

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2019**

ATTENDANCE:

Corinne Bardgett, Celeste Engel, Larry Gengler, Patti Hall, Mark Heisohn, Mary Kabbaz, Denise Klevorn, Jackie Mattingly, Maureen Ragsdale, John Ross, A. J. Thompson, Patti Zerega, Mark Zimmerman, Father Sebastian

PRAYER – BE ONE PRAYER: Corinne Bardgett

APPROVAL OF MAY 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Celeste Engel

Denise had previously suggested a few changes, and Celeste made those changes. The OLS Parish Council approved the minutes at the meeting.

SCCA REPORT: Ray Bockskopf

Ray is a new Board member for SCCA. They had their first Board meeting for the school year on August 13, 2019. Ray discussed the following topics:

- As of that day, 183 students were registered for SCCA, they had a balanced budget, which was based on 190 students, and their goal was 193 students. Enrollment is down from last year and the explanations for the decline were that some people moved out of the parish and out of the city, those that were not paid up on their tuition were not allowed back unless they made payment arrangements, and some simply couldn't afford the tuition.
- Over the summer, SCCA's Principal met with Father, and five former OLS teachers met with Mary Ann Rachas and some nearby businesses to promote the school.
- SCCA Board members will run Donut Sunday on September 1, 2019.
- Messages from the Principal can be found in the Church bulletins and teachers might also write messages in the future. Communication between SCCA, St. Joan of Arc Parish, and OLS will be a lot better in the future.
- Ray plans to continue to attend the Parish Council meetings in order to provide updates on the school.
- The SCA Parents' Committee will be looking into fundraisers for the school.
- SCCA will be hosting a Parish Day on Thursday, September 12, 2019, for OLS and SJA parishoners to tour the school.
- The Board meets monthly and their next meeting is September 24, 2019.
- St. Joan of Arc Homecoming is September 7-8, 2019.

PARISH FEAST DAY – SEPTEMBER 15, 2019: Ray Bockskopf

- The menu is published in the bulletin – slow-roasted beef and gravy, pasta in a light tomato cream sauce with grilled chicken, green beans, salad, fresh rolls, and homemade apple crisp. The vegetarian option is the salad. The cost is \$9.90/plate, which is down \$2.00 from last year. The luncheon is free for all attendees.

- The Women's Guild will serve the food, and the Young Adult group will serve the wine and also have some additional duties.
- Ray is looking for someone to purchase and serve ice cream. For the last two years, Barb Paulus was responsible for this, and she bought the gallon jugs of ice cream. Ted Drewes is too expensive.
- The Men's Club will set up the tables at noon on Saturday, September 14, 2019. Corinne asked for PC members to volunteer to decorate the tables starting at 12:30pm and to work on Sunday morning before Mass to finish the preparations – make the coffee and tea, blow up balloons, put bowls of Chex mix on the tables, etc.
- The OLS Alumni Organization supplied money for cloth tablecloths and flowers for the tables.
- Father did not want volunteers to leave after Communion but rather to join in the procession from the church to the parish hall.
- The food will be served starting at approximately 11:45pm – 12:00pm.
- Water bottles will be placed on the tables, Capri Suns will be available for the kids, and Fair Trade coffee will be donated.
- Ray and Denise will decide what she will need to purchase for the event.
- They are planning for 300 people, and 100 reservations have already been turned in. Last year, 325 attended the celebration. (Approximately 450 people attended the Feast this year.)

PASTOR'S VISION FOR 2019 – 2020: Father Sebastian

Father Sebastian would like to start a Youth Group at Our Lady of Sorrows that would not be affiliated with the Youth Group at Bishop DuBourg. The DB organization that is comprised of five South City parishes requested that OLS donate \$5000/year for the group, but since no one from OLS was part of this group, Father did not want to participate in it and would like to start a Youth Group here. Students in 8th grade through high school would be eligible to join.

Father will call the first Youth Group meeting and will also resume the dinners with the Young Adults after the Feast Day is over.

A. J. Thompson has volunteered to sit on the Parish Council for the 2019 – 2020 year. He attends SLUH.

FINANCE COUNCIL (BUILDING) REPORT: Denise Klevorn

Finances: The Finance Council did not meet in August, and in July they had a Planning Session to brainstorm some of the bigger issues.

In July 2019, OLS had a \$3500 surplus, so the parish was able to pay the bills and have a little extra in the checking account, although contributions came up a little short the previous month.

School Building: The CEO from Cardinal Ritter Senior Services toured the school building to see if it would be feasible to convert it into low-income senior living housing.

CRSS currently has 2 senior living complexes, the DuBourg House and St. Elizabeth's, and it is looking to combine both into one facility. They would need around 100 rooms that would be approximately 125 sq ft each. They thought it was an amazing building and asked for some blueprints, but it would require a lot of work. The Building Committee is waiting to hear back from them. The Archdiocese provided this lead.

