



St. Sebastian Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

10/26/2023

In attendance: Fr. Valencheck, Linda, Dave, Barb, Terry, Jim, Ryan, Patrick, Sue, Susan, Will
Excused: Ana, Hannah, Chris

7:00PM - 7:05PM

Welcome

- Opening Prayer (Linda Saliga)

7:05PM - 7:20PM

Father's update

- The Bishop has requested that Friday, October 27th be a day of fasting and prayer.
- Interviews for the new organist are ongoing.
- St. Jude relic arrives next Thursday, November 2. Volunteers are still needed, especially ushers.
- This weekend is the last Extraordinary Form Mass at St. Sebastian. The Mass will move to St. Mary's Parish, at 1 pm, starting next week.
- Next week at the Masses will be the State of the Parish Address.
- November 7 is Election Day. Be informed as Issue 1 is on the ballot. If Issue 1 becomes part of the state constitution, it cannot be amended.
- This Sunday is priesthood Sunday. Christopher Villarreal will speak after all of the Masses.

7:20PM - 7:40PM

New Business

- We Give Catholic - Kathy Holaday (Director of the Parish Foundation) spoke about We Give Catholic on November 28th which is Giving Tuesday. This year's goal is to raise \$50,000 to purchase and install a new greenhouse. This project is in honor of Father Valencheck's 25th Ordination Anniversary in 2023. A link will be provided for online giving and an envelope will be in this month's offertory envelopes. The greenhouse will have electricity and water.
- Volunteers for St. Jude relic Thurs., Nov. 2 - volunteers still needed.
- Donut Sunday Feb 4, Mar 3 - Donut Sunday no longer has sponsors. Discuss having Parish Council members assist with these two Donut Sundays by having a table at the events. These dates coincide with our call for nominations which falls in line with our bylaws to have nominations by the end of March.
- About the December meeting - meeting will start at 6:00 pm on December the 14th. Members will each bring an item for the Christmas party.
- 100th Anniversary of the Parish - Sue had an idea to have an outdoor Stations of the Cross, possibly in the cutting garden. There are small metal stations that may be able to be used. Added to the list of anniversary ideas.

- Scheduling Eucharistic Ministers - Terry suggested using the online schedule that the altar servers use. This will reduce confusion and allow more efficient adjustments and changes in the schedule. The monthly subscription for this scheduler would increase from \$28 to \$40 to accommodate more users. Terry will follow up with Milissa to discuss the details.

7:40PM - 8:00PM

Old Business

- CD Project - ad will be in the bulletin this week and the next two weeks. Sales begin November 1st. There are 44 CDs made currently; more can be made as demand warrants. CDs will be sold in the narthex after Masses around Christmas and again in May to coincide with Lynn's retirement.
- Follow-up: Parish Council info in Bulletin - Dave will contact Cathy Sivec to add Parish Council link in the Bulletin for interested parishioners to read the meeting minutes, agendas, etc.
- Follow-up: Crucifixion art at SE entrance - Barb talked to Museum Acrylics about providing plexiglas protection for the artwork. Museum Acrylics has offered to measure, cut, deliver and install the plexiglas to protect the artwork. Estimated cost to do this is \$1170. OK was given to move forward with this. Barb will follow up with Museum Acrylics.
- Issue 1 Updates - members talked to their ministries and distributed flyers in advance of the November election.
- Evangelization Plan – Update and Action Steps
 - Subcommittee membership
 - Coordination with HASA Faith and Catholic Culture Committee
 – Susan has four Action Items that she worked on relative to the

Evangelization Plan:

1. Spoke at length to our Catechetical Director, Keith Johnson about the Plan. Discussed what is meant by evangelization: a conversion of hearts toward the love of Christ, living the Gospel and telling our story. Discussed the importance of that personal relationship with the Lord and His Holy Spirit. Discussed the action steps listed on the plan and agreed that many will be helpful in sharing information, but that an opportunity to explore that relationship through a retreat would be a great way to begin the work. The retreat would include the Loyal Core and Leaders, which are 50% of the target audience. Once this group has a deep understanding of evangelization, then we'd focus on the remaining 50%. Council will think about this idea and will be discussed at the January meeting.
2. Met with HASA Faith and Catholic Culture Committee and intern Ryan Arto. Susan proposed the idea of a retreat and they thought that it might be too impersonal and they liked one-on-one invitations to activities. From the Evangelization Plan, they endorse pew/narthex information cards for visitors and Greeters. They recognize that activities are often the same people and recognize the challenge of finding ways to bring in all parents. Lots of talk about 'requiring' parents to do things; recognize that one on one personal invitations are the best. A proposal was to use Fr. John Riccardo's Rescue Project - 8 week video program and small group discussion. There are costs for the resource books and guides.

3. Contacted Dr. Damien Ference, Vicar of Evangelization for the Diocese. Susan told him of the plan and asked for his ideas about evangelization and implementation. He said there is a need for evangelizing everyone, including practicing Catholics. He said many Catholics attend Mass only from duty. He said that evangelization requires a new way of seeing things, of living. This is the work that we need to do. He said there are many resources available. To implement this is possible ourselves, though. Susan shared the idea of a retreat, which he thought was an excellent approach and he recommended that the Parish Council read and discuss the book, From Christendom to Apostolic Mission. He offered his services as well as the services of a colleague who is director of missionary disciples.
4. Read the USCCB document describing evangelization. As a growth in faith and a growth in desire to more radically follow our Lord. An intention of sharing the message and teachings of Jesus Christ with others. USCCB Evangelization happens when the word of Jesus speaks to people's hearts and minds.

8:00PM - 8:25PM

Pulse of the Parish/Commission Reports

8:25PM – 8:30PM

Compline (Linda Saliga)

Next Meeting:

Thursday December 14, 2023 6:00 PM - 7:30PM.

St. Sebastian Rectory

Prayer and Compline – Dave Gasper