program to have a gospel reflection for 1/2 the class and the lesson for the other 1/2 of the class. 1/2 way through they switch rooms and repeat.**
- **Freshmen and Sophomore teachers meet with the students for 4/5 classes and then switch rooms.**
- **Confirmation parent/student meeting was held.**
- **The Junior/Seniors - have a 5 week rotation with teachers. A community member gives a testimonial and leads them in the rosary. There are 3 classes and each 5 weeks they switch teachers. Student Confessions will began-during class time- with our Juniors and Seniors.**
- **Carol- Is celebrating 30 years with the church - Please make a point to congratulate her on her time with us!**
- **Blue Knights, Little Flowers and Ablaze have all started. The First Daring Disciples has started and Faith Fire starts in November.**

- **CYO Basketball is kicking off practice Oct. 16 and games will begin in November.**
- **Praise and Worship Adoration took place and was another great success. There were about 200 people of all ages while the Folk Group played worship music.**
- **Oct. is our annual Diaper Drive. We will be asking the students to bring in diapers for the Elizabeth New Life Center.**
- **Pro-Life Pumpkin Memorial is Oct. 20.**
- **CYSC registration is Oct. 23. We had 12 students received scholarships this year.**
- **Confirmation Enrollment Mass is Sunday, Oct 27th at 9:00a. The Confirmation Sanctified Retreat with Dr. John Woods will be taking place following Mass on Sunday, Oct 27 at the Spiritual Center in Montezuma. Confirmation Interview night is November 20th during regular religion class.**
- **The Ruben stand had a successful year. $27,134 in sales deposited, $21,000 in 2023. We increased our supplies by 25%, but did not sell out.**

Cemetery Board (Jacque Borchers) – submitted via email

- **Mike received quotes for a new maintenance building entrance door. The current door is difficult to open.**
- **Mike also shared quotes from Ovis ($2,184) and SecurCom ($6,250) for security cameras to monitor the area around the columbarium and Angel of Hope. We have not had any vandalism to date in the cemetery, but (per Jim Hinker) we have had some thefts of items over the years.**
- **Mike shared quotes he received for new mowers with 50"-52" decks from Heckman Power and K&L out of Ft. Recovery.**
- **Mike received complaints about dogs being walked in the cemetery. This is blessed ground, and dog owners have not been respectful of this. It was decided we should add a sign to the cemetery entrance stating that animals are not allowed.**
- **Mike showed us the results of the headstone cleaning he's been working on, and the results are striking. The cost of the cleaner is minimal. He also showed the board several repairs that he's made to headstone foundations, per $2,500 check from our 2024 Herkenhoff Foundation submission.**
- **Mike let the board know that Jeff Arhns spent time to find names and locations for all but 5 of the headstones that were piled up in the maintenance building.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **The Angel of Hope project is now complete.**
- **The work on the Steinemann Chapel is also complete.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **The July 2024 approved cemetery fee schedule references niche engraving regulations.**
- **Jenni reminded the board that the submissions for the Herkenhoff Charitable Trust are due in November, so we will also finalize the submission at the October special session.**

Mission Commission (Kay Schmiesing)

- **No updates.**

Finance Commission (Major Bernhold)

- **We continue to plan for the Steeple repairs; no update at this time.**
- **The balance sheet remains strong with approximately $1.3 million of assets.**
- **We have approved the budget for the current fiscal year that runs July 1st through June 30th.**
- **Parishioners should have noticed the capital expenditures in the bulletin, and the planning continues to ensure everything stays on course financially.**

PPC Committees

Parish Ministry Committee (Jeff Stammen)

- **Ministry Fair was 17th & 18th**
- **There were 65 interest forms signed and returned for the raffle.**
- **Open leadership role for the soup kitchen. People are interested in volunteering but not leading. Another open role for groundskeeping.**
- **The ministry fair was better being outside this year, but every year seems too much. Would like to do something more simple every other year. Open to ideas.**
- **Maybe interest forms in the pew/request information portion. Reference to the website and a QR code. Need to verify all contact information on the website is correct.**

EAP/ASP Committee (Amy Bergman)

- **No updates since the safety training.**
- **They are doing a seizure training course now, too for catechists and mass monitors. A lot of junior high/high school girls have been having seizures.**

Elections Committee (Kate Hemmelgarn)

- **We will need 2 new people in January.**

Old Business

<u>Online Church Tour</u>

- **Tour content is all in Duncan Frasier's hands to put on the website.**

Camera and button lock projects

- **Tess Voisard got two quotes on the security measures (buttons, cameras, locks) and SecurCom was still the cheapest. She didn't give any next steps or timeline unfortunately.**

