

St. Sebastian Parish Council Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and opened with a prayer led by Fr. Brian. Acknowledgement of the February meeting minutes was then given.

Committee Reports:

Religious Education:

- Toi Van Ess stated that we have about 40 students in our R.E. program this year.
- The children did baskets for Golden House as a Lenten project and also did religious art to put on display for parishioners to see.
- May Crowning went well this year. Discussion on who will be in charge of it in the future will be discussed later in the meeting.
- Beginning in 2018 our parish Confirmation will be combined with Pulaski and Seymour.
- Discussion was held on finding ways to make our 9th to 12th grade students feel like a part of the parish. The feeling is that they are being ignored or forgotten because their Religious Ed. classes are no longer held at our parish. More thought and discussion will be given to this in the future.

Finance Committee:

- The parish account is currently in the black.
- This year's assessment for the Bishops Appeal is \$14,477.00. So far we have received \$10,567.00 in donations, leaving us with \$3,910.00 to meet our goal.

Christian Service and Christian Women:

- Plans are being made to look for volunteers to help clean cemetery grave stones sometime this summer.

Worship:

- Looking to have more involvement for the special services we have each year, as well as more people in the choir and the music program.
- Holy Thursday Mass went well and the hope is we can have this service again next year.
- Discussion was held on how to better organize the special events held each year. The committee was asked to bring to the next meeting a list of all the special services we observe each year and from that we will draw up program specifications and guidelines for each one. We will then post them well in advance on the parish calendar and look for specific groups or individuals that will be in charge of organizing that event. The goal is to eliminate confusion on who's doing what, and to reduce the tendency of last minute decisions of what we are going to do, and who will be participating.

Cemetery:

- Spring clean-up of the grounds went well even though it had to be delayed.
- The west cemetery lawn will be surveyed by Robert E. Lee & Associates at a cost of \$2,540.00 and 500 graves will be made available for sale. The new grave sites will also be increased in size to 12' instead of the 9' we now have.

- Discussion was held on the need to have old flowers and decorations removed from the cemetery each fall to keep the area looking nice. The parish will look into having new signs made and posted informing cemetery visitors of the rules.
- The committee will look into having the cemetery plot maps transferred to digital form so they can be backed up on the parish computers.
- There may be a need to purchase a new lawn mower soon.
- It would be helpful if we could find someone to do regular maintenance work on the lawn mowers and other equipment so the people who cut the grass don't have to worry about it.

Building and Grounds:

- Lights in the church were switched out to LED bulbs recently to increase the lighting. We are checking into possible rebates from WE Energy for this project.
- The sewer line in front of the church has been repaired. It was found that the company that installed the natural gas line 7 years ago broke the pipe while boring under the road. WE Energy was contacted about this and a representative from Intertcon (*the company that did the work*) was notified. Intertcon has indicated that they will cover all of the expenses incurred by the parish for this problem.
- Estimates will be sought on replacing the concrete apron in front of the parish garage and installing a concrete slab for the dumpster.
- The parish received a donation from the Ray Vande Hei family to install lamp post lighting in the front of church. The lights will be installed soon. The present shrubs in the front of church will need to be removed first to allow the lamp post foundation and wiring to be installed. The area will be re-landscaped after installation is complete. Special thanks to Ray and his family for this donation to help beautify and make our church entrance safer.
- The resealing of the parking lot was discussed briefly and may be put off until next year.
- The problem with buzzing in the hearing loop system has been corrected. Thanks to Pat Shulze for helping us solve this problem.
- The possibility of switching out the parish hall fluorescent lights to LED was discussed. More will be decided on this at a later date.

Other Business:

- We will be electing a new Parish Trustee Treasurer this year. Thanks to Fred Fleming for his six years of service in this position. We will also be selecting a Parish Council Secretary. Other positions of need in the parish will be looked at from a volunteer basis this year.
- Fr. Brian gave an explanation on Parish Boundaries and what they mean.
- The parish 125th Ann. in 2018 was discussed and members were asked to bring ideas for celebrating it. Decisions on which ones we will do will be decided on this fall. Listed on a separate paper are the suggestions that were presented.

The next St. Sebastian Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday August 22, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. Committees will meet at 6:00 p.m.

SUGGESTIONS FOR WAYS TO CELEBRATE ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY:

1. Hold a special dinner inviting past clergy and parish members.
2. Hold a Parish Social Gathering at a local establishment.
3. Compose a special Parish Prayer.
4. Compose a special Parish Song.
5. Have a calendar raffle.
6. Hold an outdoor Mass.
7. Hold a Polka Mass.
8. Have a Craft Sale.
9. Have an Art Fair inviting all parishioners to show their creative talents.
10. Have parish families bring flowers from their gardens each week-end to decorate the sanctuary.
11. Establish a Parish Scholarship program for our young people.
12. Hold another Cemetery Walk.
13. Have Christmas Cards with pictures of our sanctuary and church made for parishioners to send.
14. Have a Parish Picnic / Harvest Dance / or Booyah Picnic.
15. Have a Pancake Dinner.
16. Have a Brat Fry on a Sunday morning after Mass.
17. Invite all the surrounding church's to attend our events.
18. Have a Parish Run, Walk, Ride event.
19. Create a special Parish Logo for the year and have a banner made for display outside the church.
20. Have T-shirts and other mementoes available with the Parish Logo printed on them.