

St. Katharine Drexel Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Diane Nekvinda (Welcoming), Brian Berg (Building & Grounds), Annamarie Trevvett (Youth Rep), Jeff Ellefson (Finance), Jessie DeGiorgio (Liturgy/Art/Environment), Carol Deering (Communications), Jan Feterl (Social Ministries), Lloyd Tooley (Faith Formation), Joe Mauss, Fr. Tschakert, Tonia Honner

Opened with prayer

Committee Reports

Liturgy/Art/Environment:

- Gathering Space update: tables arrived with the wrong color tops, so the lighter-colored tops are on order. TV screen is in and will be installed soon, cabinets and countertops are about 2 months away from being installed, benches around the edge of the Gathering Space are being made by hand and will be the last item to be installed.
- Stained glass windows update: Dakota Stained Glass is shooting for the end of May to install the 6 windows on the east side of the building.
- The stand that the Easter lilies were on was designed by Darryl Dubs and made by Jim Weeg.

Building & Grounds:

- Brian contacted Monty Miller regarding the drainage issue on the east side of the new addition. Monty indicated we had the same problem on the north side of the church when we first built it. Monty would like to rent a small excavator and dig a trench to the south end of the property and connect an 8" pipe into the storm sewer. Monty and Brian would enlist the help of the Building and Grounds crew to keep costs around \$4,500 or less. If we were to hire out, the work would cost \$11,000. Monty is confident that this would eliminate future water issues.

Faith Formation:

- They have not met since January. Lloyd plans to have a meeting in May.
- "Doors of Mercy" video series has been well attended with approximately 20 people on Sunday evenings with Deacon Denny and 10-12 people on Monday evenings with Gae French.
- Fr. Tschakert has lead a series with a study book on discipleship on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. with approximately 6 people and after the 8 a.m. mass with 20-24 people.
- Our Parish Mission with Bill Wegner has been rescheduled to Sept. 25th-28th. The Stewardship Committee is looking into having a priest come in 2017 that one of their members saw at a convention.

Welcoming:

- Diane and Jim and Donna Cannon picked up names to contact since there was no meeting in March.
- Next meeting is Monday, April 18th, with Welcoming Table at the April 23rd & 24th Masses. Diane said many people like the option to meet at the table after Mass instead of having the committee members make home visits.

Communications:

- Newsletter went out during the first week of March with 490 of 870 families opening it (57% open rate which is amazing). Interesting fact that 53% opened on a mobile device or tablet and 47% opened on laptop or computer. Letter was resent to unopened addresses in the first week of April. Fr. Tschakert has heard many positive comments about this last newsletter.

Finance:

- Budget income is 15% above where the committee projected they would be at this time of the year.
- Jeff visited with Nielsen Construction in regards to Katie Ave. since a rezoning notice was posted. The land on the west side of Katie Ave. has been rezoned from agricultural to multifamily housing. Work on the road is likely to start in 2 months with plotting and approval of the plots by the City first. Original estimates for the road are \$180,000-\$200,000. Nielsen Construction owns a paving company so we can pay them for our portion over a few months.
- CFSA pledges are up to \$95,000 with approximately 50% of parishioners not having responded yet. Phone calls will be made on Sunday, April 17th from 5-7 p.m.

Stewardship:

- Last meeting focused on developing their mission going forward. They are working on how to rotate members on and off the committee and on term limits.
- Discussion was held on sending one of the committee members to a national stewardship conference later this year.

Social Ministries:

- Jan has been so amazed by the Social Ministries Committee members and how giving and inspiring they are.
- This year's focus is on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Jan encouraged everyone to read the book Fr. Tschakert handed out at Easter called Beautiful Mercy. Their committee is reading a section before each meeting and having a discussion at the meeting over what they read.
- Committee members are serving at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House on Saturday, April 9th in the evening. They will be checking in guests, doing bag searches, and showing them to their bunks.
- In May, they will help the Presentation Sisters with their Cinco de Mayo party.

- One of the committee members will be writing pieces for the bulletin on the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- Discussion on how to distribute \$3,000 in charitable donations has started. The final selections will be given to Fr. Tschakert for approval.

Parish Activities:

- No one present to report; The next big event will be the Parish Picnic traditionally held in August.

Youth:

- The Large Group Vocations Panel went very well with the Sisters of Mary Morning Star from Ghent, MN. Next Large Group is Wed., April 27th with Msgr. Mangan speaking on Mary.
- Y-Disciple leaders are attending Discipleship Day on Sat., April 9th.
- Youth Council meeting is Sunday, April 17th at 5 p.m.
- Mission trip is full for students; We still need 4 more chaperones and 2 vans. The youth are going to Milwaukee, WI to help with repairs to homes.
- Steubenville: We have spots for 4 more students. The chaperone spots are filled.
- The Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 3rd cleared \$1,100.
- Bean Bag Toss Tournament is Sunday, May 29th. Y-Disciple groups are making boards.
- "God's Not Dead 2": The youth will be attending a show Sunday, April 10th at 4:05 p.m. (time change) in place of Youth Activities.

Open Discussion:

Jeff asked that we think about adding to our next agenda term limits for committee members. Fr. Tschakert reminded us that a one-size-fits-all practice might not work for every committee; some committees have the worker bees and some are more of a consulting committee. The more we rotate members on and off committees, the more we allow for more members to participate and promote greater knowledge of what goes on in our parish. Jeff suggested the Parish Council change the agenda a couple of times a year to delve deeper into other issues, rather than just reporting what our committees are doing.

Fr. Tschakert challenged us to think about how we can better serve students who are older than 2nd grade who are receiving First Holy Communion. The materials currently handed out are not geared toward older students. We are seeing more students falling into this category. Fr. Tschakert and Deacon Denny visited 63 First Holy Communion students in the last few weeks.

Closed with prayer

Next meeting is May 5th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room

Respectfully submitted: Tonia Honner 4-8-16

