

**Pulse of the Parish  
July 2024**

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	Ministries added in July meeting
Ana	•
Will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scouts:</b> No updates. All ok</li> <li>• <b>KoC:</b> Selling water at Akron Arts expo this weekend and participating in the procession after 4:30pm mass</li> </ul>
Katy	<p><u><i>Marketing Report - Bernadette Gibson</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Family Picnic is scheduled for August 22, 2024 from 5:30 to 7 pm. We currently have 46 “new to the school families” from Preschool to 7<sup>th</sup> grade. We are excited to welcome them to the larger St. Sebastian Parish Family. If anyone from Parish Council would like to volunteer and join them for dinner, let me know and I’ll add you to the list.</li> <li>• Parish Social Media – looking to expand Parish presence on Instagram and have better, more dynamic Facebook page. Some blocks due to admin changes, so may have to start fresh and relaunch.</li> <li>• Currently researching website upgrades with developer to make it a bit more dynamic with more photos, videos, etc. Will take time to slowly roll out updates, but continue to send updates to me and I’ll get them posted. Best way to send to me is <a href="mailto:gibsonb@stsebastian.org">gibsonb@stsebastian.org</a>.</li> </ul> <p><u><i>Foundation Report - Kathy Holaday</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alumni Newsletter – Summer 2024 edition – will be mailed at end of July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ 2023 Annual Report has been mailed – if you have not received one – please contact Kathy (<a href="mailto:holadayk@stsebastian.org">holadayk@stsebastian.org</a> or cell: 330-803-0667)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Arrow Society – Planned Giving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Annual Foundation Legacy Weekend (July 6 and 7) – went well!</li> <li>o Foundation’s Planned Giving Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>§ Arrow Society and Arrow Society Circle.</li> <li>§ New names added to the plaque in the narthex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Janet L. Amer</li> <li>• Daniel and Jean Canale</li> </ul> </li> <li>§ If you are interested in learning more and would like to schedule a meeting with Kathy – here is her email: <a href="mailto:holadayk@stsebastian.org">holadayk@stsebastian.org</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Endowment, Funds and Scholarships – Now our count is over 85</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse Update – Groundbreaking occurred on 7/17</li> </ul> <p><u><i>Finance Committee Report - Ken Contrera</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the next couple of years, the Diocese of Cleveland will be changing the structure of the assessment for each parish. In the past it has been a level structure for all parishes, (same percentage of the basket for all parishes) but going forward it will be on a sliding scale and could be as much as 20% of the basket for larger parishes. They will also implement a change in the assessment per student for all parish schools.</li> <li>• The seminarians will be leaving our parish in a few weeks.</li> <li>• Fr. Marcelli will only be here for two years.</li> <li>• The greenhouse project is coming along. The inground base is now complete. The greenhouse will be made to look like the other buildings on the property when completed.</li> <li>• The Elmdale house is being cleaned, painted and made ready for its future purpose.</li> <li>• The lamp posts will be in by the end of August.</li> <li>• The school financials for the FYE 2024 are in process. Things are looking good for FYE 2023-2024.</li> <li>• The 2024-25 school year looks good. Currently 337 students are enrolled (capacity and a waiting list for pre-school). Improvements are being made to the processing of EdChoice applications for the school. We are currently still waiting on over 100 students’ EdChoice applications. We are aggressively pursuing these applications and will inform parents that if we don’t receive your application, you will be billed for the full amount of the tuition.</li> <li>• The Finance Committee will not meet in August. Next meeting on September 26.</li> </ul>
Tom	Ministries added in July meeting
Barb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible Study-No report; still off for the summer.</li> <li>• Sanctuary Society- No report; still off for the summer.</li> <li>• Our Mothers Hands - the two week long visit of the Internatl. Pilgrim Virgin Statue in the Diocese was a great success! Better than expected turnout at every parish, including St. Sebastian. OMH gearing up for Our Mother Mary’s Birthday Party, Sunday, Sep 15th, 12 noon to 1:15pm, with the return of the Balloon Rosary.</li> <li>• Our Mother of Sorrows- Nothing specific to report; attended one funeral in early July; one coming up this weekend.</li> <li>• St. Vincent de Paul Society- summer requests are at a normal level; have begun referring gas/electric customers to the Summer HEAP program to conserve funds.</li> <li>• West Side Catholic Couples- Meetings will resume after September with this year’s book selection, <u>Calm in Chaos</u>, by Fr. GeorgeWm. Rutler.</li> </ul>

<b>Linda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>No report</b></li> </ul>
<b>Shannon</b>	<b>Ministries added in July meeting</b>
<b>Chris</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Baptism Class:</b> Nothing to report</li> <li>● <b>Altar Server Training:</b> Next level altar server training with about 18 kids. These are the new servers that began in the spring. We trained them for serving at weekend Mass and Tuesday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.</li> <li>● <b>Children's Liturgy of the Word</b> has been on hold since COVID. Waiting to see if there is an interest in re-starting it and have started to hear a little bit more so we may possibly revive it in the fall, but at the moment nothing is in the works.</li> <li>● <b>Book Rack</b></li> <li>●</li> </ul>
<b>Terry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Music Ministries - Parish Choir, Praise and Worship, Cantors and Handbell Choir - David U</b> - Currently accepting applications and interviewing applicants for the Director of Contemporary Music. This person would lead the contemporary ensemble and be primary musician for 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Depending on the individual skills of the applicant, there is a possibility for the position responsibilities to be expanded. Have posted/advertised the position with the diocese, in church bulletins and several online venues. The response has been less than I would have anticipated.</li> </ul> <p>Music Arts Series is planned with eleven events for the 2024/2025 season. Plan to have initial publicity go out to the parish and community the first week in August. Will also start a series benefactor program where people may contribute to the Musical Arts Series, ultimately allowing the series to grow and be self-sustainable. Contributors will be recognized in the event programs and will be placed in a database. Also would like to establish a Musical Arts mailing list as to have another way of publicizing events.</p> <p>I have discovered that a significant percentage of our music library contains photocopied music, which can be a potential liability. Working on replacing the photocopies with printed copies. This will be an extensive and expensive undertaking. Currently exploring different options for funding in addition to what is budgeted in the general fund.</p> <p>Have recruited over June and July for cantors with three people showing interest. In August my recruitment will shift to focus on recruiting choristers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>School Choir</b> - No report</li> <li>● <b>Sacristans</b> - Nothing to report</li> <li>● <b>Little Garden Club/Cutting Garden</b> - Cutting garden in full swing. Thank you to the faithful watering crew for keeping things looking good.</li> <li>● <b>Arts and Environment</b>- The flower arranging crew continues to beautify the church.</li> <li>● <b>Secular Carmelites</b> - Nothing to report</li> <li>● <b>Chesterton Academy of Akron</b> - 16 students and counting enrolled for the 24/25 school year. Still accepting applications.</li> </ul>
<b>Tony</b>	<b>Ministries added in July meeting</b>

Hannah

•

St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