

Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, June 4, 2015

Members present: Jim Cannon (Welcoming), Jeff Ellefson (Finance), Jan Feterl (Social Ministries & Stewardship), Lloyd Tooley (Faith Formation), Darryl Dubs (Liturgy/Art/Environment), Micah Mauney (Stewardship), Carol Deering (Communications) , Fr. Tschakert, Tonia Honner

Opened with prayer

Committee Reports

Building & Grounds:

- Cabinets and hallway benches and hooks have been installed. Flooring has been started. The committee will begin work on Saturday, June 6th with an anticipated completion of the building addition at the end of July/beginning of August.
- Jeff asked if the dollar amount given by the Building Committee included furnishing the rooms. The answer is that money raised at Turkey Bingo was dedicated to helping furnish the rooms. No hard core numbers are available for specific costs.
- Fr. Tschakert has decided that the current 6th grade classroom (Room 203) will be the new adult education/conference room. He felt it better suited our needs and is closest to the church. We would be able to leave everything set up in there and not have to share with Academic Services. The space we would have in the new addition vs. the space in Room 203 would virtually be the same without having to work around Academic Services.

Liturgy/Art/Environment:

- Darryl provided us with sketches that will soon be available for the parish to view of the stained glass windows that have been started. We have enough money for 4 windows to go in on the east side of the Nave. The artist believes they may be ready to be installed as early as July.
- The Welcoming Committee proposed that "All are welcome in this place" be put on the wall above the main doors to the church (in the entryway). Vinyl lettering for this would cost about \$125. The saying would go above the doors in the foyer as you come in from outside.
- Gathering Space update: At the next meeting on Wednesday, June 17th, Darwin will have a designer present her ideas for updating the Gathering Space. Darryl will try and have a drawing to show us at our July meeting and proposed costs.

Faith Formation:

- No meeting was held in May.
- Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. Fr. Tschakert meets with a group. Tuesday evenings a discipleship group has been meeting. This group will decide in the near future of how they will break up into smaller groups. A single young adult group has been meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Welcoming:

- Four new families stopped by the welcoming booth at the end of May. The committee encourages those who stop by to get registered or if they just registered they

encourage them to get involved in the parish. Committee members have shared with our guests different things they are involved in.

- Parish Council members discussed another mailing going out late summer to invite people to our parish and encourage them to register for Religious Education classes, RCIA, and to welcome new families to the area and let them know where we are.
- A door-to-door campaign has been discussed between members of different committees targeting new areas surrounding the parish. Fr. Tschakert and Jeff Ellefson are getting a game plan together with others willing to go from different committees.

Communications:

- The June e-newsletter will be sent out the week of June 8th.
- Carol will start compiling information gathered from the Parish Survey. Jennifer resent the survey to those families who didn't open the survey after it was initially sent. Overall 500+ households have opened the Parish Survey out of 850 households. This open rate is very encouraging.
- The update to the parish website has been a slow process with some technical difficulties. The Spiritual Adoption page has been offered to every Diocese in the US. We have had some good response with the Diocese of Austin, Texas using a spinoff of our ideas.

Finance:

- Budgeting process is 2/3 of the way done. For the first time, it is looking like we may end the year with a balanced budget. Year to date, we are about \$13,000 ahead. Our building project fund continues to get contributions which will help with the capital outlay. CFSA pledge surplus of around \$20,000 will be applied to debt reduction once our assessed amount is paid in full.
- Our debt is currently 4.2 million at 4 ¼% interest rate. Our current debt will take approximately 30 years to pay off.

Stewardship:

- Discussed the purpose of the committee and where they want to take it and to define what they want to do.
- The committee has proposed that Fr. Tschakert put out a quote of the day or week possibly through social media similar to his weekly quote in the bulletin. Parish Council members suggested we look into a Twitter account to reach out to the younger generation.
- 125th Diocesan Legacy Event is coming up in August and this is a perfect way to invite people back to the faith. With Pope Francis declaring December 8th the start of "The Year of Mercy," it is important that we start inviting those on the peripheries of their faith.

Social Ministries:

- Prison Ministry is trying to get our adult choir to come and sing at one of their Masses again.
- Lori Gerads and Eric Schulte will be working with our parish staff to see if we are able to purchase food at \$.18 per pound from Feeding South Dakota. Eric has been working on some paperwork to ensure that we don't have to jump through so many hoops to get

food at this reduced rate. Tonia has brought the concerns we have and they are working with Feeding South Dakota to see if we have to adhere to all policies.

- Habitat for Humanity Restore is looking for more volunteers to help on their projects.
- The Social Ministries Committee is working to provide all the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- The committee has around 50 members with 20-25 regularly attending meetings. No June meeting is scheduled.

Parish Activities:

- Laurie Christensen asked to step down last month from committee due to her commitments in raising her young family. Fr. Tschakert has asked us to give suggestions of names of people he can ask to be on this committee.
- Next scheduled event is the Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 23rd. We need help with Bingo prizes and games.

Youth:

- Mission Trip to Martin, SD is June 21st-June 27th. Mary Jo is in need of a couple 7-passenger vans to take kids in.
- Mission tree went up in Gathering Space with items that will be donated to the Needy Nook/Kateri Center and response has been very good.
- Steubenville North trip parent meeting scheduled for end of June. The group will be taking a bus for that trip.
- SEARCH was held at Holy Spirit Parish this last weekend. We had a 4-5 kids from our parish attend.
- Three young men from our parish are discerning the seminary: Bailey Lauret, Thomas Bennett, and Eric Wuebben. Please pray for these young men and their vocation.

Open Discussion:

- The next Parish Council meeting will be Thursday, July 2nd at 6:30 p.m.
- Please turn in your meeting minutes in a timely manner and let us know if you are not going to have a meeting as we publish meeting times and dates in the bulletin.

Closing:

- Closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Tonia Honner (6-5-15)