

Minutes of the parish council meeting April 10, 2017

Present: A Crowe, ME White, M. Miller, D. Wois, S. Wois, C. McLaughlin, T. Kraft, Br. Ray, H. Wimble, A. Buford, N. Silveri, T. McGratty( via conf call), T. Novara, Br. Robert, S. May

Mark Miller opened the meeting at 7 pm. Minutes of March meeting were approved.

Christian Service: Over 60 Easter baskets were made to be distributed to the children. The food pantry is going well. There is a reminder coming about using Kroger card to benefit Nativity

Education: no report

Evangelization: Soup Supper is set for 4/25/17/. The subject will be "Returning to Jesus". The speakers will be Mark Miller, Mary Miller and Candace Estes.

Finance: Mary Ellen White brought the members up to date. She encouraged us to find an innovative approach to explaining CSA. to the parish. Do we need representatives from Parish Council to speak at masses (Pres. Mark Miller agreed to speak at masses) Do we need to re-explain what our parish responsibility is? And that the parish keeps any amount that is over target? Does the parish know that we need to increase our fundraising? We cannot depend on our school alumni as many of them are not able to support Nativity as in the past. Last year, we met target (around \$18,000) by using the rest of the Father Singer funds. Danny agreed to work with finance committee to assist with CSA accounting. The Fund-raising issue was raised. A dinner dance was discussed to bring in extra funds. It is a 9-month project, the raffle brings in 3-4 thousand dollars. Many suggestions were made about items to be raffled (sporting events, weekend getaway etc.) Tom Kraft made suggestions which include: (ask AOD how they arrive at each parish's CSA target, electronic transfer of funds for weekend donation, monthly family mass etc.) Cookie K and committee will work on these suggestions The AOD will be looking at our parish budget for the coming year. The budget will be presented to the parish council for analysis and approval at the May meeting.

With the retirement of Sr Jolene, three new part-time employees have been hired. (We were reminded that Jolene took minimum salary.) WE NEED TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO NATIVITY TO KEEP OUR PARISH OPEN AND STRONG.

Social: Mardi Gras party was a success. Thanks to everyone who worked on this event.

Outreach: Harry W reported that we are getting about 35 visitors to parish website/day. The bulletin is the most sought after item

Br. Ray reports that Horace (graduate of the ROPE program) has moved into the parish house. This is for the safety of the property. Br Ray commented that the "regulars" at St. Charles came to church as youth. Do we need a regular (? monthly) outing for the youth? We should ask them for suggestions (baseball game etc.)

Youth: We need to encourage the young people to "step up" and help their parish. Can we schedule an afternoon neighborhood event? After Sat 4pm mass? Invite the police/fire dept. to visit? Serve hot dogs/ice cream? Mark will ask Coleman to invite the youth and help with this. Mark will report on this at May meeting

Update on Sr. Jolene: Sister has recently transferred to Racine rehabilitation center. She has been evaluated, many new therapies have begun. She loves getting our mail. There will be regular updates on Sister's condition. More next month.

New business: The dwindling attendance at mass is leading to the deficit. We are entering a time when both increasing our weekly donation and donating CSA are on the agenda.

Do we need to look at: who is missing at mass? after a certain period (2 weeks?) Should we call them to see how they are? What do they need? Fran Carnaghi has been calling parishioners and checking on them.

We know that the Catholic Church does not have a large "presence" with minority groups. How can we change this? How do we get new people "in the door"? Once in, they will love our parish.

Suggestion Box: questions include: microphone is not working at 4pm mass (M.E. White reports that this is not a new problem.) Do we need to get quote? Lectors need to project their voice better. M.E. White was going to get a name from another church that recently had microphone and sound system work done.

Harry reports that so far there have been 10 submissions for scholarship money. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline

Gardeners: can we get them to plant items that the people want to eat? The abundance goes to the food pantry. Trudy Shiemke is contact for garden.

Respectfully submitted

Therese McGratty