The more groups that tour the building the better, because even if it doesn't work for a particular company, the word gets out.

The Finance Council will meet again in September.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS:

The new members of the Parish Council are Larry Gengler, Mary Kabbaz, Maureen Ragsdale, and A.J. Thompson. Each PC member introduced themselves in order for everyone to get to know each other.

PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING: Corinne Bardgett

Corinne and Denise have been the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively, for 2 years, and cannot serve another term in their current positions, according to the By-laws. Celeste agreed to serve as the Secretary this past year. Voting for the new Executive Board officers will occur at the September meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL TRAINING: Patti Zerega

Father Bockskopf was the head of this training program. Patti Zerega said that a positive point about Sorrows was Collaboration and that OLS is doing a much better job of this due to the Commissions. Organization leaders are getting to know each other. At the training session, they talked a lot about Communication and Cooperation problems in the parishes. The Commissions are helping with these issues, also. The program also focused on Gathering/Sending in a parish, and rated the parishes on Gathering, which includes worship, religious education, Bible study, Spiritual formation, work of nurturing, preparation, education, and discernment. Sending is about Mission, and examples given were soup kitchens, working on ways to end homelessness, safe places for battered women, St. Vincent DePaul visits, places for women with difficult pregnancies, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and visiting the imprisoned. It's all about getting outside and into the community. Regarding Gathering, OLS offers all of the above, but they may not be well-attended. As far as Sending, individually, the OLS parishoners do most of those listed, but as a parish, we may not be doing as well. Patti Hall also attended the training and thinks we do a good job at Gathering and that St. Vincent DePaul is the main effort that OLS is involved in as far as Sending. At the training, Father Bockskopf did not address how to find out where the needs of our community are, but the small groups discussed what their parishes did. At tonight's meeting, the members talked about the Winter Outreach program that Mary Ellen Mueller heads up. Parishoners prepare meals and deliver them to homeless shelters. Patti Hall talked about how one parish puts postcards on doors to advertise and invite

neighbors to events. Father stated that he created postcards for past Advent celebrations.

Father Sebastian feels our parish is currently in survival mode. Regarding outreach efforts, he doesn't feel that we can do much more as a parish than we are doing at this point and that our focus needs to be on evangelizing, our youth group, finances, etc. In the future, the new Bishop will be consolidating city parishes because there are too many. He feels our main concern is how to survive the consolidations. He wants to keep the parish family together. He also mentioned that a generous parishioner donated \$5000 for the OLS Feast Day.

COMMISSIONS UPDATE – NEXT MEETINGS: Mark Zimmerman

The Commission leads met in preparation for the 2nd meeting for each of the Commissions. The topics discussed were:

- 1) Each organization should provide a calendar of their events through the end of 2019. These events will then be combined, and a parish-wide calendar will be created.
- 2) One organization from each Commission will write an article for the bulletin highlighting its organization, and one of these articles will be published each in the next 4 months.
- 3) How to start using the tagline that was agreed upon at the last PC meeting. Ideas are to put the tagline on all letterhead, in the bulletin, in meeting minutes, on a banner in the Parish Center, etc. Mark will talk to Father, Deacon Dan, and the office for the best places to use the tagline. Mark printed the tagline using different fonts, and the PC members voted on the one they liked the best at the meeting.

The tagline is "Sharing the Faith in Jesus, Caring for our Community, and Building our Tradition".

The Commission leads discussed getting all of the Commission group leads together for an event in late April.

The Education and Worship Commissions both had their 2nd Commission meetings. Both went well.

In an effort to generate interest in the parish, Mark Heisohn is currently working on a flyer listing all of the organizations/groups. Mark used a flyer that Father Sebastian brought from his previous parish as a guideline. We have also done something similar in the past. This will be sent out in conjunction with the Stewardship speaker that will be coming in October.

NORTH DEANERY ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE – SEPTEMBER 7, 2019, 9:00am - 11:00am: Corinne Bardgett

The North City Deanery's annual pilgrimage that focuses on interracial relations will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2019, from 9:00am – 11:00am. One of the stops is St. Joseph's Shrine, and it will end with a luncheon at St. Nicholas Church. This is a 1.5-mile walk and all are invited to attend. Corinne will be going. It's an opportunity for those interested in building interracial relationships across the St. Louis area. Father has a positive attitude and doesn't see the racial problem that is depicted in the media. Corinne said this event is for more than discrimination. It's also for building relationships across the Archdiocese.

OLS WEBSITE:

Tom Skillman has been working on the website, but because he has so much on his plate right now, Father is looking for someone to continue Tom's efforts. Some people are unable to access the bulletin on the parish website. Since this is a specialized area, Denise suggested advertising in the bulletin.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, September 24, 2019

CLOSING PRAYER: Father Sebastian

ADJOURNMENT: 8:00pm

SUBMITTED BY: Celeste Engel