

St. Casimir Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

In attendance:	Fr. Ryan Pietrocarlo	Sem. Nick Monnin	Francisco Jimenez
	Mira Gasko	Margarita Ramos	Benito Medrano
	Sara Kurzhal	Becky Ruvalcaba	Gilberto Quijada
	Elias Gonzalez	Vicki Kruszk	

OPENING PRAYER: led by Fr. Ryan

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: motioned by Fr. Ryan, seconded by Sara Kurzhal

OLD BUSINESS:

- Update on St. Casimir fundraiser – Fr. Ryan said that the Cinco de Mayo group has generously offered to share the proceeds of future Cinco de Mayo festivals with St. Casimir's in the amount of \$10,000.00. We still plan on doing the dinner/dance on September 28 with an Italian dinner of spaghetti, also with chicken parmesan for adults and chicken nuggets for the kids. There will be raffles, either a DJ or band, and other opportunities to build community in our parish.
- Report on Project Weed Patrol – Mira Gasko reported on various aspects of gardening around the church/school buildings and lots. The Mary garden is doing well, weeding is nominal there as a liner was put down before planting. Mira met with a group to talk about native plants. She actually came to St. Casimir to have a look and make some suggestions. Mira went to her place and purchased some native plants to plant in our gardens. Also, they put some grass in where the church bathroom construction and killed some of the grass. Mira hopes we can include an envelope next year for help with fundraising for the "Weed Patrol" group.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Financial help for food sales for Rectory repairs – Fr. Ryan said there are some needed repairs to the Rectory that must be taken care of, and he proposed giving "seed money" of \$500 to the various Hispanic ministry groups that have food sales. They then have to raise \$1500 in their sales, thereby being able to return the initial \$500. Fr. Ryan said there would be 11 sales, which would raise \$11,000 for the repairs.
- Proposal of merger of St. Adalbert-St. Casimir Parishes – Fr. Ryan said Bishop Rhoades had been in South Bend visiting the churches, and he brought up the topic of merging our two parishes to ease the administrative burden for Fr. Ryan and any future pastor. It was just a suggestion, no pressure, but Fr. Ryan said it would significantly reduce the administrative jobs to have just one board, one parish council, one finance council, one bank account, etc. Both parishes are financially okay so technically it is not necessary but would be more convenient. Nothing will be done for at least a year as many discussions would need to take place, and also the Holy Cross Provincial would need to be advised and

then bring it before their board.

FR. RYAN'S PARISH REPORT

- The school annex roof has been completed. Fr. Ryan will ask any groups using the annex when it happens to be raining to check to make sure there are no leaks. He has been making payments on the loan, and we will receive the Parish in Need Grant in the amount of \$40,000 at the end of August which will then be applied toward the loan.
- There is now internet in the school building. The company is going to come back and extend internet access to the church for some groups who meet there for talks.
- New doors have been installed on the Fisher and Webster Street sides of the school building. They will be (or have been) painted a brick red color.
- Beginning in September, the Youth Group will meet in the school on the first Thursday of the month from 7:00-8:30pm, and the First Communion classes will be the first Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm.
- Fr. Ryan hired two people, Juan and Olga Escobado, to clean the school building. The different Hispanic ministries continue to take turns cleaning the church each week.
- Fr. Ryan handed out a paper regarding child care guidelines for groups having meetings and wanting to provide child care for people at the meeting.

ADDITIONAL POINTS OF DISCUSSION FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mira and Fr. Ryan mentioned having additional members from other groups such as the seniors, youth group, etc.

CLOSING PRAYER: led by Fr. Ryan.

Next Parish Council meeting on October 29, 2024, at 5:30pm at St. Adalbert