

Parish Council Minutes: 9/14/21

Present: Fr. Maus, Fr Degele, Ellen Sipma, Kathie Lach, Eric Schaeffer, Mary Geyer, McKenna Schmitz, Deacon Mohn, and Deacon Steve.

Absent: Marian Himmerick, Nathan Schneider, and Michaela Woiwode.

Opening prayer was led by Fr Maus.

Minutes were reviewed. Eric moved that they be approved, and Mary seconded his motion. The minutes were approved.

There were no committee reports.

Old business:

1. Fr Maus shared with us the nominations for Parish Council. He will visit with four parishioners to see if they will accept a position on our Parish Council.

New business:

1. Fr Maus shared that he, Tanya, and Fr Degele have met with the new group of students who will be preparing for Confirmation this year and their parents this past Sunday and this evening. They have also met with the students who will be confirmed this year. He was pleased to see the involvement of the parents at these meetings.

2. Fr Maus is hoping that youth will be involved in the 5:30 pm Masses with Confirmation classes being held twice a month after this Mass along with "youth group activities" and a bible study led by Vanessa Kramer for "after-Confirmation youth". He does not want to see families split up but hopes families will still go together to other Sunday Masses if that is their preference.

3. Fr Degele is involved with a group for young adults here in Minot. Luke Demers is guiding this group. It is for those after high school to age 30. They are presently trying to develop a core group of people who will always be present at meetings so people will know someone will always be there. He mentioned that they are striving to have Christ as the center of their group.

4. Fr Maus mentioned that "Flock Notes" is a tool where a computer can be used to send out texts or emails to a group of people, like all of our parishioners or to families when they have their babies baptized. It might be a letter of encouragement or a message about an upcoming event. It is hoped that this would be a means to reach more people and connect to them.

5. We have a larger number of pre-school, kindergarten and younger grades; so, Christine is working to set up a third classroom with an atrium to teach Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We hope the numbers signed up on Sundays will stay up when some parents realize the pre-school class will happen from 8:30-9:30 am and not during the 10:30 am Sunday Mass.

6. Kathie mentioned that the Altar Society women need help, both from younger women and from men, to serve funerals and other events. Most of the women presently helping are older and not able to do all they used to do. It was suggested that Fr Maus and Fr Degele mention about the Altar Society in their announcements at Mass and in their homilies for Stewardship Sunday. Deacon Mohn mentioned that they might want to have a "fair" in the dining room to explain to people what the Altar Society is and does. Deacon Steve mentioned that there are ladies who want to make bars but are not being called. Maybe having a few ladies who would be responsible for calling when bars are needed might be an option. Kathie mentioned that they do experience where people do not return calls.

Fr Maus asked for comments from council members regarding the need to respond to the concern of parishioners to the increased number of people in our area experiencing Covid at this time. It was thought we might want to let people know that the dining room is available for people who prefer to wear masks and communion could be brought to them downstairs.

Our next meeting will be October 12th. Eric volunteered to lead the opening prayer. Fr Maus led us in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Deacon Steve