

St. Sebastian Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, September 25, 2016 – 9:05 AM

Present: Fr Brian Belongia, Dcn Rich Matuszak, Doris Kropp, Jodi Soltvedt, Georgian Rynish, Janet Wilquet, Linda VandenLangenberg, Jeff VandenLangenberg, Alice VandenLangenberg, Kathy Gruscynski, Clarence Gruscynski, Ron Matuszak Sr, Don Eisenreich, Richard Stedl, Darlene Stedl, Jake Hodkiewicz, Jill Hodkiewicz, Eugene Kropp, Shirley Kropp, Judy Marohl, Carl Wagner, DJ Hill, Mary Hill, Beth VandeHei and Ray VandeHei.

Father Brian opened the meeting with a prayer.

Father Brian has assembled a Finance Council who he relies on to analyze the parish finances and to make decisions on how to invest them for the best interest of the parish. Helen Wachtendonk is the bookkeeper for both parishes. Any questions about church support should be directed to Helen.

St. Sebastian is a generous parish and the cost of most of the special projects that have been done have been covered by donations from parishioners.

Deacon Rich has been in charge of the building and grounds to prioritize the upkeep and improvements that may be needed. He has updated, to the best of his memory, the Memory Board that is in the church lobby which shows the donations that have been made by parishioners for special projects. Please look at the board and let Deacon Rich know if there are donations that have been made but are not included.

To date, we have not met the Bishop's Appeal quota for our parish. Any shortage must be paid from the general church fund as this is an assessment from the diocese.

The parish has spent a lot in the last five years for improvements and repairs that should have been done over several years. We are just about caught up now. The improvements that have been made and are being made are things that will pay off, long term, for the parish. For example, the basement floor and the glass block windows will correct a water problem and will improve heat retention. The storm over the window facing the road will correct another water problem.

We need to survey and make plans for upkeep that will be needed in the next several years. One of the next projects will be digging up the landscaping and the sidewalk in front of the church. Roots from landscaping have gotten into the sewer line. A partial fix was done in the summer, but it is not a permanent solution. The sewer line will have to be considered when new landscaping is planted.

All of these things are for the best interest of the parish moving forward. Priests come and go, and, if a plan is established for future years, it makes the transition easier for an incoming priest.

Bishop Ricken will be at St. Sebastian on January 22, 2016 to see the parish and to meet our parishioners. Please plan to attend that service and please extend the invitation to your family members and other parishioners.

Father Brian is in the process of doing some re-organization within the Parish Council. The committee lines need to be more defined so that everyone knows who is doing what and everyone knows what is

going on. Committees meet at 6:00 and the Parish Council Meeting is at 6:30. All parishioners are welcome to attend the Parish Council Meetings.

Since 7-1-16, the fiscal year financial statement will be available upon request. Only the calendar year statements will be printed and mailed.

Father Brian is pleased with the involvement at St. Sebastian Parish. People step forward for the cemetery, cleaning, music, teaching and the many other committees, and things always get done. That said, we do need to look at the new parishioners to be involved and to start taking over.

If you see new, young parishioners in the church, welcome them and encourage them to be involved. We need to think about ways to introduce new families into our parish in a welcoming way.

The Christmas Eve mass at St. Sebastian will be at 6:00 PM. Holy Days of Obligation masses will be at 8:15 AM at St. Sebastian and the evening mass will be at St. John's in Seymour. This is driven by the shortage of priests.

The loop system that has been installed is working well and is appreciated by those with hearing loss.

Any suggestions for future improvements or needs of the parish should be taken to Deacon Rich.

A thank you to Deacon Rich and to Helen Wachtendonk for all that they do for our parish.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Campbell

Finance Council President