

Parish of Mary, Mother of Mercy
Parish Council Minutes
September 8, 2022; 7:00 p.m.

Those present were: Marc Albanese, Bill Connor, Tim Davis, Gerry Frank, Susan Guydosh, Scott Hamula, Eileen Heptig, Leo Kawczenski, Jackie Leidenfrost, Fr. Bernard Maloney, Andrew Morpurgo, Richard Pell, Karen Salino, Lynne Stager, Russ Wedemeyer, and Barb Willers. Alba Betancourt-Trompa was not present. Members excused were: Charlie Mullins, Martha Woledge, and Ray Zajac.

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer by Fr. Bernard

June 2022 minutes: Fr. Bernard asked that for clarity, last names to be included in minutes. With the addition of last names, minutes were approved as written.

Reports following committee break-out sessions:

- **Fellowship committee:**

Martha Woledge (not present) is the chair of the Fellowship Committee. A report was emailed prior to meeting. Scott Hamula gave an update on the parish picnic. The preparation is going smoothly, but the committee still needs volunteers.

- **Witness Committee:**

Gerry Frank reported as committee chair. Karen Salino and Bill Connor will focus on charities at St. James the Apostle (SJA) at the southern end of parish, and Gerry Frank and Dick Pell will focus on the charities in the north end of the parish, St. Francis Solanus (SFS) & Holy Cross (HC). Gerry discussed the winter coat distribution in Seneca County and the upcoming Christmas Project for Interlaken and Ovid.

- **Worship Committee:**

- Barb Willers reported as committee chair. Barb discussed the Eucharistic Revival that is occurring on a national level. All parishes are asked to participate. There are many resources on Diocese of Rochester (DOR) website and the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) website. One idea is to have a monthly adoration. Eileen Heptig suggested posting Eucharistic Revival resources on our website.
- The committee inquired about Father Richard Crawley's help at weekend Masses. Father Bernard gave clarification. Fr. Richard is helping another parish on Sunday mornings after a priest passed away. Father Bernard explained that Fr. Richard is helping because that parish is desperate, but our mass schedule has been made to accommodate one priest. Father stated he tries to arrive at the St. James 9:00 a.m. Mass early to talk to parishioners but misses those who come in late. He stays late when he can.

- The committee suggested that confession be held Saturday afternoon instead of Friday evening so it will not be dark in the Winter. Father Bernard's input was that there used to be times for confession on Saturdays, but people rarely came. However, people come every Friday night. Sometimes he even stays late.
- There were questions regarding communion under both species and COVID directives. Father Bernard said he has received no directives from the diocese yet, and he will be looking into it.

- **Word committee:**

Lynne Stager reported as chair. 17 letters were mailed for confirmation. Father received no responses and made calls, but he only reached 4 people. The First meeting is September 10 at SFS. 19 letters were mailed for Religious Education.

- **Finance Council:**

Eileen Heptig gave a verbal report.

1. Eileen Heptig suggested that all events should have a QR code to send people to our website or a sign-up page. The WeShare website can be used to create signups and forms, and going forward, the parish secretary will be working with the WeShare page.
2. Average attendance: As of June 30, attendance was 242/week. The 2021 attendance was 228/week. Numbers are increasing.
3. The net income increased since last fiscal year.
4. Revenue has also increased since last fiscal year, but that was due, in part, to a one-time \$10,000 donation.
5. Collections are up.
6. The biggest increase in expense was payroll due to building maintenance and musicians.
7. Overall, we are still in the black.
8. WeShare donations are up. A third of ordinary income comes through WeShare. Eileen Heptig would like to continue encouraging online giving because of the detailed policies around collections. The parish is always in need of more collection counters.

Follow-up answers and clarifications:

- When asked, Eileen stated that second collections have not been affected hugely by online giving.
- The recent visiting missionary collected approximately \$1800 in donations which was the most generous the parish has been to a visiting missionary yet.
- Eileen reported that cemeteries are always a problem due to lack of income. Right now, the biggest expense is mowing.
- Communis fund averages \$300,000.

- **Maintenance:**

Father Bernard gave the report.

- There is water in the basement at SFS. Many things have been tried, but workers are still trying to pinpoint and resolve the problem.
- Heat pumps: SFS and SJA are switching to heat pumps. At SFS, the boiler is well maintained, but it's old and may fail. SJA received a donation for the installation of air conditioning. The new electric system will heat and air condition the churches. Two bids are in, and a third is on the way. These bids will in cover both churches. There was a question about AC and heat at HC. Because there is no donation, and the heating system is in good working order, there are no plans to change the system.
- The SJA Pine room has an icicle problem so insulation will be added in the ceiling as well as LED lights.

Closing remarks: Committees, please send out reports to council members after you meet. Reach out to the executive committee if you need help or guidance.

Next meeting is November 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the Parish Center in Interlaken.

Closing Prayer