

Parish Council Meeting Thursday, April 9, 2015

Members present: Diane Nekvinda (Welcoming), Tim Loftesness (Finance), Jan Feterl (Social Ministries), Darryl Dubs (Liturgy/Art/Environment), Carol Deering (Communications), Lloyd Tooley (Faith Formation), Mary Jo Gallagher (Youth), Laurie Christensen (Parish Activities), Joe Mauss, Fr. Tschakert and Tonia Honner

Opened with prayer

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds Committee:

- Painting was completed by 32 volunteers on Saturday, March 28th.
- Ceiling tiles and flooring are currently being installed. Joe would like subcontractors to be finished up in the next two weeks.

Liturgy/Art/Environment Committee:

- Decorated the Nave for Easter.
- Final changes were made to the drawings for the first three windows. The artist will start next week with anticipated installation in July. The artist has provided drawings for the other windows and is awaiting any changes we would like to make to those drawings. Tim from Finance Council informed us that we are really close to having funding for 4 windows. Darryl shared that the Liturgy Committee will be working on displaying the drawings and providing information about the windows to be displayed in the Gathering Space for parishioners to look at.
- Darryl informed us that the price of glass would remain the same for the remainder of the year. Once the drawings are displayed it is their hope that people will want to contribute to the stained glass window fund to complete more windows in the near future. This would allow us to purchase more at the same price.
- Creative Surfaces is working on pricing for cabinets in the Gathering Space.

Faith Formation Committee:

- Continued review and discussion of The Joy of the Gospel by Pope Francis, with current focus on the topic of worldliness and how it relates to how people are considered and treated.
- Alan Ames event went well considering the Summit League Tournament was in town. Several priests helped with confessions to make the lines move faster.
- Vocations Committee has adoration the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. and prays the Rosary every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. They have added the intention of praying for parents of those discerning religious life.
- Discussion has started on how to draw more attention to the Year of Mercy coming up in December.

Welcoming Committee:

- The Welcoming Committee table was a huge success on March 28th & 29th. Families were able to pick up packets and feel welcomed. Fr. Tschakert had 7 new families fill out cards of introduction that weekend. The committee will be discussing the possibility of having the welcoming table once a month.
- Diane shared that an average of 1/3 of the people will agree to a home visit to be welcomed.
- Diane will approach the committee about changing their meeting date so they can have new names in their hands before they have the welcoming table weekend.

Communications Committee:

- Jennifer sent the e-news letter out a second time to families who hadn't opened it the first time. The open rate on the first run was 49% and the second time was 14% for a total of 63% open rate. This is promising news as the industry average is 25% open rate.
- Parish survey to be sent out week of April 13th.
- Lloyd will be working with Jennifer soon to launch the new website. They will go over any items that could be potential hiccups.
- Fr. Tschakert asked the council what they thought of the postcard and newspaper ads that were sent and placed during Lent. Everyone said people had made positive comments on the advertising.

Finance Committee:

- The Budget Subcommittee has started meeting to focus on our annual budget. The subcommittee is committed to focusing on line item details to make the budget forecasting easier in the future. Biggest expense item will be regular maintenance of our facility. They are projecting \$200,000 in costs over the next 5 years. Katie Ave. will be completed in 2016 and we have to pay for ½ off that road. Wiseman Circle behind the school must have a final layer of asphalt applied soon per the city.
- The committee is anticipating a small deficit to end our fiscal year. They are forecasting this as a result of the Sharing Our Gifts Campaign not adding up to what people indicated they would increase their annual gifts by. With this knowledge they will be better prepared to budget line item expenses for next year. Last year we ended the fiscal year on the positive side with a surplus of \$26,000 from the extra gifts over our CFSA assessment.
- 1/3 of our parish are regular givers. If the other 2/3 of parishioners would give just \$5 per week, we could cut our loan down to 15 years instead of 33 years to payoff.
- Any CFSA dollars from this year's campaign that exceed our assessed amount will most likely go toward debt reduction.

Stewardship Committee:

- CFSA calls to families who haven't participated yet this year will be made Sunday, April 19th starting at 5 p.m. All Parish Council members are encouraged to help. We will go out for fellowship following calls.

- Committee has decided to meet bi-monthly for summer and see how that goes.
- 125th Diocese Celebration is August 14th-16th. Speakers and entertainment are set. Events leading up to it are in Woonsocket and Marty. The Woonsocket event will be at a watermelon farm with events focused on prairie living. The Marty event will focus on Native Americans and has ties to St. Katharine Drexel. Julie Dickes and Jan Feterl are hoping we can fill 2 buses to pilgrimage to Marty to show our support their event. Young adults are encouraged to attend the 125th celebration and they have a craft beer event scheduled to attract this group. Msgr. Mangan is coordinating a Marian Procession and the Knights of Columbus will provide a 125-member color guard to lead into event. The goal is to represent every parish that existed (about 330 parishes) over the 125 years.

Social Ministries Committee:

- Food Pantry handed out 115 bags of groceries and 159 bags of diapers in March.
- We continue to serve at The Banquet and St. Francis House each month.
- Habitat for Humanity has contacted us about a project. Dave Lueth will follow up with this.
- Home visits and rides for those who are unable to get to appointments is being done by Gloria Paulin. She would like more volunteers to help with this.

Parish Activities Committee:

- Easter egg hunt was held Sunday, March 22nd. Ideas for next year's event are being discussed.
- Laurie briefly talked to Megan Ringling about t-shirt redesign. Hopefully there will be more to report next month.
- Parish Picnic date subject to change based on upcoming vote to change the start date of Sioux Falls Public School District's school year.

Youth:

- The Sunday, March 22nd Pancake Breakfast had the largest turnout ever and the most money raised.
- Living Stations came together and was successful.
- Mission Trip-28 individuals going. Mary Jo is in communication with St. Miriam on the week's events and security all squared away. They are looking for donations of household items for Marty. Mary Jo will put up wish lists of new and gently-used items.
- Steubenville North trip has 35 individuals going.
- Discipleship Day (Sat., March 28th): St. Katharine Drexel Parish had the most representing our parish at the day-long event. Everyone who attended came away with a lot of great ideas and information.

Open discussion:

- Fr. Tschakert has the council what they thought of contacting families whose children are not registered for Religious Education classes or with Sioux Falls Catholic Schools. Everyone thought it was a good idea and suggested possible reasons why people don't

register. Fr. will continue to compile names and start the calling process of inviting people to register and working with those who have concerns about the program.

Closing:

- Closed with prayer.

Next meeting is May 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room

Respectfully submitted: Tonia Honner (4-10-15)