



ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting – September 9, 2019

Elected Members Present: Deborah Harrison, Kevin Maher, Peter Adams, Lourdes Eyer, Christine Forbes, Kevin Green, Pam Vogt

Elected Members Absent: Ross Terranova

Ex-Officio Members Present: Fr. Sean Harlow, O. Carm., Deacon Carl Locatelli

Recording Secretary: Deborah Botti

Ex-Officio Members Absent: Deacon Michael McCabe

Parish Members Present:

The meeting began with prayer at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of August 13, 2019, were accepted.

The following updates were given:

Ministry Reports:

Administration & Stewardship:

Nothing to report.

Education & Faith Formation:

Religious Education classes will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings; there are no longer classes on Mondays. Enrollment is now at 163 students. Deacon Carl will bless and distribute Bibles the first two evenings of class. Deacon Michael will be involved with a few of the ceremonies and parent meetings for this year's Confirmation class.

Christian Services:

The Prayer Blanket Ministry will host its biannual Bake Sale the weekend of September 28-29 to raise fund for supplies. The timing is perfect as the blanket reserve is dwindling. The Confirmation candidates will be making blankets with the group on Friday, October 4, and the blankets will then be blessed at all the Masses the weekend of October 5-6.

Social Activities:

The Parish Picnic is Sunday at the Town of Crawford Park. An employee was seen power-washing the grates, so Team Dzurilla should have no trouble barbecuing. About 100 tickets have been sold, including a good number to regular attendees at the senior luncheon.

Conversation then segued into a longing for the time when Sunday was a family day. Today it's increasingly a sports day for the kids, with soccer and swimming particularly popular. And while practice isn't supposed to start until 1 p.m., with travel sports, for example, the day often begins at 8 a.m. Some kids have said they wouldn't be going to our picnic because of sports.

Conversation took another turn. In light of what's going on in this country, should we really be asking kids to bring water **guns** to a picnic? The announcement at church was startling to some. And while no one wants to disappoint the kids, perhaps they can be redirected to shoot at targets or a pinwheel rather than at each other. Going forward, we'll have to be more cognizant of the unfortunate realities of today's world.

Back to the senior luncheon: While usually around 100 or so attend, because only 80 signed up for the September 4 event, it was decided that 96 places would be set. Ultimately, 96 showed up. However, the latecomers complained about the seating and vocalized that there should have been another table set. It is going to be suggested that there will be no more saving of seats after 11:30 a.m.

Worship & Spiritual Life:

- The Ministry Fair has been scheduled for the weekend of October 19-20, the same weekend as the Parish Council elections. Pam Vogt, coordinator of Christian Services, will be at all three sessions because initially, the fall Ministry Fair was to focus on the various facets of Christian Services. However, because all the ministries are now in need of extra hands, its scope has increased. Cookies, coffee and tea will be provided.
- Although not possible this year because of the elections, it was suggested that the Parish Council have a table at future Ministry Fairs to talk about the Council and what it does. Frequent feedback from parishioners is, "I wouldn't know what to do." They often don't realize it's as simple as hearing what's going on and making suggestions.
- Parish Council nomination forms will be at the doors to the church the weekend of September 28-29. Parish Council members are encouraged to nominate someone who might agree to run. Nominations are due the following weekend, October 5-6. They will be forwarded to the chairperson and announced in the bulletin.
- The basketball hoop – on which the height can be adjusted and locked - has been ordered from Dick's Sporting Goods.
- The youth minister has spoken with a magician whose presentation incorporates a moral message. For example, unlike shredding paper, you can't easily make social media posts disappear. He does discount his fee for churches, and it's hoped we can piggyback on other presentations of his in our area.

Vicar's Report (Fr. Sean Harlow, O. Carm.)

- The increased giving campaign kicks off the weekend of September 14-15 with the first insert and pulpit announcement. A letter with a pledge envelope will be mailed from the Archdiocese the following week, and Commitment Weekend is September 21-22. The campaign will continue for six weeks with inserts and announcements, including one weekend during which a Parish Council member will speak at each Mass to encourage people to give more. And as the fundraising raffle resumes and continues, parishioners will be reminded of our need.
- The Carmelite Year of Vocations runs October 1, 2019 to October 1, 2020. Fr. Sean has met with Fr. Francis Amodio, the vocation director, Deacon Carl and Deacon Michael. Banners will be put up at St. Paul's. Vocation pamphlets and holy cards will be available at the entrances. Prayers for vocations will include a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Mount Carmel available during Advent and Lent, similar to the Elijah Cup that families each took home for a week to incorporate with daily prayers for vocations. An intention for vocations will also be included in our Prayer of the Faithful.
- In October, Respect Life Month, the Prayer for Peace will be replaced with the Prayer for Respect Life. During Advent and Lent, the Prayer for Peace will be replaced with the Vocation Prayer.
- At 10 a.m. Saturday, October 19, we will celebrate Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. We will do this again on Saturday, May 2.
- Fr. Sean sent his inaugural Flocknote regarding Dan Conklin illness, and with the exception of a few people, it was successfully received.
- Concerning the new Arimathean Ministry, a goal would be to have at least 15 volunteers so as to be relatively certain of at least four available to attend and assist at a funeral Mass at St. Paul's. An informational meeting will be scheduled after a core group has expressed interest.
- About 20 people have signed up thus far to attend the Vatican II series.

Chairperson's Report (Deborah Harrison)

Nothing additional to report.

The meeting closed at 7:35 p.m. with prayer.

Next meeting will be Monday, October 7, 2019, at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Botti