

Parish Council Meeting February 28, 2018

Attending Members: Fr. Greg Benkowski, Michele Nutsch, Tom Harper, Brian Keenan, Kevin Malick, Alan Large, Connie Novacek, Marvin Schulz and Kayleen Wallace.

Absent: Greg Beninato, Sara Ballard, John Ryan, Deacon Tim Leininger, Eileen McKinstra, Dennis Smid and Todd Saeltele.

Approval of Minutes: Since there was no quorum, the minutes for the January meeting could not be approved.

Parish Committee Reports

Human Needs – Melinda Kenton and Kim Elston reported that the group is currently in the middle of the Bare Necessities Drive for the Siena Francis House. The group, which currently has 20 members, also sponsors the Prayer Line, the Rosary for Peace on Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the church, Funeral packets, the retired Priests dinner in May, a food drive for the Food Pantry in July, an annual blood drive in September and the Special Needs mass in October. Their major fundraiser is the annual bake sale in October. The group also sponsors families and senior citizens at Christmas (through St. Martin de Porres). The group is discussing a parish outreach program with the Westgate Assisted Living Center.

Religious Education – Jennifer Muckey reported that there are 11 students going through First Communion on March 10th at 5:00 p.m. mass. Of the 11 receiving the sacrament, nine are 5-day school students and two religious education students. The Confirmation Retreat will be held on Thursday April 12th. The confirmation will be held at St. Joan of Arc this year. This group will include students from Holy Ghost and St. Stan's. Confirmation will be held at St. Stan's next year as it is that churches' 100th anniversary. The ceremony will return to St. Joan the following year. Jennifer is in the process of recruiting new families for Religious Education next year. The recruitment will begin in May and have another round of recruiting in late summer. She is also in the process of planning a night where the religious education students and the 5 day school students can get to know each other better. An event will be held on May 9th and may include an ice cream social and a night of volleyball.

HOPE – No report.

Five Day School/Board of Education – Kayleen Wallace reported for both entities. There are currently 8 students in the 8th grade class. All are currently planning to attend Catholic high schools. Three students in the class received scholarships including two of the top five scholarships awarded by Creighton Prep. Congratulations to all of the graduating 8th graders!

Old Business

Facility Security – Catholic Mutual sent a letter to all parishes in the Archdiocese outlining potential security measures parishes could take to ensure the safety of all parishioners during mass. The recommendations were aimed at security during mass and did not outline the broader spectrum of overall facility and personal security. The parish council has been reviewing overall security on an on-going basis but this discussion center on mass security. Some of the recommendations included locking the doors after mass started and having individuals or teams walk the parish grounds during mass. There

were other invasive suggestions. The group discussed the possibility of having Omaha Police drive by during mass times or having a police cruiser visibly parked in the parking lot. The group also discussed the ramifications of an additional, visible, security presence. It was mentioned several times that a presence that was too visible may have parishioners and visitors unnecessarily worried and lead to unintended consequences such as less mass attendance because parishioners may see the increased security as a sign that there has been a threat. Other recommendations such as having groups walk the grounds is not feasible given the size of the parish and the availability (an advanced age) of potential volunteers. In the end, it was decided that no changes will be made but facility security as a whole will be studied by a subcommittee to determine what actions may need to be taken to enhance overall facility security.

Regular Committee Reports

Building & Grounds – Brian Keenan read the monthly report. There was an issue with the boiler for the church and school due to a power outage in late December. The power outage prevented some pumps from running which permitted air to get into the line the Ray Martin Company fixed it and had two solutions to prevent it from happening again. One of the solutions was to install bleeder valves in two place in the line to reduce the effort to bleed the line. There would still be a service call but the on-site time would be considerably less. The other option is to add the boiler #1 pump to the emergency generator. John Ryan will talk with a Ray Martin representative and return to the council with a recommended solution.

In January, we also had a problem with the new heating system at the rectory. There was a bad heat exchanger in one of the furnaces. The replacement part was under warranty but the labor effort to diagnose and replace the part was significant. The invoice for this problem was \$2,733.42. This was the first experience with a problem on this part. There was significant discussion amongst the council members on the cost of this invoice and the process. The discussion center on the nature of the invoice, the amount of the invoice and whether the contractor is the correct one for this type of job.

As far as existing issues, James Burns took care of the insulation problem in the kitchen at no cost to the parish. Mike Nutsch created a new exhaust belt guard for the belt in the kitchen and the toilet in the kitchen was also fixed by the Men's Club. Thanks to all for their efforts.

Finally, Dennis Smid created a listing of all the entrances and exits to the entire facility at St. Joan of Arc. The listing includes all the security devices at each point of entry. The goal of the document was to document the current security. Next, we need to ensure nothing on the listing was missed, identify current key holders to each entry point and inventory those keys. Next, we should define procedures as to how and when each security feature is used. Finally, other security devices such as cameras and lighting should be added to the document. A security sub-committee will be formed to develop objectives and formalize the security plan. |

Finance – Brian Keenan read Dennis Smid financial report. Last month's fiscal report was emailed to the council two weeks prior to the meeting. He is working on the balance sheet to meet the requirements of the last audit. He is also working with Kayleen to develop a pre-school plan and starting the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget.

Pastoral Committee – Brian Keenan read Deacon Tim Leininger's report. The report went over Holy Week and Easter activities including the Chrism Mass, the Triduum, decorating of the church, Good

Friday activities, Holy Saturday mass and Easter Sunday masses. The report also discussed the First Communion and Confirmation activities. (These are noted in the Religious Education Report above.) Fr. Dan's 50th anniversary mass will be May 20th at 1:00 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc. The group also reviewed the Catholic Mutual Safety Report and decided that this was an issue for the Parish Council to decide.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Father Greg.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Keenan