Parish Council Minutes

March 2, 2022

Attendance: Steve Bentz, Bob Current, Liz Furniss, Linda Gutoskey, Susie Hague, Keith Heimann, Steve Lutz, Joe McKenna, Dan Schneider, Patty Sosenheimer, Chris Stock, Fr. Tom, Fr. Koehl

1. **Rescue Mission**. Two representatives of the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission gave a presentation on the ministry offered there. They currently have 247 beds and have added 100 cots for overflow. 40 residents are isolated in Covid dorms. They serve 1000 meals/day and have a program of 6-12 months for those who are receptive to their help in turning their lives around. We were much impressed with their works and after discussion agreed to add the Rescue Mission to our parish tithe.
2. **Pandemic status**. We are hopeful that the critical cases of Covid are lessening. We have had roughly 24-25 funerals at St. Charles for people who died either directly from Covid or from pneumonia following Covid. We haven’t had any since January. For now, we will continue to wear masks while distributing Communion at Mass.
3. **Church renovation** is moving along well, and we have adapted to the gym Masses.
4. **Oak Crosses**. The Knights of Columbus have crafted roughly 1300 crosses from the oak taken out of the sanctuary during renovation. These will be given away as mementos. We discussed how to distribute them but made no decisions.
5. There will be a diocesan **Corpus Christ procession** on June 19 at 3:00 in Warsaw. In order not to compete, parishes are invited to have a procession on a different date. We have permission from the bishop to hold a procession on April 25, a date on which St. Charles Borromeo held processions in Milan. We will have the procession in the afternoon and include our school children.
6. We have a very active group of parishioners working with **Catholic Charities** and the Afghan refugee resettlement efforts. Thanks to Linda Gutoskey for organizing these efforts.
7. At the bishop’s encouragement, we are forming a parish chapter of the **Catholic Relief Society**. The parish chapters meet monthly and have some kind of a task each month…. Writing letters to legislators, promoting Rice Bowls, sharing information with the parish, or some other good cause to get the parish involved with overseas poverty relief.
8. Our **Lenten Series** began on a snowy Feb. 24 and will continue on March 3 and March 10. Please invite others.
9. **Living Rosary**. We have speakers coming from Wisconsin who will give a presentation at Mass on the Living Rosary. They will encourage everyone to make a commitment to pray a decade of the rosary every day.
10. Next meeting we will discern new members.

Next meeting: May 4, 7 p.m.