

# St. Mary Parish Council Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, December 14, 2022

**Present:** Austin Rose, Fr. Michael Lightner, Ann Hoernke, Joe Lukasik, Carol Van Marter, Joe Fahley, Joel Kuplack, Michael Sajbel, Dr Susan Allen

**Guests:** Steve Siegel, Steve Pable

Father Mike opened the meeting at 5 pm with a prayer.

Austin motioned to approve the agenda and Carol seconded it. Agenda was approved.

The minutes from the October 12 meeting were approved via email, and it has been decided to do that going forth since it allows the minutes to be posted on the website sooner.

### **Discussion Topic:**

#### **1. Potential Topics for Youtube Channel**

The parish Youtube channel has not been established yet. Father is waiting until he can get TDS to create a fiber optics connection in the rectory to ensure ease of uploading video. He would like to find a tech-savvy parishioner/staff to be responsible for the Youtube channel. Parish Council would be involved in offering short (3 minute) videos on various topics. Topics could include: Saint of the Day, Catechism of funerals/burials, explanation of our stained glass windows, history of the parish, significance of our artwork, sharing the history of our relics. The purpose of the videos would be to catechize and evangelize. Austin emphasized that we would need to create a copyright release form. Michael stated that we would need to make a photo release form for minors too if we ever interviewed anyone under 18.

#### **2. Recruit Members for Care Ministry**

Discussion ensued around stewardship sheets that the parish sent out yearly in the past. They have not been sent out since preCovid. New members receive them in their Welcome packet, but we really do not follow through with them since our Parish Council committee responsibilities are not formally defined. We will begin to establish the duties of one committee a month starting with Evangelization at the next meeting. We should have it done in 5 meetings since there are five committees. Once the responsibilities are written, committee chairs can begin recruiting to complete their teams.

#### **3. Second Saturday Social**

Carol and Ann have hosted two Saturday Socials after the 6 pm Mass. The first was on November 28 and 22 people participated in the light meal of meatballs with a veggie tray, and 8 stayed to play games. People gave positive feedback. The second one was on December 10, and 35 people enjoyed chicken noodle soup with pulled pork sandwiches. There were eight teams that participated in Christmas trivia. Again, there was positive feedback. The goal of the socials was to increase attendance at the 6 pm Mass, and that can't be judged yet. The socials did improve fellowship among parishioners. Carol and Ann agreed to host the next one on January 14 as a Bible trivia night, but would like help with prepping food and coming up with Bible trivia. Steve thinks we should form a committee of parishioners to run it, but we need to find someone interested in doing that.

**Fr. Mike's Update:**

- Renovations of the sanctuary of the church are complete, and it is beautiful. We need to raise probably around \$800,000 for the next phase. One fundraiser will be selling "memorial stars" where people can donate \$500 to buy a star in the ceiling in honor or memory of a loved one.
- Confessions are growing.
- The Men's Group that Fr Mike started is growing also.

**Update from Trustee:**

None

**Reports:**

Susan sent a report stating that Emily Albrecht will be returning to the Fox Valley to speak at a Vida event in January. Our parish should publicize this since she was so well received at her last presentation here. Susan also reported that the St. Gianna Molla Guild of Northeast Wisconsin will sponsor a Pro-life speaker, following the white Mass at the Cathedral on February 12. The speaker will be Michael Kenney, JD, and his topic is, "Building a Culture of Life: What Would Lincoln Do?"

**New Business:**

None

**Actions for Next Meeting:**

**\*\*\*Committee leaders are asked to send any reports to Joe Fahley ahead of the meeting.**

**All Council members are asked to write one paragraph suggesting duties of the Evangelization team. We will focus on creating responsibilities for one Parish Council committee each month until all five committees are defined.**

**Adjournment:**

Carol motioned to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Joe L. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm. Fr Mike closed the meeting with a prayer. **The next meeting is at 5 pm on Wednesday, February 8, 2023.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Hoernke  
Secretary Trustee