

Parish Council Minutes: 10/12/21

Present: Fr. Maus, Fr Degele, Ellen Sipma, Mary Geyer, McKenna Schmitz, Meghan Selk, Nick Schmitz, Nathan Schneider, Dan Keller, Justin Klein, Deacon Mohn, and Deacon Steve.

Absent: Eric Schaeffer.

Opening prayer was led by Deacon Mohn.

Minutes were reviewed. McKenna moved that they be approved, and Justin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Business discussed was:

1. Fr Maus welcomed the new members of our parish council. We are very grateful for their willingness to serve our parish on this council.
2. Fr Maus visited with Fr Nelson at Bishop Ryan about possibly using classrooms there for our Faith Formation classes due to our needing more room for our classes. There are about 320 students attending religious education classes here on Wednesdays and Sundays. Fr Nelson mentioned that Bishop Ryan is in need of more space as well for Pre-K ½ day classes and for office space. Maybe something can be worked out between our parish and the school. Nothing has been decided yet in this regard.
3. There was a deanery meeting held last Thursday here in Minot at St. Leo's Church. Bishop Kagan and several other people from the diocesan office were present. It has been decided that each parish should have a different corporate structure that would be recognized more easily by civil law authorities. Part of the assets in a parish will be included in a Charitable Trust, like the buildings, land, savings accounts, etc. that are not part of the everyday operating assets. The operation assets, like the parish checking account, would be included in a parish account. The Charitable Trust will keep the present tax ID number of the parish. The operation account will get a new tax ID number. The majority of the people in our parish will not notice a difference in the operation of our parish. Laws have changed since our parish was started, and this change will bring our parish more in line with present law.
4. The Buildings & Grounds Committee, at their last meeting, decided to prioritize the projects they have been considering for our parish and recommended to Fr Maus that all necessary work in the rectory, like remodeling the kitchen, adding an extra stall in the garage, and re-shingling the roof, should be done first and all at one time when the contractor is here. They also recommended that the sacristy be enlarged to provide more space in it. Fr Maus agreed with these recommendations. Fr Maus did mention at our meeting that he now thinks we might want to consider adding additional room to the rectory in order to be able to have other priests live there in community. More priests are interested in living in community with other priests, including our young men who are being ordained priests as well as our retired priests who like to continue to help in parishes if possible. It was mentioned by Deacon Mohn that we might want to consider building a new rectory and fixing up the present rectory for other uses. Several parish council members thought this would be a good idea to check into. The Buildings & Grounds Committee will be meeting soon to discuss this.
5. Fr Maus mentioned that he would like to see work done in the church sanctuary to move the altar to the center, locate the tabernacle behind the altar in a permanent location, and change the flooring in the sanctuary so this space looks different from the rest of the church. He is waiting for Fr Nick Schneider from our Diocese to come to look at this and make recommendations.

6. Mary mentioned that it would be nice to have bells used again at Masses.
7. The extra Mass at 5:30 pm on Sundays is going well and is appreciated by those attending. This past Sunday there were about 175 people. A mixture of our parishioners and people from other parishes.
8. The election of officers for this coming year was held. McKenna will be the president. Nick will be the vice-president. Mary will be the secretary.

Our next meeting will be November 23, 2021 due to Fr Maus being out of town when our meeting is normally scheduled. McKenna volunteered to lead the opening prayer. Fr Maus led us in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Deacon Steve