

**Pastoral Council Meeting
Annual Meeting
October 1, 2019 @ 7:10pm
St. Katharine Drexel – St. Patrick Room
Mission Hall - Minutes**

Attendance: Fr. Mike Erwin, Julie Ferstl, Chris Brooks, Marge Jorgensen, Vickie Kaul, Tom Kalinosky, Pat Bordak, Dan Doyle, Javier Cavazos, Greg Steil, Bob Einwalter

Excused: Irma Rosas, Fr. Erick Cassiano

Guests: Jennifer Crombie, Marverne Lehner, Kristin Adsit, Herb Lehner, Barbara Heinzen, Mark Roedl, John Koenig, John Kotek, Mary Kotek

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

Welcome/Opening Prayer

Prayer lead by Julie Ferstl

Review/Approve August and September Minutes

Greg Steil moved; Tom Kalinosky seconded - approved August minutes by voice vote
Dan Doyle moved; Bob Einwalter seconded - approved September minutes by voice vote

State of the Parish Reports – Annual Meeting

Catholic Cemeteries – John Koenig, Committee Chair

Presented the financials for the cemeteries. Total assets of \$478,094.45 as of June 30, 2019. Full report is available at the parish office.

School - Jennifer Crombie, Principal

Current enrollment is 127 families; 185 students 3K to 8th grade. Classes coming in are smaller than the classes going out. This year hired a 4th grade teacher, 4K afternoon aide, 3K aide, full-time school counselor (through Catholic Services). Church Health Services is providing 4 hours/ week for counseling services and some professional services for the staff. Jennifer is part of the Institute for NCEA where she has the opportunity to network with other similar schools throughout the country.

Working on the Emergency and Safety written plan with the Dodge County Sheriff Department. The school will have a lock-down drill later this month and 2 more throughout the year. Resources for math and social studies are being reviewed. 2 smart boards were purchased so all classrooms have a smart board or smart table. 46 chrome books were purchased so the school is 1:1 in grades 3 to 8. Iowa basics is the current assessment tool but they looking at piloting the i-Ready assessment in the 3rd grade. The School Committee is very committed and working on a number of tasks. Will be rolling out a Scrip tuition program offering families a 50% profit sharing with money being credited to next year's tuition.

The school is using the Facebook page to help promote the activities at the school. Standards based report card using all numbers will be rolled out this year. At the next home and school committee she will be reviewing the new report card with parents.

Discussed the use of some of the same curriculum as the public school.

Faith Formation - Kristen Adsit, Faith Formation Director

The youth group's topic this year is morality. Parent and adult program on Wednesday nights is going well. A family meeting will be three times this year with topics: Rosary and prayer life, Christmas caroling in December and living faith-based goals. A group went to a program on growing our small faith communities. Mentoring for new families has 11 new families. 1 family is in the catch-up RCIA class with possibly 1 other family joining. Hispanic ministry has 2 teachers that are continuing to mentor the other teachers.

Youth group had 21 campers this summer; 4 from SKD went to the Peer Leadership retreat. Looking forward to some guest presentations. KC are sponsoring the bus for the Holy Hill trip. There are 25 confirmandi with confirmation scheduled in May with Bishop Sherman.

Finance – Chris Brooks

\$140K behind last year; needed to take \$50K out of savings for summer expenses. The endowment fund has payouts in spring and fall. There are 14 voucher students (\$7,400 per student). We were able to balance the budget even with \$20K behind in collections. 70% of the budget is salary and benefits. \$3.5M was committed to the building fund with 70% coming in cash – yet the giving is down to the general budget. There was a large bequest to the parish that allowed for last year's budget to balance. Our experience is contrary to what the consultant told us – that general giving goes higher during a capital campaign. This year we are doing a stewardship campaign.

We had a few large gifts from parish members. This year we will get more money from the voucher students, but we need to do more paperwork for the audit process. The cost of the audit is very high, so the suggestion was to look at a different auditor. Endowments of \$170,000 were received. The endowment group is now a sub-committee of the finance board (not a board). There are no conflicts of interest involved with the group and the church funds. The Archdiocese gets 5% of the intake so coding in "restricted" is limited. Winter with the cold and snow was \$26K (\$15K budgeted).

Archdiocese assessment keeps going up - \$62K, \$74K and now will be \$84K.

We are also doing other building updates including tuckpointing of the school. There are 17 families that had standing orders of Script so hope the tuition sharing will help with more sales. Health insurance was reviewed – 10% increase is expected but came in at 14.5% increase and we will continue to look at options for next year perhaps offering an H SA. This year we are planning a salary increase of 2% and tuition increase of 3%.

Property on Lincoln Street was donated and sold with profits going to the building fund. The St. Mary's cemetery is looked at being annexed to the City as a result of the KwikTrip purchase on Hwy G. The Archdiocese has approved the proxy but we still haven't made a final decision.

The Archdiocese is looking to do a capital campaign in the next couple of years but ours will not be affected. We will have a \$200K or \$300K debt but we need to get the weekly giving back up first. We will evaluate if we want to use the capital campaign with the Diocese to pay off our campaign. A group from SKD attended a program at the Archdiocese discussing what they are intending on doing.

Fr. Mike expressed appreciation to our trustees, Chris and Marge, and our staff.

The detailed financials are available at the parish office.

Committee Liaison Reports

Liturgy Committee – Dan Doyle

No report.

Human Concerns Committee – Tom Kalinosky

- Reverse food collection collected 3 SUV loads for the food pantry
- Meal Coalition at the Watermark went well and had enough help
- Watermark Respect for Life event for the pregnancy support center with profits around \$25K
- This committee will join the eucharist adoration for 1 hour on November 2
- Greater awareness on making contribution to St. Vincent de Paul
- Working with Catholic Relief on an outreach program with the tri-parishes. Global solidarity plan will be created.

Faith Formation Committee – Vicki Kaul

- A couple of the small faith groups are meeting year-round rather than just starting in October
- A separation/divorce group is starting
- Preparation for the baptismal renewal retreat will start in December. The retreat is in March.
- Feast of St. Katharine Drexel will involve the school group in March

School Committee –Greg Steil

- The committee training – strategic planning will be starting soon
- Good board with a wide range of expertise
- Social media has really been an effort – families have releases so photos can be on Facebook

Building Committee – Bob Einwalter

No report

Spanish Community

No report

Other topics

- Adoration will be advertised – looking for more groups to sign up
- Welcoming challenge – a few people shared experiences greeting newer members or people they didn't know. Continue to "put yourself" out there

Amazing Parish Update – Bob Einwalter

- The group has been meeting and praying
- They will be meeting soon to begin strategic planning based on evangelization

Narthex Team

- The plan will be completed by the end of October
- Father is working on the video

General Comments from Fr. Mike

- The Building Committee chairperson is now Steve Haase
- Bishop Sherman is scheduled to consecrate the altar on December 21st provided we are able to get into the church
- The police chief joined the Spanish Community meeting held at church, and they had a great conversation

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Respectfully submitted by Patricia Bordak.