

Parish Council Meeting 10-30-24

Father Jonas opened with prayer.

In Attendance: Father Jonas Shell, Diane Wirkner, Sharon Clemmens, GiGi Hill, Dan Hitchcock, Kelli Pridemore, Rachelle Martin

Parish council members reviewed July 31, 2024 minutes - Move to motion to accept July 31, 2024 meeting minutes by Sharon Clemens and Diane Wirkner 2nd.

Ladies of Mercy

- 1) Polish Fest is coming up on November 3rd.
- 2) Janet Smith acting president of the Ladies of Mercy until the end of this year.
- 3) Father Jonas thought that the Ladies of Mercy could help the church by buying things to beautify the altar, and would like to know if the Ladies of Mercy would be interested in doing that.
- 4) Currently waiting on the candle holder at the back of the church to get finished.

SVDP

- 1) 149 families helped and there is 1 more distribution.
- 2) Donations are coming in.
- 3) There is concern when winter comes on how accessible the building will be.
- 4) SVDP assisted financially one parishioner who was going through a transition.
- 5) Methodist church & SVDP together paid rent for 1 month under Rev. Gordon Warner oversight. Rev. Gordon Warner is the person SVDP goes to to vet people.

PSR

- 1) See attached report from Chrissy Breedlove.
- 2) A Lot of new families with children enrolling in PSR.
- 3) New teachers and substitution teachers are needed.
- 4) Kelli Pridemore thought it would be a good idea to encourage people to be a sub or a teacher.
- 5) New TV's have been installed and Kelli Pridemore states she uses her TV each week.
- 6) November 10th is the PSR Adoration and adorers are still needed.
- 7) GiGi Hill asked if the PSR would be able to make Thanksgiving & Christmas cards. Kelli Pridemore stated her class would love doing that

Youth Group & DTS

- 1) See attached report from Chrissy Breedlove.
- 2) Is going well and there are usually around 8 high school teenagers who attend.

RCIA

- 1) See attached report from Chrissy Breedlove

- 2) There are currently 8 people receiving OCIA instruction which includes 2 couples

Library

- 1) No update

Knights of Columbus

- 1) Life chain had a better turn out - 17 people
- 2) K of C held 2 Fraternal Benefits Events - This event lets people know the benefits to being a Knight of Columbus. The Council is older and needs to recruit new people..
- 3) Polish Fest this year did not request any money from the Knights of Columbus.
- 4) A \$3,000.00 donation was made. PSR received \$2500.00 of the donation & Adult Ed received \$500.00 of the donation.
- 5) Rosary in October before Mass went well.

Algonquin Mill Fest

- 1) There was adequate help to work the Algonquin Mill Fest.
- 2) There was a good turnout at the Algonquin Mill Fest. We are still awaiting official numbers from the Historical Society on how much was made at each booth.
- 3) The money Our Lady of Mercy will get is based on the Historical Society taking the expenses out and then splitting the remainder of the money 50/50.

Picnic was successful

- 1) Food was good at the picnic.
- 2) The turnout was great - the best yet.

Adornment

- 1) Deer has been changed
- 2) Flowers will be added.
- 3) Molding will be changed.
- 4) The general feedback on the adoration project is that people either love it, like it or think it is OK. The only negative feedback was in the beginning of the project.
- 5) Emily is doing a great job
- 6) Adornment plaque to come hopefully by the Christmas season.
- 7) Postcards with stars hopefully made in time to send out with Christmas cards.

Cemetery

- 1) A meeting will take place on November 9th to form a Cemetery committee and divide up tasks that need to be done.
- 2) Everything behind church could be used as possible cemetery
- 3) Register acreage with department of commerce as a cemetery-register as cemetery property
- 4) Dan Hltchcock: If we register all the land are we able to unregister the land if we want to build something on that land?

- 5) Cemetery plot map was given for Council members to look at and ask questions.
- 6) The first section of the cemetery to sell will be by the Church.
- 7) Gigi Hill had concerns about how the cemetery will change the beauty of the outside of the church as you pull in. Father Jonas stated it will be landscaped well and that there will be a buffer so the graves will not be seen. The buffer zone will also help with seeing and hearing the traffic on the road.
- 8) Many benefits to having a cemetery at the church for example: the corporal work of mercy of burying the dead, a reminder of the 4 last things, etc.
- 9) Perpetual maintenance fund needs to be set-up. Sherrodsville does not have a perpetual care fund
- 10) Need to build a columbarium and name sections of the cemetery.
- 11) It would be nice to have beautiful structures in the cemetery. Set-up an endowment fund for the cemetery and use the interest to pay for maintenance and beautify the cemetery.
- 12) Dan Hitchcock will the hill be an impediment? Father Jonas: the grave markers will act as steps to go down.
- 13) Patio & pavilion on the side of the church.
- 14) Start with 1 road and columbarium because 67% of Ohioans are cremated.
- 15) Rules need to be established for burial
- 16) The cost will be around \$100,000.00 to put it in.
- 17) Braces (company) will do the walls & platform for \$34,000.00
- 18) Council members agreed that the red area on the plot map was Ok for cemetery as long as the land can be undesignated or used for other things. Council members were good with the plot map in general.
- 19) The Endowment Fund for cemetery & church was discussed.

