

Parish Council Meeting

January 16, 2024

1. **Opening Prayer:** Fr. Wayne opened the meeting at 6:10 pm with the Hail Mary
2. **In attendance:** Fr. Wayne Belschner, Deacon Kelley McCormick, Nancy McCormick, Elizabeth Healy, Dolores Johnson, Olivia Dooley, Bill Killion, Bill Rosa, Kathy Reda, Ann Stano
3. **Review and Vote on September Minutes**
 - i. Motion to act made by: Nancy M.
 - ii. Second on the motion by: Olivia D.
 - iii. Vote was taken: 10-0
 - iv. Motion carried √
4. **Parish Identity**
 - a. **Life Teen**
 - i. Currently there are 15 – 20 teens who come to Life nights on Sundays, with a significant amount of teens stepping up to help out with Mass.
 - ii. Plans are underway for a Spring retreat; Betania II is a consideration.
 - b. **Pastoral**
 - i. All regular programming continues to go well.
 - ii. Working on a date for *Thursdays with Mary* for February.
 - iii. The *Women's Group* is seeing spill-over from the *Connected in Christ* group, and is seeing a more diverse group.
 - c. **Seniors**
 - i. The senior luncheon on January 16th was an extremely small group due to the inclement weather.
 - ii. The *Friend to Friend* group meets quarterly for note writing. There's approximately eight women who meet in the parish center.
 - iii. People who receive Holy Communion in their homes are extremely appreciative.
 - iv. Currently there are very few people who receive Holy Communion at the Linden and at Traditions.
 - d. **Young Adults**
 - i. The *Young Adult* group starts with the 7:00 pm Mass with a light dinner to follow, then the Rosary. Numbers are picking up a bit.
 - e. **Connected in Christ**
 - i. We are hearing some very positive feedback and the number of people attending keeps growing. There is a social component as well as a teaching component. People love that spouses are able to attend. Plans are underway for a retreat, outing or speaker.

f. Men & Women's Groups

- i. The men's group continues to meet one Friday a month with the ages ranging from 21 to 88 with all age groups engaged in conversation. A great deal of the men are starting to put roots down and are getting involved in some of the parish ministries.
- ii. The Women's group continues to draw large numbers, the next gathering will be in early Spring.

g. Parish Cemetery

- i. The city of Boston planted twelve new trees along the sidewalk and a few trees inside the cemetery.

h. Religious Education

- i. K-5
 1. There are 150 students enrolled in the program with a few students who are instructed at home.
 2. First Reconciliation is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd; some of the parents receive the Sacrament, as well. First Holy Communion is scheduled for Saturday, May 11th.
- ii. EDGE
 1. There are 40 students who meet every Wednesday. Many 8th graders join the 9th and 10th graders for pizza and prayer.
 2. The program ends on June 7th.
- iii. ROC
 1. There are currently fifty 9th graders and forty-five 10th graders who are registered.
 2. The Wednesday group is very focused; the Thursday group has the largest group of students.
 3. The 15-minute segments are going very well – the students are very attentive. They are currently working on memorizing the Creed.
 4. ROC students are required to go to at least ten Masses.
 5. The 10th graders will be confirmed on April 5th.

5. RCIA: There are five candidates this year.

6. New Family Activities

- i. The next gathering is Saturday, February 20th. A farewell party is planned for Saturday, February 20th for Vincent DeRosa, who will be deployed to Iraq for nine months. This will take place in Mary Hall.

7. Lenten

- i. Ash Wednesday is February 14th. The Knights of Columbus is hosting a Mardi Gras celebration on February 13th. We are going to mention this to

those who attend *Connected in Christ* as well as the *Young Adult* group to see if there is interest in attending.

- ii. Exodus was redundant for many men so we decided to develop our own program.
- iii. Fr. Wayne and Deacon Kelley will lead *The Lenten 40 challenge*. This will be about perspective and will be open to both men and women. Each person will be given a map of sights where Jesus walked to meditate upon. Nancy McCormick will be the point person for the women's group and Fr. Wayne and Deacon Kelley will run the men's group. The meetings will be offered every Saturday after the 8:00 am Mass and after the 4:00 pm Mass. The first meeting/meetings will take place on February 3rd.
- iv. Adoration Lenten challenge – Deacon Kelley will be encouraging people to spend an hour with our Lord.

8. Adult Altar Servers for Funerals

- i. Adult servers are now back. We are currently trying to recruit a couple more.

9. Miscellaneous

- i. Consecration to Our Lady and to St. Joseph will be offered beginning in February.

10. Adjournment:

- a. Motion to adjourn made by: Deacon Kelley
- b. Second on the motion by: Ann Stano
- c. Vote was taken: 10-0
- d. Motion carried v
- e. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. with Fr. Wayne Leading us in the Hail Mary