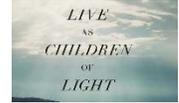


St. Catherine of Alexandria
8661 North 76th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53223

St. Catherine of Alexandria, the church on the hill since 1855, joins together as a Catholic community to give praise and thanks to God by living and sharing our faith in Jesus Christ through our worship, formation and outreach.

With our cluster parishes, we strive to make Christ visible to our wider community.



Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2017

Attendees: Council members Sue Armacost, Ralph Boeckl, Marie Brushafer, Maureen Conaty, Lynne LeMense, Jeanette MacMurdo, Sue Niemi, Les Paulson, Pat Lehman (Trustee Secretary), and Debbie Hintz (Parish Director) Health issues prevented Rick Korpela (Trustee Treasurer) and Lyn Keever from attending. No other parishioners were present.

Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. and Les Paulson led the opening devotion.

Approval of the January 17, 2017 Minutes

It was noted that Ken Voss is an attorney, not an insurance agent.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Sue Armacost, seconded by Jeanette, and adopted.

Committee Reports (questions/clarifications)

- Lynne LeMense reported that the Christian Formation Committee, at its February 13, 2017, meeting, had considered the 1% Challenge, heard that the High School 1 Day retreat was a success, talked about a Vacation Bible School and other summertime activities, reviewed the proposed Project Information Sheet, and discussed the Matthew 25 local work camp. Jeanette commended doing this camp locally and Lynne related that in this instance doing it locally works well. And yes, several Pastoral Council members told Lynne that they are embracing the 1% Challenge to good effect.
- Ralph reported that the Finance Council, at its February 13, 2017, meeting, heard about parish budget control, including that *Right Step* payments were up to date and that fund accounts are moved and managed to achieve the greatest possible interest. The Council also heard of the interest thus far expressed in renting the school building and reviewed up-coming maintenance projects. Debbie clarified that while there has been interest in the school building there is so far nothing specific to report. She also noted that expansion of the (upper) parking lot is not yet scheduled but is up for discussion.
- Maureen reported that the Human Concerns Committee, at its January 16, 2017, meeting, selected the LaSagrada Familia Water Project, the Women's Resource Center, and the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Catherine as the recipients of Lenten almsgiving. She also reported that the Tri-parish Human Concerns Committee, at its January 24, 2017, reviewed the *Take Back the Site* prayer service that might be used whenever there is a homicide in our cluster area and discussed the possibility of a Food, Faith and Farming Network Winter Farmers Market and Brunch event that might be held in the winter of 2018.
- Sue Armacost reported that the Prayer & Worship Committee has not met recently.
- Speaking of the School Advisory Committee, Debbie noted that meetings are currently on hold while this committee is being restructured.
- Marie reported that the Stewardship Committee, at its February 20, 2017, meeting, continued consideration of a new church logo and of stewardship appeal responses, follow-up, and future focus.

Parish Council Elections/Nomination & Selection Committee

Jeanette and Marie reported that nominees are being asked to provide by April 17, 2017, personal information that might be used to introduce them to the parish, appropriate reminders will be provided to them. An informational meeting for prospective nominees has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 5. Nominees are still being sought.

Project Proposal

Sue Armacost presented a proposal for a parish cookbook. Given the considerable care she had put into this proposal, it met with unanimous approval, with the qualification that the project would not proceed without enough response emerging. Jeanette wondered if younger people will be interested; we hope so and we'll see. Will recipes be accepted from a previous cookbook? Yes. Maureen wondered if an online cookbook could be created? Maybe.

"Using Data to Shape Parish Ministry" -- Missioninsite Program Update

Debbie, Pat, and Katy Young, our new Director of Administrative Services, attended a "Parish Council Congress" reviewing this concern. Pat noted that there is a vast amount of demographic data on our parish, providing characteristics of the area and its people; the primary characteristic appears to be "aging in place." St. Catherine is more diverse than we might have thought; 50% of the members live within five miles of the church. Debbie suggested getting together a small group to explore how to use the available data. Lynne, Maureen and Pat urged a focus on goals and on identifying our needs better to direct our use of the data. St. Catherine is already being more proactive with this information than others. There is no charge (the archdiocese has already paid and parishes provided the information) for using this demographic data; the only cost would be for mailing labels.

Update on the cemetery

From the City of Milwaukee's perspective, we can proceed with expansion plans for the cemetery, but a columbarium would require approval from the archdiocese. The Finance Council will continue to discuss this.

Status of the school building lease

Shorewest has had people looking at the building, both online and in person. The parish budget will have to provide for contingencies; there are many possibilities, but not all would work out. *Right Step* is leaving at the end of June; a cleaning service may have to be brought in if a new tenant is arranged.

Community garden

There is nothing definite yet, but there is interest. May a grant writer could be found? The cost of tree removal and of extending water lines would quite possibly make a grant necessary.

Parish Director's Report

Figures have not yet been compiled for "Casino Night," Debbie reported, but it seems to have done well. "...and people had fun," stated Maureen. Steve and Stephanie Gilles have agreed to chair the event again next year. The new parish website is still being developed.

Twenty-two people have already completed Debbie's evaluation, which she appreciates.

Debbie will be on vacation the second week of March; Marie will make an announcement at Masses the weekend of March 4-5, encouraging parishioners to consider being nominated for the council.

What are you hearing?

This parish has good cooks and dessert makers, commented Debbie. (Heard after our casino night) Jeanette wondered if our road sign could include a welcome in Spanish; unfortunately it is limited in space.

Closing Prayer

All present joined in the "Prayer for the Mission of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee." At about 8:05 p.m., the meeting was concluded.