**ST. EDWARD’S PARISH MEETING** — NOVEMBER 20, 2022

Jeff Greulich, Pastoral Council president, welcomed those in attendance and lead an opening prayer. He introduced the trustees, the current council members and those of the Finance Council. There was also special acknowledgments and thanks to former members,Tom Determan and Mike Marz, who had served two consecutive terms and one extra year during the Covid Pandemic and remembrance for Larry Westrich who had passed away during the past year. There were also introductions of parish staff and the Child Development Center director.

Staff and school reports were given. There was congratulation for the CDC for receiving their recent “Best of Racine” award. Lorie Czerwinski, the director, gave updates on enrollments. The center is also nationally certified. The principal of OLOGA was unable to attend but sent a report that Ann Sadowski shared. Fr Juan spoke of the learning experience for all as we transitioned supporting a traditional parish school to having the school be a part of Siena Catholic Schools, and thanked us for supporting the changes. OLOGA’s enrollment is much more a diverse population with 60% African American students, 35% Hispanic students, and 5% white and other, which offers more opportunities for the parish to meet the needs of the Racine community. Deacon Dave also shared that as part of his ministry he is spending time in the school also.

The Finance Council report was given by Trustee Barb Pippenger. The fiscal year ended June 30. The parish will break even. Dave Fluery reported on the still ongoing Capital Campaign Fund. While they were pleased with contributions/pledges. There was hope that all members of the congregation would participate in any way they can, if not with money but with prayers and support. How money will be used was shared in non-specifics because at this time it is still being discussed how we can be good stewards and continue with the many things that are currently being done in the parish and also expanding to other areas of the West Racine neighborhood and the Racine community to help those in need and to evangelize and making our presence known in the community.

The Formation Committee report was given by Barb Hanschel. Formation sessions are currently being held at St. Richard’s because there are very few children from St. Edward’s. Fr. Juan reminded us that the mission of the church is not members, but disciples.

Joan Feil reported on the newly reformed Human Concerns committee. There have been many activities that have been taking place that have continued even during the pandemic such as the Health Care Ministry, St. Vincent DePaul holiday food baskets and the various other things, the Rose Sale, the Souper Bowl, the Baby Shower to help families. The goal is help those in need.

Dave Tuttle shared a few of the Buildings and Grounds items. Such as an update on the ceiling in the sacristy. Also, the spotlight for the Blessed Mother.

There was a request for members to form a Stewardship Committee, which is required by the Archdiocese. Due to pandemic and the passing of several members of the committee there is a need to re-form the committee. Volunteers are needed.

Ellen Huck shared a possible idea for a Community Garden for next year at the nearby Community Garden at 17th Street and West Blvd with the produce being given to those in need. This is in a planning phase, and she asked those possibly interested to contact her.

There was an opportunity for questions and comments. Some of those were:

* Revenue stream needs to improve and not rely on Covid money.

**Response** : that most of that was for the CDC’s staff during shutdown.

* Question about diocese assessment.

**Response**: Parish was making payments on past due and keeping up on current.

* Request for more choir members.
* Suggestion that church bells be changed to Christmas songs during the season.
* Suggestion that St. Ed’s reach out to West Racine Business Association and to other local groups.

**Response**: This is being looked into currently.

* Eloy requested for activities to bring youth to or service options. A suggestion was a Breakfast with Senior and Share Faith Journey
* Lynn Abler asked for help for cleaning church.

The meeting closed with prayer. There were other questions that were submitted on note cards after the meeting and those will be addressed during the upcoming Council meeting and reported on at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Huck, Pastoral Council Secretary