

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 20, 2022

ATTENDANCE: Fr. John, Colleen Kolobow, Bob Runkle, Brian Rupiper, Mary Larson, Linda Casey, Cameron Edman, Genavive Edman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pat King

Meeting was called to order by Bob Runkle and Fr. John led us in prayer. The November 18, 2021, meeting minutes were approved.

DISCUSSION:

FAITH FORMATION:

Our guest speaker, Genavive Edman with Cabrini Co-op, provided an in-depth report on the status of the school. Currently there are 67 students. Many families are on the wait list to join the hybrid Co-op. Ways to make more room and add space are being discussed to accommodate the growing numbers of families who want their children in this kind of environment for education and religious formation. Currently, we have 6 paid tutors and a new science-based project, led by Lawrence McDonald will be included in the curriculum. Fr. John will participate in the science class with scientific experiments. There are 7 new catechists in formation to teach Friday's Catechesis of the Good Sheppard.

The school's first Sacred Art show was very successful, and plans are in the making to be repeated next year.

There is concern for safety of the children in the current outside space they use as there is no fence. Across the street, the Sorenson playground would be an ideal and safe place for the kids to play outside. Fr. John and Genavive will seek permission for the Cabrini kids to use their playground.

Faith Formation Director, Carla Loucks, is seeing great results from the new religious ed formation process with parents teaching in the home environment. The bi-monthly Purposefully Catholic podcasts are extremely helpful in assisting parents with their current lessons. Family Faith Formation Sundays continue once a month and are well attended. Carla is facilitating "Called and Gifted" workshops in the Mission House twice in January to help discover the gifts the Holy Spirit gives each of us and how best to share them.

Family events during the past few months have been well attended. The first St. Nicolas Festival, Family skate day and Christmas Caroling are some of the family events enjoyed by many families.

HOSPITALITY

Debbie Schmanski is now leading the Hospitality Committee. Discussion on another tri-parish picnic will more than likely take place again this summer at Holy Family outdoor property. St. Thomas may also have an additional event for parish families during the summer possibly at McKuen park in the covered picnic area.

STARS AND STRIPES

Anne Wilson has stepped down from the leadership role with Stars and Stripes, however, she will remain on the committee as advisor and lead decorator for events. She has prepared an outline with “to-dos” for the next person (s) who will lead the committee. New recruits are needed, and Rick Swartz was named as a potentially chairing or co-chairing. The statue honoring the military will be erected at the St. Thomas Cemetery sometime in the Spring.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The St. Thomas Cemetery committee, led by Tina Johnson, has committed to identifying and marking the 100’s of unmarked graves as a corporal work of mercy.

SERRA CLUB

The Serra Club, chaired by Dianna Decker, has adopted a Seminary in Nigeria, and donated \$500.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy is celebrated in the form of the Mass as it is written. Bishop Peter requires all parishes to follow this exactly. The Sacred Music at St. Thomas has nothing to do with the changes that were made in Liturgy. The Marian Antiphon, beautifully sung at the end of Mass, is a written part of the Mass. There are 88 churches in Idaho that are required to celebrate Mass as it is written. Many St Thomas parishioners have commented they are drawn to the Sacred Music at St. Thomas.

A new schedule will be published beginning March 5th showing the format and celebrant for each Mass.

ROBUST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Bulletin inserts introducing parishioners to the “Robust Catholic High School Initiative”. The initiative includes due diligence and a feasibility assessment toward the founding of a Catholic High School serving the North Idaho communities. Information gathering and feedback sessions have begun at the survey website: tinyurl.com/nihsurvey. Fr. Caleb Gobel, Vicar of the Boise Diocese, is overseeing this project and Sue Ste for HFCS is a big part of the initiative. A website for sharing information, timetables, meeting minutes and project deliverables can be found at www.nicatholichs.org. Fr. John is project coordinator for Phase 1. A growing need for more schools in the community is evident as statistics show between 2019 and 2021, 22,000 children under 18 have moved to Northern Idaho.

OTHER ISSUES

Safety: Sidewalks are not always cleared of snow and presents a dangerous walk to those who walk to church. This will be brought to Maintenance's attention.

Two of our PC members will soon be ending their 3-year commitment. The process we currently have for electing new members will be reviewed and a suggested process will be reviewed by the council after Linda Casey puts one together.

Mission House Apartment: Concern over destroying the integrity of the Mission House space was brought up by a parishioner. It was suggested we sell the current rectory and buy a duplex for both priests to live in. It was suggested that we put in two apartments in the Mission House to accommodate both priests. **Pro-Life at St.**

Thomas: The concern was the lack of an active St. Thomas Pro-Life Committee. We do have parishioners who belong to the ecumenical Right to Life Group They help plan the Walk for Life event in January of each year. The Knights are active in prayer and activities for life as well. Fr. John will speak to these parishioners regarding these concerns.

The meeting was adjourned and ended in prayer.