

**St. Catherine of Siena parish Pastoral Council
September 20, 2014 – Minutes**

Members present: Father Robert Creagan, George Bruzza, Judy Bruzza, Linda Furtaw, Tammy LeFaive, Patrick Martin, and Gary Hunt.

Unable to attend: Steve Reasoner, Chip Everett, Candy Krymis, Noah Pollack, Colleen Semler, and Janet Ingersoll.

Meeting called to order: 10:00 AM, opening prayer led by Patrick

Guest introduction: Tim McNamara (Diocese Associate Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry) presented Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth. He described it as a four step process where parishes become engaged with families to build a stronger Catholic community. He said the program has been adopted by some of the parishes in the diocese including St Martin of Tours, Vicksburg. Tim left information with the group and said we can learn more by viewing “Strong Catholic Families” on YouTube. (See new business below for continued discussion).

May 10th meeting minutes - Minutes accepted by group

Reports:

- Steward reports – George went over several Steward Report highlights including:
 - Youth report – Catholic Heart Work Camp date is set for next June.
 - Care & Support – Flu shot clinic planned for October 4th.
 - Communications – St Catherine web site being updated by Creative Group.
- Finance council report – Linda Furtaw presented:
 - Collections have been flat over the last 10 years.
 - Figures posted in the bulletin are two weeks old because of bulletin deadlines.
 - Linda: “Normally we don’t meet the budget until we near the holidays”.
 - Mortgage going well, \$93,000 in extra payments have been made, shortening the 30 year 2007 mortgage by 10-12 years.
 - Some future mortgage overpayments will be set aside for anticipated facility upgrades.
 - BAA is 96% pledged will go on until April.
 - George mentioned a new Diocesan capitol campaign coming with goals of strengthening parishes, schools and providing a retirement dwelling for priests.

Old business:

- An update was given on the new Stations of the Cross. Dedication will be January 17th.

- Pastoral Planning – Deanery Consultation
 - Fr. Bob attended, said we've been directed to partner with Mattawan and Marcellus.
- 50th Anniversary Committee
 - Planning has begun.
 - Celebration will begin August 2016 with special mass and parish picnic.
 - New directory, commemorative coffee mugs, Christmas ornaments, and a cookbook are being planned.
 - Many commemorative events are in the works including a pilgrimage to Rome and Siena.
 - Next committee meeting will be in October.
- Welcoming new parishioners
 - New parishioner dinner was held 9/19, 50 attended, church tours provided.
 - Bulletin recognition
 - George – new families are recognized in bulletin 'milestones' column.

Communications:

- Phone calls, Email, Survey
 - Survey was completed. Results were distributed and discussed.

New business:

- Strong Catholic Families/Strong Catholic Youth
 - George proposed the program be presented to the stewards at their meeting.
 - Judy suggested the Pastoral Council take on the project.
- Process for choosing new Pastoral Council members was discussed.
 - Per charter must be 9-15 members.
 - Terms are based on calendar year.
 - May ask outgoing members for replacement recommendations.
 - Maybe invite any potential candidate to observe the November meeting.
- Dates set for 2015 Pastoral council meetings
 - February 14th, May 16th, August 8th, November 14th.
- Other new parish business.
 - George suggested - Veterans Day blessing November 9th.
 - Tammy brought up Pastoral Council Narthex tables. George said yes, being planned prior to next meeting, probably Sunday November 2nd.

Next meeting: November 15, 2014

Closing prayer: Led by George

Meeting adjourned: 11:40 AM

Submitted by Gary Hunt