

SACRED HEART PARISH COUNCIL
MEETNG MINUTES
September 25, 2018

OPENING PRAYER: An opening prayer was led by Father Tom.

CALL TO ORDER:

President, Don Ryan, called the meeting to order at 7:30. In attendance were Don Ryan, Jim Leahy, Jeanne Kaefer, Ron Wisniewski, Jan Miller, Kris Mahoney, Fr. Tom, and Dustin Vance. It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried and the Minutes were approved. Motion to approve the Agenda was moved and seconded. The motion was approved.

OPENING STATEMENTS FROM THE GALLERY:

None

PASTOR'S REPORT: Fr. Botheroyd

Father asked the Parish Council for any additional thoughts or comments regarding the recent difficult times within the church. There were some concerns that the recent masses have been lighter in turn out however there will be an official head count in the coming weeks. Several members of the council expressed their support for Father Tom discussing the dilemma during mass.

Father Tom will be taking a sabbatical for June, July, and August and another priest will be filling in for his duties. Father will be returning at the end of the summer and will continue serving the Parish for a longer period of time after that.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Don Ryan

Don expressed his thanks to Father Tom for addressing the dilemma within the church. Don has heard from Parishioners from other Parishes that the problems are not being addressed in their Parishes.

Don has received a letter from the Eastern Deanery regarding getting additional attendees for their meetings. Anyone who is interested should contact Don Ryan.

The council members were also reminded to continue to listen to the parishioners and bring any comments or concerns they may have to the council.

ADMINISTRATION: Jim Leahy

Finance:

The council reviewed the fiscal year 2018 financial summary. A summary of the financial status of the entire Parish will be published several times throughout the year. There was an increase in electronic giving of \$50,000 and this increase is compared to a decrease in in-pew giving by \$30,000. There is significant progress being made to the debt that is owed to the diocese.

The 2018 Germanfest celebration brought in \$24,000.

Maintenance:

The Windows To The Mass project has been completed and paid for.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Jeanne Kaefer

Athletics

Athletics is up and running with cross country having their first meet with 27 schools being hosted. The volleyball team is having success in their games. Turnout for football and cheerleading is low. There is no currently no varsity football team. This means that there is one less football game and this leads to a lack of revenue and increased costs.

Homecoming is coming up in two weeks and a pep rally will be held.

Father Tom has had discussions within the Diocese about Catholic school turn out being down across the area, including in Sacred Heart.

Home and School Association- Carrie Felten and Becky Houtz

HSA has been busy with the August start of school and now half-way through September!

The HSA had very successful fundraising events throughout the 2017-2018 school year that over the summer, we were able to contribute to the following:

- New doors to the lunch room
- New stair treads
- New outdoor equipment for recess and aftercare
- New toys for aftercare

The Back to School Teacher & Staff Luncheon was a great way to start off the school year. HSA decorated the room for the well-deserved teachers & staff and put together a lunch along with a few raffles and goodie bags. This is a great tradition to start off the year for everyone.

We are focusing on our upcoming Fall Book Fair which takes place in October, as well as Trivia Night, which will take place on November 17th. Volunteers are still needed for both events, and the communication should be out soon regarding reserving a table for the ever-so-fun Trivia Night! We hope to get many parishioners to participate again this year.

Sacred Heart School- Principal's Report- Joy Higgins

Current Enrollment: 197

New Staff Members:

Cassandra Himmes - Preschool Aide

Blaire Huerta - Tuesday and Thursday Afternoon Preschool Teacher
Diane Rentner - Fifth Grade Teacher
Kathy Lietzke - Sixth Grade/ Jr. High Science
Frances Roskum - Spanish Teacher

Curriculum Night was successful with good attendance. The annual Iowa Assessments were recently completed by students in grades 3-7. The data from these standardized tests will be used to help shape curriculum and instruction. Our Sixth Grade students attended Montini's Sixth Grade Field Day.

We have begun to implement Virtues Based Positive Behavior Interventions and Strategies, a program that focuses on the positive, appropriate behaviors exhibited by students. Students have had the opportunity to be instructed in and practice positive behaviors in all areas of the school: classrooms, hallways, restrooms, lunchroom and church. Each quarter, the school focuses on two virtues that support learning. These virtues are included on the student report card. The virtues for the first quarter are respectful and studious. A committee composed of staff and parents are working to fully implement this program during the school year. We have three new School Board members: Scott Minauskas, Philip Reed and Neil Shuey. On September 28th, Sacred Heart will hold its first Evacuation & Reunification Drill in partnership with St. John's Lutheran School. This is a practice for what we would do if something occurred that made it necessary for all staff and students to leave the building, such as a gas leak or train derailment.

Religious Education- Linda Andrejek

Our Religious Education program is once again off to a great (and strong) start, with many new families also coming to register their children into our program this year! In addition, we've received a lot of positive feedback regarding our Prayer Time at the end of our class each week, at which time we pray a Decade of the Rosary and have some time for Eucharistic Adoration. (A very good number of parents continue to join us each week for this, also)!

We are continuing our successful initiatives from last year (e.g. Traveling Statue of Our Lady of Fatima that goes home each week with a different student, "Catholic Library on Wheels," monthly Family Masses, etc.), for which we also received much positive feedback!

We have begun our monthly Family Masses again this year, with our first one having received a great turn-out on Catechetical Sunday last weekend, followed by refreshments and a little "Meet and Greet" of our catechists!

We are very pleased to also announce that our Kindergarten / Pre-School Religious Education program is off to a great start, having ten students already registered for it! This class is run by formally trained Catechesis of the Good Shepherd catechists each Monday evening - in conjunction with our Grade 1 - 8 classes.

In the spirit of Parish Faith Formation, we will be having our second annual "Candlelight Rosary Procession & Benediction" on Friday, October 26 at 7:00 p.m. in Church. (This is the event for which we had over 100 people in attendance last year)!

Our Confirmation Parent Meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 26 at 6:45 p.m. in our Parish Center.

Our Confirmation retreat will take place on Saturday, November 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Marytown in Libertyville, IL.

In terms of summer events that our Religious Education office sponsored, we are pleased to announce that our TotusTuus Catholic Summer Camp was also a huge success - with over 50 students registered for this wonderful catechetical program that was held during the last week of June!

CHRISTIAN SERVICES: Anne Hinley

No report.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP: Kris Mahoney

The mass of reparation is going to start this weekend. Father made a suggestion that during the preparation of gifts that we have a cross bearer leading the gifts up the center aisle. This change will be implemented in the coming weeks.

There has been a change to the seminarian program; the new seminarians will be assigned to one Parish throughout their time in seminary. The latest seminarian will be speaking at all the masses this weekend.

TECHNOLOGY: Todd Munson

The wireless internet in the Parish Center is now installed and functioning well.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

There was a suggestion that a fundraiser be held at Sacred Heart for Glen Bard East students who were injured in fire incident that took place earlier this year. The proposed fundraiser still needs to be planned and approved and many details still need to be decided upon before it becomes a reality.

Debbie Lipinski from the respect life ministry came to the meeting to introduce herself and tell the council that the group is there as a resource and emphasize the tradition of strong pro-life traditions within Sacred Heart. Deborah expressed her desire to continue the Friday night Holy Hour. Father Tom has no issue continuing however he also indicated that time with the Deacon's is limited.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Ron Wisnieski led the group in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Submitted by,

Dustin Vance,
Secretary