

Minutes: Sacred Heart Pastoral Council - April 15, 2018

Members present: Mike Bradley, Fr. Steve Dublinski, Bill Engels, Lorraine Farrand, Aurora Horstkamp, Kevin Owens (president), Eric Patera, Mary Schweitzer, Charlotte Snekvik, and Sandra Vickoren.

Also present: **Mary Sutherland**, Parish Secretary.

The meeting opened with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Old Business:

Building Meeting with Parish Community (Cost Analysis – What will it take to fix the current facilities?)

Members agreed that there should be a parish building meeting before summer. A cost analysis of what it would take to fix the current facilities should be ready before that. Some costs will not be known. Some parishioners were disappointed that the land by the cemetery is not available. Members will research whether there are any other possible building spots before the meeting. Another thing to consider is whether the current space is adequate. The Easter Masses were not full, probably because of the Pullman school's spring break, but that is difficult to determine. A new facility might have lower utility costs but the upkeep would be expensive. Could we afford that?

A couple other needed improvements to the current facility beside the safety issues discussed last month have become apparent to Fr. Steve. A number of older parishioners are unable to sit on the hard pews for long. If they bring a cushion it slides off because the pews are not very deep. They are also uncomfortable for people with long legs. Deeper pews would take up more room so the number of seats would be reduced. Also, new pews might not fit well in a new building since those usually have longer benches. Possible solutions could be replacing one or two pews at the front, or replacing a pew at the front or back with a row of chairs. Chairs with kneelers on the back are available. Chairs with arms are much easier for people with limited mobility to get out of. The fact that the pews are not bolted down and sometimes tip if people grab the back to pull themselves up was also noted as a safety issue.

Even though there is a ramp outside the front entrance, the steps inside the front entrance are difficult to manage as people age. Only three or four cars can park in the alley by the back door. This problem will increase.

The date for the building meeting was set for the afternoon of Sunday, June 3.

Church Hours – open longer? Fr. Tom Caswell told Fr. Steve how Sacred Heart church was open 24/7 in the past and a diverse group of people came in to pray at all hours. Currently the church is locked most of the time. Over the years we had isolated vandalism incidents. We began locking the church at night on 'party weekends', then around 2013 we began locking the doors every night. After several vandalism and theft incidents in May & June of 2015 Fr. Jeff decided that the doors should be locked all the time. We would like to try having the church open during the day with attention to the safety of the women working in the church. Council members will look into inexpensive cameras that can be monitored by staff through a website, and are capable of sending alarms to the police or fire departments and setting off an alarm in the church. We will also consider changing direction of the locks on the door between the library and the bathrooms, and the door between the annex and Holy Family room, so people who are in the church can't easily get into the offices.

New Business:

Parish Board nominations: Nomination ballots for Pastoral Council, Faith Formation Board and the Caritas Committee will be in the email bulletins and handed out as people are coming into church the last two weekends of April. The forms will include descriptions of each group. People will be encouraged to fill them out and put them in the collection during that Mass. Fr. Steve encourages nominations from current board members.

Easter Feedback: The celebrations went well. Members found the Triduum booklets very helpful. Those were written by parishioner Dan Jinguji. People liked the way the children followed Fr. Steve as he washed feet on Holy Thursday and asked him questions. There were problems with the speakers in the annex during the Sunday Masses. At first they weren't working at all and they never did sound right. The correct settings for different Masses need to be marked on the speaker controls. The settings vary according to how many people are in the church.

PREPARES: Parishioner Erin Phillips is chairing the group. At least eight people attended a meeting with Tracy from Catholic Charities on April 12. We are going to collect items for families and work with the Colton/Uniontown parishes to make "PREPARES bags" to distribute to families in need. Fr. Steve, Erin, and Sue McNamara are going to meet with MegAnn Moore at Simpson Methodist to explore whether our parish can help keep the PS I Love You program going for parents with young children. They will explore different meeting times and formats. Our ultimate goal is an ecumenical program.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 6, 9:45 am.

Submitted by **Mary Sutherland**.