

St. Mary's Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 25th 2016

7 PM - Rectory

Members Present: Father Gene, Brian Niermann, Anita Bievenue, Matt Colvis, Mike Vasquez , Donna Schultz, Cheryl Gross, Jim Knott, Jessica Buatte, Jim Surman and Fr. Brett Judkins

Members Absent none

Members Excused: Ron Korando

- A. Following the call to order by President Brian Niermann. Opening prayer "Prayer To Mary Help of Christians" was recited by all.
- B. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- C. No new agenda items were added to this meeting's agenda.

Committee & Organizational Reports

Liturgy (Father): Father Gene recounted how we have had a busy season liturgically. In addition we celebrated the Kindergarten and Eighth Grade graduations. Many people of the parish participated in the beautiful Ordination of Fr. Brett Judkins on May 14th. Fr. Brett celebrated the Mass with us at St. Mary's on May 22nd. There was a large crowd in attendance. Also, we had a delicious breakfast at the K.C. hall following the mass. Again, it was well attended. Memorial Day mass will take place at St. Mary's Cemetery, weather permitting, at 9 a.m. In case of rain, the mass will be celebrated in Church.

Education: (Cheryl) Cheryl told the council about a grant from the Catholic Services Ministry Appeal that the parish received for inter-parish RCIA program in the amount of \$800. She also applied for a grant to be used for the inter-parish Vacation Bible School to be held at Ellis Grove at St. Mary Divine Maternity this July. The plans for the vacation bible school is progressing nicely and Cheryl is very excited about the cooperation between the parishes. Another meeting will be held June 30th at Ellis Grove to finalize plans for the VBS which will be held evenings from 6-8 pm on July 11-14th 2016.

Poverty Service/Food Pantry: (Brian) Brian told the council that the Chester Area Christian Food Pantry will be making up food bags for the children for the summer. Items needed are fruit cups, pudding cups, drink boxes, P & B crackers, cheese crackers, canned pasta items, spaghetti's and raviolis. As always, volunteers are needed. Please contact Bob @ 826-5264 to volunteer.

Maintenance: (Father)

Same as last month...repairs mentioned are still in progress.

Finance: (Father) Father Gene announced that the next meeting of the Finance Committee would be August 15th at 7 p.m. Father said that the committee will be making some hard decisions in the upcoming meetings regarding the school budget and staff. Keep them in your prayers.

Cemetery: (Fr. Gene) As father mentioned at mass, it will be necessary to remove 20 of the old cedar trees. These trees can no longer be trimmed or saved. Also three dead trees at the cemetery will be removed. All of these trees mentioned present a danger to the headstones of many of the graves. Fr. reminded us that when individual headstones are damaged or need repairs, it is the responsibility of the individuals and families and not that of the cemetery or parish.

Organizations:

- A. School Board: Father mentioned that an increase in tuition cannot be avoided for the new school year. There also might have to be some adjustments to staff.
- B. Council of Catholic Women --No report.
- C. Youth Ministry/CYO: Cheryl will be asking the youth in the Parish for help with VBS in July.
- D. K of C: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Dinner Auction: Brian told us that a wrap up meeting had been held and they discussed things that went very well and some things that might have to be changed. All in all, the Auction was a great success having made approximately \$3500 more than last year. He said the first meeting for next year will be in October and they are looking at April 1st as a possible date for the 2017 Auction.
- B. Partnership Mission: covered under Education committee.
- C. Church Renovation Committee: the committee has decided to push back the renovation of the church until 2018 due to all the decisions to be made with the school this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Behavior of people in the balcony during Mass. Fr. and Brian told the council that at times, people sitting in the balcony during mass do not behave as well as they might if they were sitting downstairs. There was an incident that took place at the 8th grade graduation mass that was upsetting. It was decided that there really was no action that could take place regarding this as there were a lot of strangers in the balcony who were not aware that their behavior was inappropriate during mass.
- B. Texting service: Brian told us about a texting service that he learned was available. It could be used in cases of inclement weather or other cases where the rectory would need to relay information. It was decided that it was not a feasible option for St. Mary's at this time. Most people don't get out in bad weather anyway and if they did, Father Gene would be having mass anyway.
- C. Brian announced that there will be 2 openings on the Council....the terms of Ron Korando and Jim Knott expire in July. Brian will try to find interested people and invite them to the next meeting.
- D. Other new business: Fr. mentioned a Vicariate meeting and read a letter from the bishop to the West Vicariate. It addressed the Parish Partnerships and encouraged all the Parishes to continue to make plans for the coming time when our shortage of priests make it necessary to combine services. Father told the Council that St. Mary's and St. Mary Divine Maternity have been working together diligently to have everything in order for a smooth transition when the time comes.

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the selection of new members and Election of Officers.
Agenda items should be brought to Brian at least 10 days prior to the next meeting.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, July 27th @ 7 p.m. in the Rectory.

Volunteer for closing prayer: Anita Bievenue

Refreshments: Donna Schultz

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. following a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Anita Bievenue, Secretary