

St. Casimir Parish Council Meeting

Monday, February 13, 2023

In attendance: Fr. Ryan Pietrocarlo
Mira Gasko
Ann Marie Sommers
Sara Kurzhal
Rosalie Guitierrez
Vicki Kruszka

OPENING PRAYER led by Fr. Ryan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: After review of the last meeting's minutes, Ann Marie made a motion to approve the same and Sara Kurzhal seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Church Bathroom Update – \$37,000 in funding from the Diocesan 'Parish in Need' grant was used to pay Ivan Lopez/Losi Construction who will be doing the work. The money had to be used by February 10, 2023. The work will begin when the weather turns nicer; a timeline will be provided closer to spring.
- b. Painting the Hallway – St. Casimir parishioners at the 11:30 Sunday Mass raised nearly \$1000 to go towards painting the main hallway in the school building. The plan is to repair the walls and then repaint. They had made an inquiry about the small window on the hall by the old principal's office, and the Counsel decided that it was never used and could be closed up and painted over to match the wall.
- c. Ministry to the Sick and Homebound – Sara said that through the request campaign over the past several weeks, she had received about a dozen new names to add to the 20 on the original list. Calls will be made to determine if people wish to have in-person visits or not. Sara and Mira will further discuss some nursing home changes for some people and begin organizing the list. Deacon Jose and Becky Ruvalcaba will train volunteers for this ministry as they have been doing this for many years.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Institution of the Chalice – Bishop Rhoades has said that parishes in the diocese may begin to offer the Precious Blood in the Chalice at Mass again beginning the weekend of February 25/26. We will need to recruit people for the English Masses as we currently have only a few people. The Spanish Masses are well-covered as they have a larger group ready to start training. At the English Masses, we will begin with only one Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion on one side of the church. If people wish to receive the Precious Blood, they process up to Communion in the line on that side. We will keep track of how many people want to receive the Precious Blood initially and go from there.

- b. Eucharistic Blueprint – The USCCB’s 3-year Eucharistic Revival began last June. Bishop Rhoades asked each parish in our diocese to submit a blueprint for activities of their parish, which Fr. Ryan has already submitted. Our two 40-Hour Devotion for both 2022 and 2023 were approved to be held on/near March 4, the feast day of our patron saint, St. Casimir. The 40-Hours will begin on Sunday and go through Tuesday, with a Vespers service Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evening. We will also do a Corpus Christi procession that will go from St. Adalbert’s to St. Casimir. For the adoration, at least two people must be present for each hour; the Nocturnal Adoration group is willing to organize and plan the Adoration events. Other items on the blueprint are Eucharistic Preaching, Teaching Masses, and Eucharist and the Family. Ann Marie mentioned something that was done some time ago: families would take home a chalice and pray together for priestly vocations; in this case, they would pray for more Eucharistic devotion. Each family would bring the chalice back the following week and another would take it home.
- c. (Combined with b., above)
- d. Pre-Marriage Ministry – We currently use FOCCUS which includes a form for couples to fill out and answer questions, then they meet with the priest who talks to them about what the forms say. Bishop Rhoades wants the diocese to use Formed.org which has 5 videos via zoom, questions for the couple to discuss with each other, then a pre-marriage retreat and a family planning video. Fr. Ryan says we will do a hybrid version of the two. We also need English-speaking married couples to help with this ministry.
- e. Mary Garden – We discussed the moving of the Mary Garden from where it currently is to somewhere near the front of the church. Our catechism children would take care of it. Possible vandalism, etc., was brought up, and also the fact that where the Mary statue sits now is the cornerstone of the old convent. Fr. Ryan will apply for a “St. Mary’s Grant” (used from insurance funds from when the old St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Fort Wayne burned down) to be used for the garden and fixing the grass after the bathroom renovation in the church.

ADDITIONAL POINTS OF DISCUSSION FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

- a. Painting Church Ceiling – Paul Fujawa got a \$30,000.00 quote all the ceilings, including both sacristies. This will happen without scaffolding as the company will use a lift instead. Fr. Ryan said he will put this for the next “Parish in Need” application.
- b. Wooden Ramp – Mira asked about the removal of the wooden ramp to the school. Fr. Ryan said we will need to have at least a temporary ramp in case it is needed.
- c. Youth Group – Rosalie said there are at least 100 kids in the Youth Group – they are currently learning how to read the Bible, look up verses, etc. Then they will begin a Bible study.
- d. Youth Minister – Fr. Ryan said due to the increased Sunday donations, they will post a job opportunity for a full-time Youth Minister at our parishes.

CLOSING PRAYER led by Fr. Ryan.

Next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2023, at 6:00pm in the meeting room.