



PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 25, 2022

ATTENDEES: Samantha Holtkamp, Stan Holtkamp, Ron Clouse, Barb Brown, Ben Bly, Doug Slobodnik, Fr. Paul Connolly, Maureen Walsh, Joseph Tansey, Marcia Kentner, Kelley Tansey, Bitrus Gwamna.

OPENING PRAYER: This was said by Doug Slobodnik, after which the minutes were approved.

PASTORIAL COMMENTS: Fr. Connolly thanked the council for work done so far for the parish, and what it would do the rest of the year. He said the Parish Council would participate in the first listening session on Sunday, January 30 to meet the request by Pope Francis for a Synod of the people to sound out their feelings about the church. A set of questions have been sent by the Diocese to help with this conversation.

Fr. Connolly concluded his comments by stating that more help was needed for the capital campaign. Some persons had stepped up for some leadership role in the campaign.

SOCIAL ACTION: Their next meeting will be held on the 8th of February while Rice Bowls will be given out at Family Formation. The appeal for offerings for the Cradle of Hope would continue through Sunday, January 31 2022.

LITURGY: Fr. Connolly said there were no mass counts for the first couple of Sundays due to poor weather. He said the church was well decorated for Christmas, and after the celebrations, decorations were quickly taken down, this is a great example of how our parishioners help when needed. He said the church was now in Ordinary Time.

FAMILY LIFE: No report.

CHURCH LIFE: No report.

FINANCE COUNCIL: The parish has achieved 92% of its ADA pledge. Fr. Connolly said he hoped that the parish would meet its goal. He said Old Threshers and the Fall Festival had boosted church income, but regular envelope giving was down by about \$7000.

FAITH FORMATION: Meetings for Family Formation were canceled on January 9th due to canceling 8:00 Mass that day, due to the weather. A Rosary will be said for a student at the Mount Pleasant high school suffering from Hodgkin's Lymphoma.

EVANGELIZATION: No report

SPEAKER SYSTEM: Fr. Connolly informed the council that a company from Winfield had done some adjustments to the audio system, and hoped that people could now hear better. There are also a set of hearing assistants that could be used by parishioners. We will order more.

PARISH RETREAT: Will be on March 19, 2022 from 9 A.M. to 4:30P.M. It is to be led by Sandy Hoenig with The Joy of Forgiveness. Announcements for this retreat will be placed in the bulletin.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Doug Slobodnik gave the Council a tour of the Gathering Space to look at the paint color and floor covering that was chosen. It was moved and second to approve the colors and floor covering, motion approved unanimously. The kitchen floor completed once a bid has been approved. The baptistry was losing water so has to be inspected to discover the cause of the leakage. Tony Fedler is working on a bid for the boilers.

DOUGHNUTS: Discussion on this subject was tabled for six months.

RECTORY: Need to make a list of what is in the old rectory at this time that is not in use. It was decided that since we cannot move the washer and dryer to Manning, to look for a bid for a washer and dryer to put in the work closet off of the bride's room.

NEW BUSINESS: The council lamented the low number of parishioners at church events especially Mass.

Marcia Kentner and Ben Bly urged the council to consider reasons for the low involvement of children and the youth in church events. Bitrus Gwamna suggested that events be staged as a means of encouraging a return to church, including an activity at the Gathering Space once it has been remodeled.

Barb Brown informed the council that the parish will be advertising in the Henry County Guide.

Doug Slobodnik suggested the purchase of maintenance equipment to care for the Gathering Space, Manning Hall, the hallways and Kitchen in view of the amount of money being spent remodeling these facilities. Staff should also be trained on how to use the equipment to be purchased.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned after Bitrus Gwamna gave the closing prayer. Joseph Tansey offered to do the opening prayer and Maureen Walsh the closing prayer at the council's next meeting on February 22, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bitrus Gwamna.

Our Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish, strengthened by Word and Sacrament, strive to live out Jesus Christ's call to discipleship by worshiping faithfully, serving willingly, and growing spiritually.