

Parish Council of St. Charles Borromeo, Resurrection, All Saints
Summary of Meeting Sunday, March 2, 2025
1:35 PM-3:45 PM

Attendance

<u>Ex Officio</u>	<u>Parish Council</u>
<i>Present</i>	
Fr Willem Klaver Fr Benedict Ohanga Deacon Kenneth Radcliffe Deacon Rodney Beckford Deacon Michel Hodge Sr Dorothy Hall, OP Paul Tchamambe, Trustee Natalia Rodrigo, School Principal	Renell Grant, President Danielle Beckford Frank Mendez Gwen Miller Lakia Lewis Lenora M Graham Lucy Osakwe Michele Turnquest Paulette Nixon Vivian Taylor Christine Whelan, Secretary
<i>Absent</i>	
	Annie Pena (regrets) Carolyn McBain (regrets) Dominique Michel

Meeting Summary

1. Frank offered an opening prayer
2. **Deacon Radcliffe's Birthday Celebration (Fr Willem, Vivian)**
 - a. Fr Willem reported that the combined Mass/party for Deacon Radcliffe was a great success and combined our two communities at Resurrection Chapel.
 - b. The deacon's daughters have proposed a celebration in May at St Charles Church. Vivian proposed it be a fundraiser for the church in the deacon's honor
 - i. Michele advised the date and space should be secured ASAP. POST-MEETING UPDATE: Placeholder date/time/venue is Saturday, May 17 from 1-4:00pm in the Auditorium.
 - ii. For the planning committee, Vivian has 5-6 volunteers from Resurrection and needs 5-6 more. Michele volunteered to help.
3. **Religious Education (Deacon Hodge)**
 - a. RCIA has been renamed OCIA (the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults).
 - i. This year we have 3 adults receiving all 3 sacraments: 2 from our Praise and Worship Ministry, and one family. Deacon is looking for godparents,

- sponsors, and others willing to accompany them through Lent. Meetings are Wednesdays at 7PM via Zoom – contact Deacon Hodge for details
- b. Three teenagers who need religious education have asked for the sacraments. Their teachers are meeting March 3 to discuss how to handle; Frank is talking with them.
 - i. A discussion followed regarding children who wish to enter the Church and receive sacraments whose parents are not Catholic. Fr Willem advised that the request must come from the parents and not other relatives. Paul suggested publishing a small book about the process on our website.

4. Retreat at Maryknoll (Deacon Hodge)

- a. In line with the Pope's request for making a Pilgrimage of Hope, Deacon Hodge has planned a one-day retreat at Maryknoll in Ossining for March 29. The Lenten Day of Recollection can accommodate up to 50 people. POST-MEETING UPDATE: Cost is \$85 including transportation and food; \$55 without transportation. Contact Deacon Hodge to reserve at deaconhodge@scbrchurch.org.

5. Update to Capital Campaign Prep (Fr Willem)

- a. The Capital Cabinet issued an RFD (Request for Development) for a case writer/campaign manager.
- b. The architect's drawings and the cost estimate will be ready the 3rd or 4th week of March. Cost of the drawings is \$97K.
- c. We have raised \$265K, of which \$100K remains. We will need an additional \$100K to hire the campaign manager over a longer period of time.
- d. Father Willem reminded the council that we are asking parishioners to donate to the Capital Campaign instead of the Cardinal's Appeal. "Capital Campaign" must be written in the memo of any checks to restrict the funds. It is best for any paper checks to be handed directly to Fr Willem.
- e. The campaign manager will develop multiple ways for people to give.

6. Strategic Planning Committee (Vivian)

- a. **Please see the attached proposal**, provided by Vivian. The Council voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

7. St Mark School Closure / SCB School (Fr Willem, Natalia)

- a. The following schools are closing: St Mark, All Hallows, and Preston School. St Charles is the only Catholic school left in Harlem.
- b. St Marks has 240 students. St Charles has 458 students but can accommodate 600 at full capacity. Natalia advised the school currently has enough teachers on staff to serve 600 students. She also advised we can accommodate all the 7th grade students from St Marks so they can graduate.
- c. Families of St Mark's students must contact the SCB office; however the office was overwhelmed with requests, so Natalia scheduled an open house for March 3, open to the families.

8. Evaluation of Black History Month Celebrations – “Pilgrimage of Courageous Hope” (All)

- a. All the members commended the multiple pilgrimages and celebrations planned as a response to the closing of the Archdiocesan Office of Black Ministry and the cancellation of the Black History Month Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral. The participating parishes offered warm welcome and fellowship and provided an emotionally powerful experience. Members suggested we continue this approach in future years and work to increase communication among the parishes.

9. Update on Welcome Ministry (Fr Willem, Deacon Beckford)

- a. The program is going well for the Sunday 8am Mass at St Charles, but after the 10am Mass they have no one to whom to hand off the duties. The Fellowship Ministry does not have a large membership following the Covid shutdown.
 - i. Renell asked if the ushers could assist temporarily until more volunteers are found, on days when we have an abundance of ushers. Deacon Beckford advised the ushers are doing this unofficially.
 - 1. Need to discuss with Michele
 - 2. Alternatively, this program could go back to the Fellowship Ministry, getting volunteers from the other ministries.

10. Word Among Us Subscription (Fr Willem)

- a. To avoid ordering more copies than we need, Paul will work with Danielle to set up a QR registration code for parishioners who want to receive the publication.

11. Revivals

- a. Spanish Revival – dates changed to Saturday March 22 at 7pm and Sunday March 23 at 3pm
- b. Our revivalist for the English Revival, Fr Steven Bell, will celebrate both the 8am and 10am Masses at St Charles on Sunday, March 16.
- c. Need more singers for the Revival Choirs – only 6-8 choir members have volunteered thus far.

12. Harlem Cluster

- a. The Cluster has applied for an archdiocesan grant to support activities we have done as a Cluster (eg the MLK Day Interfaith Service). We should have a response beginning May.

13. Space Rentals (Deacon Beckford and Danielle)

- a. For Ministry Meetings: there is no cost to reserve space for ministry-related meetings. These meetings should be coordinated through the parish office.
- b. All other rentals are to be coordinated through the Event Coordinator listed on the website. Please submit your rental space inquiry on the website. Event Space

is available for rent for parishioners and non-parishioners alike, however, Parishioners are eligible for discounted rates for personal celebrations

- c. Rates include setup, breakdown, 2 staff for the duration of the event, and insurance.

14. 30th Anniversary Celebration of Fr Willem's Priesthood

- a. Fr Willem handed out an invitation to all members of the Parish Council to join him in the celebration of the 30th anniversary of his missionary priesthood on Sunday, April 27, 10am Mass at St Charles Borromeo Church (see attached invitation)