Building Fund

- 1) The building fund breakdown was looked at.
- 2) Gift of \$160,000.00 to benefit OLM is going to be deposited into the Building Fund MMDA. This money will not be used for the cemetery.

Carroll County Foundation

- 1) Minimum 10,000.00
- 2) Our Lady of Mercy main account would be \$10,000.00
- 3) Cemetery would be a sub account and we could have more than the main account in the Cemetery sub account.
- 4) If we had \$100,000.00 in the Foundation, we would earn \$4,750.00 at end of year and the Foundation would take 0.75 annual fee of whole which would be \$750.00
- 5) Anything left over will be put back into our account
- 6) Currently the 10 year return rate is about 7%
- 7) The money earned could be used for Perpetual care (maintenance).
- 8) Mark Oboy or another parishioner to help with end of life financial things.
- 9) Diocesan lawyer will not permit grants because he is worried about the government stepping in and trying to govern our cemetery.

- 10) Currently waiting to hear back from the Diocesan Lawyer as to whether we can pursue applying to Carroll County Foundation.
- 11) Both Kelli Pridemore & Diane Wirkner are familiar with the Foundation
- 12) We could take from the principal amount if $\frac{3}{4}$ of our board and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the Foundations board agreed.
- 13) Parish council members thought that the Carroll County Foundation funding sounded like a good
- 14) The cemetery checking currently has \$21,000.00 and the goal is to have the cemetery support itself.

New Business

- 1) Order of projects
 - a) Cemetery
 - b) New Rectory - fundraising will need to take place.
 - c) New Hall - this will be the most expensive.
- 2) One of the thoughts once the new rectory and hall are done is to use the old rectory & hall for a ministry center
- 3) Father wants to form a new hall committee to get ideas for the hall.
- 4) Currently the General Fund is paying for everything. It was discussed that the Building Fund should be paying for some of the maintenance bills. The Council agreed that it would be up to Father Jonas' discretion if certain bills should be paid out of the General or Building Fund.
- 5) Maintenance agreement for boilers and air conditioning from Elsass is \$1,950.00 if we buy filters. Parish council members thought getting the maintenance agreement was a good idea.
- 6) Aces takes care of the Hall.
- 7) Diane Wirkner will look into getting a grant for solar panels.

Next Parish Council Meeting is January 29th at 6:30 pm.

Father closed with prayer.

Parish Council October 2024

PSR

- Everything is going well.
- We have a few more new families so currently we have...
 - 19 Families (Last Year 14)
 - 55 Students (Last Year 37)
- My request for school supplies was successful. We received...
 - A lot of school supplies and tissues.
 - Some monetary donations (just over \$1000)
- The Knights of Columbus have generously donated funds to help cover our PSR budget.
 - \$2500 went to PSR
- We were able to purchase new TVs for the classrooms which helps with the digital content part of the Word of Life Curriculum.
- We will have PSR Family Adoration Sunday, Nov. 10, from 10-11.
 - Adoration will go until 1:00 when Father Jonas can get back.
 - I still need to cover Adoration from 11am to 1pm.
 - No one has signed up on We Adore Him.
 - I will have to reach out to people soon.

Youth Group/DTS

- This is going well also.
- We have a core group of kids (around 10)
- 5 of them were just enrolled as members of our DTS Chapter which they can do when they ...

- Attend 3 Consecutive Meetings
- OR 5 overall meetings
- We have decided to have enrollments every 5 meetings, making the next one January 26.
 - We will have at least 3 (maybe 4) more that meeting.
- There are other things happening...
 - Diocesan sponsored NET Retreat – Dec. 7 in Maritta
 - Steubenville Youth Conference – Summer of 2025
- I put info in the bulletin and on the board in the narthex. I also sent a letter out. We are trying to ...
 - Gauge interest
 - Find chaperones

RCIA/OCIA

- This is also going well.
 - The new way of doing things is sometimes hectic but I would not change it back.
 - I enjoy working with people individually.
 - I think it is a better way to do things.
- On October 20th at Morges, Ethan Grossi received his confirmation.
- I am working with 8 people right now. Two of them are couples, so, that is helpful.
- The Knights of Columbus also gave us some money to help cover some of the expenses for this.
 - \$500
 - This mainly covers books.
 - When they begin, everyone receives...

- Voices of the Saints
- Compendium Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- A Short Catechism for Children by St. Robert Bellarmine
- When they receive their Sacraments we give them a gift...
 - Ascension Catechism of the Catholic Church
- I am currently looking into buying these books in bulk, as cases of books are often discounted by the publisher.
- Our prayer meeting on Oct. 6 was successful.
 - 30-minute talk by Father Jonas on Prayer in General.
 - 30-minutes of Eucharistic Adoration.
 - 4 of my current participants were there.
 - 1 of my former participants also came.
 - This was the first time many of them experienced Eucharistic Adoration.
 - They thought it was very beautiful.
- It is good to teach them the truths of the faith but also important to teach them to pray since relationship with God vital to our faith.
- Our next prayer meeting is...
 - On Sunday, November 17, from 1:15-2:15
 - About the Our Father

I think that is everything for now. Thanks. Have a great evening!