Oktoberfest Mass

- **Kim Schultz suggested that we publicize the Saturday Oktoberfest mass with sandwich boards during the day (similar to the stop abortion sign in front of church). Might get more people to stop into mass.**

New Business

Unified Pastoral Council

- **Went over the annual report and questions from the Archdiocese about where we are for Beacons of Light. Everyone was very engaged in the conversation.**
- **Gave us the Christmas mass schedule – made 1 change – there were 700+ people at a Marion church that holds 400. New Bremen had 1300 people and the church holds 600.**
- **Hiring a part time director of communication for the family.**
- **Next meeting is November 14.**

Steeple Project

- **Steeple capital campaign committee is being started. They would like someone from Parish Council on the committee. John said he would be willing.**
- **Sent out invitations for the first meeting. It was sometime this week or next. Byron will attend if John is still on vacation during the meeting.**
- **The contract is signed for the side rails and sidewalk but that won't happen until spring after snowfall.**
- **They are still inspecting the structures to see what will need to be fixed. There may be other foundational elements or steps that need fixed. TBD. The steeples are the most urgent project.**

Bob and Jo-Anne

- **Sharing some of the things he has run into in regards to sound in the churches around here, especially St. Augustine. St Augustine is an echo chamber and the sound is difficult to predict and understand. You have to work on sound constantly, not just a couple times a year, in order to understand it.**
- **If you time the echos at St. Augustine. They last ¼-3/4 of a second. That is a long time for the echos.**
- **They have visited 16 churches in the area and we would rate the sound at St. Augustine one of the lowest of these.**
- **Several things affect and echo; the volume makes it last longer, and low pitch lasts longer. The harshness of the word also makes it last longer (ex: crack vs. shoe). The speed of reading also is affected by the echo. If you read rapidly, the echos affect the clarity of each word after another.**
- **You only know if you miss a word if you are listening, not reading along.**
- **The distance of the microphone to the speaker also affects sound. It makes more static. It's much better when you are 6-12 inches from the mic.**
- **Brings to mind 2 things. 1: It may be helpful to have plaque that says to speak slowly that the lector can see.**
- **2: maybe the mic itself should be evaluated. (He is not a sound engineer.) Do they have the best microphone?**
- **The other thing: Use carpeting.**
- **There is also soundproof paint, might be something to look into the next time the church is painted. Or tapestry on the walls.**
- **Church in Westminster, OH, called St. John the Evangelist – it's a large church. Large, hard floor with hard walls and hard seats. It's only full of people at Easter. They**

had good sound. On the way out, they talked to a greeter who had helped with the sound in the church. Boze guaranteed good sound if they did exactly what they said. They have taken 3 Boze speakers, put them together about 10 feeet long, and mounted them against one of the walls. The lowerst speaker was 12ft off the ground. They spread them out 20 ft apart. Everything was straight out. Boze wants the sound to only move 1 direction. They checked with an audio specialist who fits hearing aids.

- **Comparinng our speakers. 1 3ft speaker on north and south wall, first column from alter in line with 1st pews. Mounted 6 feet off the ground. It's aimed at an angle off the wall. At the top, it aims the sound down. This aims the sound at the hard floor. 2 Other speakers on south and north wall. They conflict. The one picks up sound from the mic that makes the echo worse. 1 more speaker aimed at the altar. 6 speakers make 6 different echos.**
- **If we could mount them higher, the sound would go voer the mic (but not sure without having test work/input from a professional).**
- **At Westchester, their 6 speakers compared to ours – we may be able to cut down capacity with more speakers because we have fewer at higher volume.**
- **Joan gets to Oktoberfest mass early (1 hr before service). Folk group was singing at front. Could hear folk group in outside lobby. The sound was crystal clear. Step inside, echoes everywhere. Could not understand.**
- **We need to solve the echo in our echo chamber.**
- **Going to ask Leslie about the project, when it was finished, what our options could be there if we could have someone else evaluate the sound.**

New Parish Council email

We will need to reach out to Cindy to offer to help with the Christmas Party. Last year it was in the rectory, previously at the Bowling Alley or Buds.

Father Ken's Comments

- **Turned in the Annual Report which gives us an update on wehre we're at with Beacons of Light.**
- **Director of Communications interviews will be this week.**
- **Election Novena is coming up.**
- **The Pastoral plan is close; we will finalize in early December. Working on a homily on where we've been, where we're at, and where we're going across all families. Knowling God, Serving God, and Loving God.**
- **We welcome Father Vara Kumar to Christ Our Light beginning November 30th, 2024 as a Vicar. He is a Precious Blood Missionary from India. He will be living at St. Charles. Father Alt is in his 70's and he will be a Sacramental Minister.**

Next Meeting Date: 1/21/2024, 7:00pm

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Executive Session