Parish Council minutes 10/2/19

Present: Fr. Tom, Fr. Dennis, Bob Current, Carole Fuller, Susie Hague, Steve Lutz, John Minick, Jay Nelson, Margaret Ryan, Dan Scdhneider, Dave Stevens, Mark Wissel

1. **Lenten series/ Mission**. Fr. Tom and Fr. Dennis will offer talks this Lent. We decided not to do a big mission because we have so many other events taking place during Lent.
2. **St. Patrick’s Passion and Tet celebration**. We will keep this on the agenda so that we don’t forget to organize inter-parish exchanges with St. Patrick.
3. **Volunteer drivers.** We get occasional calls for drivers for Sunday Mass and for weekday doctor appointments. Maybe we should ask for a list of volunteers. Is there a liability issue here? Let’s find out.
4. **Church interior**. We are getting bids on the repair of our church ceiling. We met with a liturgical architect who has ideas on renovations and will provide a drawing. We would like to make the tabernacle accessible from both church and chapel, replace flooring and pew upholstery. Much more research and discussion will follow.
5. **School building**. We need more classrooms in our school. This will require either renovation or adding on to the building. This project will take a few years.
6. **Senior citizen event**. We have ruled out some ideas, but not made any plans yet.
7. **Marriage petitions** We discussed including newly-married couples in the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass. Maybe instead we could congratulate them on the Gathering Space monitors.
8. Information
9. **Kingdom Builders**, a monthly women’s evening, has been very well received. The organizers are looking to expand with small group meetings as well.
10. **Ray Guarendi** will present a talk on Thurs., Oct. 10. We are advertising in many venues.
11. **Confirmation** will be Nov. 4
12. **Evangelization brainstorming**: Sharing the Good News with inactive members and the unchurched, while invigorating active members

We spent time talking about evangelization. Among the topics:

* Ultimately, all evangelization requires the Holy Spirit to touch hearts. We need to pray and trust. We also need to do what we can.
* Strengths of our parish include our school and our location. We should capitalize on those.
* We need to build trust with non-Catholic neighbors. Observable volunteerism can do that.
* We need to bring neighborhood children/families onto the campus. Free movies, dances, or child-focused activities could do that.
* We can evangelize families as well as patients in nursing home ministry.
* We need to better educate Catholics on the meaning of the Eucharist.
* We could look for accountability for school children attending weekend Mass. Some parishes take attendance.
* We need to be sure that non-Catholics know they are welcome at Y-disciples, Alpha, Kingdom Builders, and other events.
* We could offer a regular prayer for evangelization.
* We all need encouragement to raise the topic with non-practicing family and to invite people to church.
* Door-to-door passing information/Christmas caroling can be a way to reach people.
* We have done parishioner mailings at Christmas and Easter. We might want to expand with neighborhood mailings.
* St. Charles car window stickers provide a witness.
* We could better use our electronic signs to specifically welcome non-Catholics.

We will continue this discussion with parish staff and at our next meeting.

 Next meeting: Nov. 6, 7:00 p.m.