

## St. Katharine Drexel Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 16, 2017

Members present: Susie Lammers, Eric Sammons, Sandra Meyer, Jeff Ellefson, Jan Feterl, Diane Nekvinda, Jim Cannon, Rick Lingberg, Fr. Tschakert, Tonia Honner

Meeting opened with prayer by Fr. Tschakert.

Fr. Tschakert had us read and reflect on the Gospel for next Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had a wonderful discussion on this Gospel passage.

Jeff Ellefson handed out a document from the Archdiocese of St. Louis on how to increase Mass attendance. A couple interesting facts were that people who regularly attended Mass were giving twice as much and were more likely to volunteer regularly. Ideas of events to attract young people to attend Mass were suggested. How often to have events, how to reach out to those not already in the pews, and how to engage them on a regular basis are all part of an ongoing discussion. We will continue these discussions in future meetings.

Fr. Tschakert had us reflect on the Papal document from Pope Paul VI from December 8, 1975. A couple takeaways: There was a clear split between the Gospel and culture, and people don't trust words, they trust witness. Doors are opened for evangelization and we need to act upon those opportunities.

We are living in a nation of sin: South Dakota has over 4,000 inmates, the highest in the US per capita. Approximately 25% of those incarcerated have some sort of mental illness and we don't offer treatment. Our treatment of the elderly is disrespectful and we must be careful as states are voting to allow assisted suicides, many want to speed up the passing of the elderly.

**Next meeting is Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by: Tonia Honner (10-18-17)