

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Present: Fr. Joe Dorner, Mike Calawerts, Mike Quinn, Helen Wellens, Carrie Lundy, Tom Schampers, Tom Pecor, Jean Laux, Carol VandenBush

Absent: Steve Lepak

Prayer: Fr. Joe led us in an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved as written.

Change in Agenda: Although the following agenda item was listed in our NEW BUSINESS section, Mike Calawerts asked if it could be moved to the forefront. All were in agreement.

A. Thoughts and Reflections on weekend Masses...one or two:

There were about a dozen people, mostly members of our parish, who were present at our meeting to express their thoughts on this issue. Fr. Joe gave a small explanation to his recent letter sent to parishioners about his concern about numbers and participation in celebrations at St. John's, especially the 5:30 PM Saturday Liturgy. He asked those present to introduce themselves and express what their thoughts and suggestions were regarding Mass times at St. John's. Following are some of the thoughts shared. When we had a 4:00 PM Mass, there were approximately one-hundred fifty people in attendance. Some felt access to an earlier Mass such as 4:00 would increase our attendance. Some expressed they would attend Mass at a different parish if the Saturday evening Mass was discontinued. Some in attendance preferred the 5:30 PM Mass rather than 4:00 but would also attend 4:00 if the Saturday Mass was moved to that time. Maybe we could have Mass at 4:00 at both St. John's and the Cathedral and have a visiting celebrant every other weekend at each parish. Some felt that it would be the end of our parish if we only had one Sunday Liturgy. Most didn't want to attend Mass at another parish. They liked the warmth of St. John's and the good liturgy. Someone mentioned that our deaf community is a treasure.

We need to come up with possible ways to increase our numbers and continue a Saturday evening Liturgy. Kevin Rompa and Pat Riordan are going to come up with ideas for helping the growth of our parish. Mike Calawerts will invite Kevin to our next meeting to share the ideas he and Pat came up with. Tom Pecor is going to again contact Jeff Mirkes, Exec. Dir. of Downtown GB Inc., to see if we could advertise our liturgies in pamphlets that he distributes. As parishioners, we could be more attentive to new attendees at Mass and welcome them. If we had a 4:00 Mass, we could serve refreshments after Mass to welcome all, especially newcomers. If we stayed with the 5:30 Liturgy, we could furnish a light meal once in a while.

Thoughts and Reflections on weekend Masses (cont.)...

Fr. Joe concluded the discussion telling all that he noted all the possibilities. Two of his priorities are as follows: he wants to celebrate Mass with his parishioners, both at St. John's and Cathedral, as often as possible; and he wants all to engage in "full and active participation" at Mass that was called for during Vatican II. He will also talk to the Cathedral Parish Council about the concerns mentioned tonight.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Committee Reports...

Building and Grounds: Because of the Sat. Mass discussion, Fr. asked that this be tabled until the October meeting. He did tell all that there was a tree cut down in our St. John's yard and anyone is welcome to take the wood.

Finance Committee: Mike Quinn shared that even with the extra expenses that incurred, such as new flooring in the rectory, plumbing work, and unclogging of sewer, we are still in the black and bills are paid. All felt our new Buildings Director, Mike Klatt, was doing a good job.

Deaf Community: Jean said the retreat, "Playing on God's Team" was a success. There was a nice article in the Compass about the retreat. Also, our deaf community signed the "Star Spangled Banner" at the Bullfrog's Game in July. Because of Jean's involvement in the ICDA (Intl. Catholic Deaf Assoc.) and the NCOD (Natl. Catholic Office of the Deaf), more people were being made aware of the happenings of our deaf community.

B. St. John's Shelter Updates...

Fr. Joe shared that the lease between St. John the Evangelist Parish and the Homeless Shelter is being slightly revised. The Homeless Shelter can use our school building free of charge but need to set up an account for capital improvements as they arise so they can afford the upkeep on the building. Also, St. John's Homeless Shelter is acquiring Wellspring on Dousman Street in Green Bay. It is a place where women can go to receive support, counseling, and the help they need to succeed. Helen mentioned that we need to advertise St. John's Homeless Shelter November 10 Gala in our bulletin.

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Parish/Diocesan Capital Campaign...

Fr. Joe informed us that in the fall of 2019 we will be involved in a diocesan wide capital campaign. We will receive half of the money donated by our parish. He asked council members to start thinking about ways to utilize these funds. Could we do something to enhance the sanctuary such as replicate the paintings that were once on the back wall behind the tabernacle? Could we improve our ambo?

C. Fall 2018 Adult Faith Formation...

Following are Adult Faith Formation opportunities:

Michael Gaitley Series “One Thing is Three” - Sept. 13 through Nov. 15

Fr. Nielson’s “Saints Among Us” – Nov. 29

Msgr. Feely;s St. Dismas Talk

Alpha DVD Series for St. John’s and St. Francis Xavier

D. Fall 2018 Garden Party...

Sue Smullen from our Garden Club is planning a garden party after the 5:30 Mass on Sept. 15. If you are able to help with this party, please contact Sue at 336-2072.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Joe led us in prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2018