

Saint Mary's Parish Council Minutes October 12th, 2022

7:00 pm meeting call to order by Jeff Ryan

ATTENDANCE

Parish Council Members: Mary Anderson, Lee Barrett, Betty Bible, Larry Christian, Paul Mikkelson, Tom Potter, Kate Rogers, Jeff Ryan, Father Stephen Sledesky

Other Attendees: Linda Duff

Absent: JC Damian, Ben Reynolds, Leon Rippel, Lori Ryan

Opening Prayer (Lectio Divina) led by Fr Stephen.

Agenda- Jeff Ryan. Last month was our first business meeting. Recap on ministry outreach, youth ministry, bylaws, mission, vision with a focus on Father Stephen's Hopes and Visions of 2022-2023.

Agenda Item	Purpose	Discussion Leader	Time
Opening Prayer	Invoke Holy Spirit	Father Stephen	5 minutes
Administrivia	Approve minutes	Jeff Ryan	5 minutes
Big Picture View	Recap orientation session and align on our mission	Jeff Ryan	15 minutes
Realizing Father's Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review Father Stephen's Hopes, Dreams and VisionBrainstorm how we can bring this vision to life in alignment with mission	Jeff to lead discussion with Council	20 minutes
Ministry Outreach Sprint 1	Review plan to put strategy in action in October and November	Lee Barrett	15 minutes
Standing Committee Dashboard	Discuss items for awareness and consult	Larry, Lori, Leon, Tom, Betty, JC, Ben	10 minutes
Pastor's Report	Items for awareness and consult	Father Stephen	10 minutes
Open Forum	Shout outs Items for awareness Future topics	Council	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Thanksgiving Choose next in rotation	Kate Rogers	5 minutes

Jeff Ryan- Opened the meeting by reflecting on our constitution and explained how the council can aid in facilitating God's will through our community such as starting our meetings with an

opening prayer. He further explained that our council is called to stimulate in a positive way our many ministries, through ministry outreach through fostering a fruitful collaboration among ministries. Objective is to help get people involved to use their talents and gifts to foster a vibrant church community. Discussed the standing committees, partial list of ministries, and explained that we can inform other members as to what each ministry is. We also wanted to focus on our millennials and revamp the youth ministry.

Betty- Asked if the parish community focuses on publicizing ministry outreach and explained that there are opportunities for it.

Paul- Explained that the reason for the decline of the parish community is people not going back to church. Want to use the synod as a reference to spread the good word outside the church.

Lee- Kudos to Jeff on putting in perspective of giving a good depiction of standing committees and list of ministries and adding additional detail on ministries. Council wants to focus on bringing the synod aspect in the church and how it's influencing ministries and depicting what each member is being called to serve

Jeff- We can focus on connecting people to Christ and getting people back to church through engaging and empowering parishioners to put their faith in action. Explained on ways to drive Father Stephen's vision to life such as remaining welcoming, starting a millennial ministry, social committee, and building on the eucharistic ministry, music ministry etc.

Larry- Start with something concrete such as bringing back Sunday morning coffee hosted by the Parish Council.

Betty- talked about thanking each of the ministries (music, lectors, ushers etc) to help them feel appreciated for their work. Regarding millennials, the key is taking it one step at a time and remaining welcoming to those who do not attend.

Larry- Suggested displaying a picture collage of the parishioners.

Betty- Explained that Shannon M does photography and integrates photos of parish families and puts them on display.

Jeff Ryan- Mentioned seminarian, Martin Chenard, who visited the parish council last year and suggested we look into Crossroads for Christ for millennials.

Mary- Explained how she continued staying involved after church through the music ministry and connecting with the Little Sisters of the Poor in Enfield.

Kate- Explained there are not a lot of young adult members of women's ministry but instead younger moms involved with the school rather than the church

Linda- Explained how before the pandemic we used to greet and introduce ourselves before mass and it was a nice way to welcome the newer families.

Father Stephen- Explained to focus on doing the introductory period once a month or when we have coffee. Focus on attentiveness to people in church and being aware of accessibility needs. We need a way to open the doors to the parish.

