

## **St. Sebastian Parish Council Meeting Minutes – December 6, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and opened with a prayer led by Fr. Brian.

Acknowledgement of the August meeting minutes was then given.

Opening comments by Father Brian were given.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Religious Education:**

- Toi Van Ess stated that attendance has been good and the children seem to enjoy coming to class. The children are being introduced into seeing how life around us can teach us about God. To do this, they are taking part in a number of exercises where they can physically see how the mysteries and miracles of nature, can point to the presence of God in our life.
- Toi will be looking at more, and different ways, to get the children involved in parish life and liturgies.
- Ways to have the children take part in Bishop Ricken's visit in January will be looked into.
- Fr. Brian stated that one of the things he would like to look at is planning a May Crowning Ceremony next spring with the children.
- The Frank Runyeon visit had to be canceled. We will look to see if it can be rescheduled in the future. Other assignments will be offered to the students to make up for this missed class time.

#### **Finance Committee:**

- The parish has not met this year's Bishop's Appeal. We are waiting to see what our assessment will be.
- Four CD's came due this fall and were renewed. Two more come due in January and will also be renewed.

#### **Christian Service and Christian Women:**

- The women met and decided that the Christian Service Committee would merge with the Christian Women. The plan is to have one short meeting a month after Sunday Mass.
- The Advent Giving Tree program went well, with all the cards being taken. The Salvation Army is appreciative of our parish for sponsoring whole families at this time of year and for the quality of the gifts that are given.
- The Bake Sale held on December 4 went well, with \$158.00 being raised.
- At the meeting in January the women will discuss the plans for a social for Bishop Ricken's visit.

#### **Worship:**

- Christmas Eve Mass will be at 6:00 PM. We will not have Mass on Christmas Day.
- The Salvation Army will receive the loose collection from the Christmas Mass.
- Questions about the condition of our church organ have been raised. Some of the features on it no longer work and because of its age, spare parts are hard to find. At some point the parish will need to look into replacing it. This item will be added to our Five Year Plan.
- The question of having multiple intentions for Sunday Masses was discussed. Rather than having a formal policy in place, each request will be looked at individually and handled as sensitively as possible.

- Bishop Ricken will be visiting our parish on January 22, 2017. It is hoped we will have good attendance that day since this is his first visit here. After Mass we will have a social in the parish hall for all to attend and meet with him.
- Fr. Brian is looking for three celebrants chairs to replace the ones now being used in church.

#### **Cemetery:**

- Clean up of the grounds this fall went well and we had a good attendance of volunteers.
- A new leaf blower was purchased.
- Next spring we will look at continuing to straighten stones that are tipping, and sunken areas where ground might need to be added.

#### **Building and Grounds:**

- The carpet below the altar area in church was removed and the hardwood floor under it refinished. Much of the cost for this came from a parish member donation. One pew had to be removed for this project. That pew is now in the church lobby. A decision will be made at a later date whether or not to reinstall it.
- DJ'S Painting painted the basement kitchen and parts of the floor.
- The new kneelers in church were installed in early September.
- The power company installed a new light north of the church. It will now be notified that the yard light south of the church is not working.
- The large tree on the lawn north of the church will be trimmed sometime next year.
- The storm sewer line in front of the church will be replaced in the spring. Decisions on re-landscaping the area will be made when that project is completed.
- The suggestion was made to move up the project to reseal the blacktop parking lot and cemetery road to next year to avoid further damage. This will be discussed further next year.
- The replacement of the concrete apron in front of the garage is being put on the agenda for next year, as well as relocating the garbage dumpster to a safer location.
- Fr. Brian brought up the suggestion to possibly look into replacing the parish sign next year when we re-landscape the area. Ideas and suggestions will be welcomed.
- The foundation around the Parish Center front and back porches needs to be sealed. Currently animals are making it their home.

#### **Other Business:**

- The parish calendars for 2017 were not delivered because of a lack of sponsorship. The parish will order some for this year and look into combining our order with Seymour next year.
- The annual parish meeting will always be on the last Sunday of September each year. Next year it will be Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> after morning Mass.
- Parish Committees are encouraged to strengthen their membership and appoint a lead person to act as the contact person. It is also encouraged that they take minutes of their meetings so a record can be kept in the parish files. This will help with recruiting new members each spring.
- The Five Year Plan of goals, projects, and vision was discussed and updates will be made and sent with the next meeting agenda.

The next St. Sebastian Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday February 28, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. Committees will meet at 6:00 p.m.