

**Parish Council
Minutes – February 28, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by Fr. Healey.

Council Members present were: Patti Bakaur, Mary Becker, Francine Daggett, Terry Daly, Donna Erdman, Mike Kondracki, Kathy Laird, Marion Mooney, Deacon Peter Schutzler, Janet Trask and Judy Warren.

Election of New Members:

Before a vote was taken, council members discussed how we could best balance the council. We reviewed the nominees and took a secret ballot. The three new members elected were: Frank DiPietro, Lauren Fish and Dr. Craig Jones. Fr. Healey will notify those nominated, thank them for considering to serve and inform them who the three new members will be.

Reports of Initiatives and Parish Activities Committee:

Janet gave a report on the parish town meeting. All present at the meeting seemed to enjoy being there and shared ideas about parish life after Covid. The big seller was having “Donut Sunday” return on a regular basis. Judy suggested having “Donut Sunday” once a month; we could feature a ministry each month. Terry suggested we have some representation of Parish Council members at Donut Sunday.

Many at the parish town meeting shared how community activities are wanted. A parish picnic was mentioned and several present offered to help when scheduled.

Janet did pass along to ministry leadership the names of parishioners showing interest their ministry.

Fr. Healey mentioned it would be worth it to have this type of meeting annually. Terry mentioned how it seemed beneficial to have the parish council members interact with those present.

Patti said how some present asked about Finance Council questions. Donna suggested we have the Finance Committee minutes posted on our website.

Council members will also help organize and facilitate a Community Sunday twice a year, a Parish Town Meeting once a year and a new member reception twice a year.

Fr. Healey is working on organizing a special seminar with lawyers with information on “End of Life” issues. Fr. Healey has a few lawyers in mind for the seminar; it will focus on legal, moral and liturgical aspects to help with our planning. Kathy made the suggestion to include Jim Remillard, he gives presentation on Bioethics that is very good. Fr. Healey is thinking the summer may be a good time to schedule this event.

Religious Formation:

Fr. Healey will be presenting a special Lenten program on Sundays during Lent. It is a video presentation entitled “Why We Worship” presented by Dr. Brant Pitre. Fr. Healey highly recommends the program.

Terry suggested we promote this program by using our outside program boards. This hopefully will get the information out and promote interest in those who read the signs.

Fr. Healey spoke about our RCIA program and the need for sponsors for our candidates. Father reached out to members of our Jericho and Waking With Purpose ministries to ask for a sponsor from each ministry.

Kathy updated us on a few events through our Faith Formation program. There will be a mini retreat day for our Confirmation students on March 12th. As part of this day there will be a time for the students to come to the church and view the relic of Blessed Carlos. Kathy arranged for us to have this relic for a short period of time before the presentation scheduled at St. Anthony’s by Fr. Landry.

Kathy spoke about the Hallow App and the special arrangement the parish was able to make with Hallow. Kathy will be making information available for our parishioners to sign up for this program. Both Patti and Deacon Peter shared what a great program this is. We were able to become familiar with this program during Advent. Parishioners will be able to sign up for a yearly subscription with a discount once Lent is over.

Fr. Healey will include this information in his “Pastor’s Pen” and Kathy will have posters for our narthex area.

Pastoral Care:

Donna spoke about the new Mental Health ministry she has connected with the diocese about. There will be special training for anyone interested in being a part of this ministry. Deacon Peter is interested in being a part of this ministry. Donna will be reaching out to those who show interest and set up a meeting with the leadership from the diocese. The training will be done through the diocese. This ministry is to offer a prayerful presence and a listening ear.

Seasons of Hope is the bereavement ministry Donna offers several times a year. There are between 10-12 people in each group. Fr. Healey is now celebrating mass with the group on the final week of their sessions.

Maintenance and Improvements:

Terry expressed concern for more information to be available about our future pantry expansion project. He knows this will be a major fund raising project; he mentioned how some are expressing concern for why this need???? Fr. Healey, Kathy and Mary mentioned how the lack of having full use of our parish hall has impacted our Faith Formation program and several of our parish ministries. We are aware of the need for this expansion; however, it is important for others to be made aware. Fr. Healey will bring more information to our next parish council meeting. Deacon Peter shared how he in the past he was involved with a project for a school expansion. He mentioned once the project was kicked off, people became aware and started to understand the need, it is important to convey more information to support our decision to move forward with the project.

Old Business:

Council members discussed the issue of getting information out to parishioners for recent deaths of fellow parishioners. Judy mentioned she could create a "In Memoriam" page on our website. However, we have an ongoing issue of being timely with the information. We have many parishioners who die; however, have services back in their home parish before retirement. We often may not even be made aware of these deaths for several months. We also have many funerals for people technically not registered; however, family members considered them parishioners. Mary mentioned how some families may not wish to have a picture of their loved

one posted in our narthex or on our website. We will keep exploring how best to handle this.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM