

**St. Catherine of Siena parish Pastoral Council
November 9, 2013 – Minutes**

Members present:

Father Robert Creagan, Father Stan Witek, George Bruzza, Judy Bruzza, Linda Furtaw, Chip Everett, Patrick Martin, Tammy LeFaive, Candy Krymis, Noah Pollack, and Gary Hunt
Unable to attend: Colleen Semler, Janet Ingersoll, Steve Reasoner

Meeting called to order: 10:06 AM, opening prayer led by Patrick

Guest introduction: Nichole McClish (youth director)

Introduction of new council members: Noah Pollack (youth representative)

Minutes of the November 9, 2013 meeting: Correction: Candy Krymis present at 11/9 meeting.

Steward Reports: Nichole presented her high school and middle school reports to the council.

Finance Council Report: Linda Furtaw

- Mortgage payments are up to date
- 90% of Bishop's annual appeal pledges are in, (on par with this time last year)
- Church snow plowing expense \$7150 but under \$9K budget.
- Utilities over budget by \$2K.
 - Consumers sent efficiency expert, performed inspection, awaiting report.
- Attendance low, collections lagging.
 - Patrick suggested pushing direct deposit.
- John Emilio (accountant) reported possible trouble with another HVAC air handler. Details TBD. Building's mechanical needs have been cataloged.
- Special collection methods being discussed by Finance Council (PC new business agenda item).
 - Fr. Bob said he is not fond of second collections on Sunday. He said John is considering other methods. Possibly allowing parishioners to designate individual special collections of their choice. Fr. Bob polled the group on their favorite special charity of those listed on the 2014 Diocesan second collection schedule. George suggested asking parishioners same.
 - George mentioned he is in support of consolidated second collections but is looking to the finance council to make the final decision.

Old Business:

- Update on new Stations of the Cross
 - Canadian Birch wood is in, an electrician has been chosen, and Michael Northrup (artist) is engaged. The stations will be installed January 2015. Fr. Bob hopes to have a book published about the stations, including writings from Saint Catherine.
- 50th anniversary committee
 - The time table was presented to group. Birth date of the parish is August 10, 1966
 - Celebration will begin August 10, 2016.

- Committee has met twice, brainstorming many ideas: Golden jubilee celebration, new directory, activities, and various fundraisers.
- Mary Hunt is organizing the ideas. She has begun collecting stories and information from charter members. Stewards to be involved.
- Pastoral Planning/Partnering
 - Fr. Bob reported the partnering of parishes and mass consolidation is being discussed. “We’ve had the same mass schedule for 30 years, but now there are 10 less priests”. Direction is that St. John Bosco (Mattawan) is to become our partner.
 - Some partnering is currently happening with St. Martin (Vicksburg) and consolidation of youth programs with St Monica.
- Welcoming new parishioners
 - Welcome dinner being planned for Friday, February 28th at 6:30 to include Pastoral Council. Dinner followed by introductions and church tours.
 - Evangelization: Inviting Catholics who have been away from the Church.
 - George presented a “been away for a while?” flyer idea.
 - Noah suggested an open house/community event.

Communications:

- Phone calls & E-mail feedback
 - None presented in lieu of survey
- Parish survey results were presented
 - 140 parishioner responses were collected.
 - The council was given tally results on the 12 survey questions.
 - A summary of parishioner comments was also presented
 - Some concerns were raised about finances, sound system issues, cancelation notices, mass times, and atmosphere of the church. Homilies were discussed too.

New Business:

- Proposed amendment to the Pastoral Council constitution/by-laws regarding: Student Representative.
 - George presented amendment to by-laws allowing a member under 18 years old as a student representative. An additional requirement that at least two council members be VIRTUS trained and that requirement is met.
 - Tammy made motion to approve the amendment, Candy seconded the motion, vote taken, passed by majority.
- Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick
 - Prayer service is planned for Tuesday 2/11 followed by a luncheon.
- Planning Pastoral Council narthex table April 26/27.

Closing prayer and meeting adjourned 12:03 PM

Next meeting: May 10, 2014

Submitted by Gary Hunt