Lee- Reviewed two key Phase 1 Ministry Outreach Initiatives. The first was confirming the date for coffee/doughnuts on 10/23 for after all masses and have two shifts for the morning. He discussed the proposed ministry social to take place at the at parish rectory with designates of each Ministry to attend. We established a tentative date of November 19 and will look for volunteers to plan for the evening.

Recommendation Description	Parish Council Liaison	Proposed Next Steps	Target Start Date	Target End Date	Ministry	Ministry Responsibility	Ongoing Initiative
1 <i>Compile a complete list of all ministries, contacts and alignment to synod themes</i>	J. Russell	Review list; Assure completeness and update as needed	30-Sep	30-Oct		L. Barrett	yes
2 <i>Develop a template for each ministry and parish initiative to follow for consistency. Each ministry to designate an individual to be represent them.</i>	K. Rogers	Complete drafting of template requirements and other ministry consideration to review at Minstry Social with ministry designates	9-Sep	21-Oct			yes
3 <i>Schedule a "Ministry Social" at the parish rectory with the Ministry designates, parish council and Fr. Stephen with a brief program to introduce the ministry outreach initiatives and agreement.</i>	J. Ryan and L. Barrett	Discuss initiative and date at Parish Council meeting 10/12 and request Fr. Stephen support. Develop plan and establish a planning committee and agenda for the meeting. Also assure ongoing support and communications and liaison with all ministry designates.	30-Sep	4-Nov	All		yes
4 <i>Complete review of Parish website to assure ministry outreach consistency, use of graphics/pictures, video snippets etc.</i>	K. Rogers and J. Russell	Complete review of parish website and other parish websites with specific set of proposed recommendations for ministry outreach and consistency including an overall communications plan	9-Sep	4-Nov ?		All Ministries for content w/assistance from J. Russell on website	yes
5 <i>Develop plan for ongoing promotion/communication plan of ministry awareness in the parish community</i>	L. Barrett	Need to identify a communications individual preferably by outsourcing (providing other capabilities as well as needed i.e., graphic artist, writer, social media expertise etc.) to work with council, ministries, Fr. Stephen and others in assuring consistency, information, content, presentation etc.	30-Sep	TBD	TBD	TBD	yes
6 <i>Focus on more connection with youth and younger families</i>	TBD	Development of an outreach plan and tactics to gain additional interest and participation by youth and younger families. Need to assure relevance, vibrancy engagement.	TBD	TBD		Welcome?	yes
7 <i>Bring back social coffee and pastries</i>	TBD	Commence social outreach to parish community and promote social interaction and engagement for all demographics. The first to be sponsored and hosted by the parish council for all Sunday masses on 10/22 with two shifts to resource.	22-Oct			Social Action?	Yes
8 <i>Increase Ministry participation by "personal ask/outreach"</i>	P. Mikelson	Ongoing initiative to promote and "train" on the process of the personal ask/outreach and close to increase ministry participation. A first such "training" overview to be included in the Ministry Social and then ongoing support as needed. Monitor ministry growth to show progress.	4-Nov		Parish Council		Yes

Linda- offered to work on a list for social events and have it done by Monday.

Jeff- getting OK from Father for rectory social and coffee hour. All set with this agenda. Onto ministry dashboard. Have a new youth minister and want to invite Christine to the next parish council meeting.

Father Stephen- Explained Christine will be our new youth minister and summarized her background in ministry and will introduce her during coffee time and meetings. Discussed parish finance concerns regarding offertory income and wants to utilize resources that are more outreach oriented with a focus on building something rather than fixing something. Email him ideas as to how it can be helpful to the parish. Suggested council to go online to civilizeit.org regarding the recent Bishop's report.

Tom- finance council supportive of funds for ministries coming out of pandemic.

Jeff- Open forum. Has a promo for Open Mic Night Saturday November 12. Signups at 6:30 in the Parish center and the event starts at 7 pm.

Linda- suggested a more structured format of helping people engage in conversation in faith.

Closing Prayer- Lead by Kate