Parish Council Minutes – 5/14/25

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne

Present: Father Tom Shoemaker, Father Bobby Krisch, Deacon Rob Lortie, Matt Smith, Jared Hoy, Cynthia Crosby, Katie Eckrich, Dennis Redding, Mike O’Neil, Cathy Krouse, Don Clemmer, Tony Hasselschwert

1. St. Joseph Dinner – July 17, to serve about 18 women with food items provided by the council. Dennis will bring his grill for a cookout. Cathy will reach out to participating council members via email to ask for side dishes.
2. Buildings
   1. School window project – slow progress, two rooms done by summer, Schenkel’s confident they can wrap by end of summer. Vast improvement.
   2. Portable classrooms – will be gone soon.
   3. Youth House project – work now in basement, kitchen is done. Deacon Rob working on paint and other details.
3. Coffee and Donuts – aiming for Wednesday, May 28. Cynthia and Cheryl have been working as team on this.
4. Bequest – nothing new except more and more requests for money. We are looking at air conditioning for the gym and then will have more discussion after the current construction projects are done.
5. Ecumenical/Interfaith visits – New Zion Tabernacle. Bishop Crystal is open to a visit. Father Tom will follow up.
6. Cross Catholic Outreach – Water for Life during Lent: raised over $40k. Very fruitful act of giving alms during Lent and very generous parish. Fr Tom would love to see a picture or some personalized evidence of a well. Should we do this next year? Real openness to it. We might want to repeat the well project, but CRS could be a consideration for next year or Catholic Charities could offer local alternative.
7. Lenten Wednesday adoration – This was well received. We should continue next year. There was a little confusing signing up for three different things: Wednesday Adoration, 40 hours and paschal watch. We won’t repeat the 40 hours next year.
8. Lenten series – Dr. Tom McGovern, a local dermatologist has written a book about the crucifixion and gave a talk at St. Peter’s. He is open to doing it at St. Charles as a series of three talks during Lent of 2026. We seem to think that a Sunday evening 6:30 presentation would be a good for timing.
9. World Marriage Day, Feb 9 –We’ll keep this on the agenda to keep giving it thought.
10. Thursday nights and June and July – Fr Bobby’s Burger and Bible catechetical series will return, (skipping July 3).
11. Anniversary of dedication of church building is a parish solemnity – 50th (from 1976) will be on a Sunday. White vestments, special readings, etc. One idea is to make a video showing the history of our church building and show it before Masses.
12. Four new members were discerned for the council: Pam Bennett, Joe Eifrid, Gloria Perkins and Jerry Witte. Fr. Tom will notify them. He will also contact those who were not discerned this year. Linda Gutoskey will be cycling off the council after four years. We are very grateful for her years of service.
13. We will have a farewell party for Fr. James after the 11:00 Mass on June 15.

Next Meeting: Party at rectory with dinner, June 4 at 6 pm. We will invite our new members as well as outgoing.