St Charles Borromeo Parish Fort Wayne

Parish Council Minutes

Aug. 6, 2025

Present: Fr Tom, Fr. Bobby, Deacon Rob, Matt Smith, Dennis Redding, Tes Sanderlin, Stephen Jahrsdorfer, Don Clemmer, Mike O’Neil, Cynthia Crosby, Katie Eckrich, Joe Eifrid, Tony Hasselschwert, Cathy Krouse, Jared Hoy, Gloria Perkins, Cheryl Prater, Jerry Witte

1. **Introductions** – There are four new members: Joe Eifrid, Jerry Witte, Gloria Perkins, and Pam Bennett.
2. “**Monsignorship**” – Father Tom will still use the title “Father” but is fine with others addressing him as “father” or “monsignor.”
3. **Parish Council Guidelines** – We spent time reviewing the Parish Pastoral Council Guidelines. The purpose of the council is to build up St Charles as loving, serving, evangelizing community, to look for opportunities for parish renewal, and to support efforts of the pastor and bishop in carrying out ministries of church. New members are selected at a discernment meeting. The council oversees six missions: evangelization, education, pastoral ministry, liturgy, social concerns and outreach, ecumenism and interfaith relations.
4. **Building Projects**
   1. School window project – Done! Was two-year process. The extra light is appreciated, the walls are more solid, and every room has an escape window. Landscaping is on the way.
   2. School HVAC – We are replacing old roof units one wing at a time. We are asking for bids on AC in the gym and parish center.
   3. Youth House project – We have expanded the main room, and upgraded the kitchen. The basement meeting room is under work and bathrooms will be next.
5. **Bequest** – We are soon going to begin talks about uses for our historic gift. We don’t want to make quick decisions or use the money foolishly.
6. **Ecumenical/Interfaith Visits** – Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren will be our next ecumenical visit, probably in the fall. We will invite the whole parish for a talk from their pastor, questions and answers, some music from their choir, and prayer together. We had similar evenings at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox and Trinity English Lutheran in 2023 and 2024, respectively.
7. **Cross Catholic Outreach/Water for Life.** Donations from our Lenten almsgiving project added up to over $50,000. We will ask if we can find out locations of wells and maybe even photos of wells built with our gift.
8. **Spiritual events (a lot of these new)**
   1. Divine Will Cenacle, a new prayer group focused on Divine Will. Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, beginning today and ending in February.
   2. Bible study. A new 12-week Bible study will be offered on Saturday mornings beginning 9/6.
   3. Catholic apologetics. This series will take place on Tues evenings, beginning Aug 19 in Hession Center.
   4. Liturgy of the Hours. A parishioner who has written a book on the topic has offered a six-evening course in praying the Liturgy of the Hours. Time and place not yet determined.
   5. OCIA, starts 8/19 – (used to be called RCIA.) At this time we have nine people who are interested in joining the Church, along with others who would like more catechesis.
   6. Marriage Encounter. A retreat program for married couples will be held at St. Charles on Sept. 27/28, using the Hession Center. Couples will go home at night and return during the day.
   7. Lenten Series – Dr. Tom McGovern, who has written a book about the crucifixion, will give a presentation in the church at 6:30 pm on 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15. He uses archeology, historical documents, medical understanding, and John Paul II’s theology of suffering to make sense of the crucifixion.
9. **Works of charity.** We will have blue barrels in the back of church for two weekends this fall to collect items for a group of local charities. Also this fall we will support the St. Vincent de Paul stuff-a-truck event, the seminarian bake sale, dinners at Just Neighbors, the Knights of Columbus garage sale, and the Walk for the Poor.
10. **Social events**
    1. Fr. Bobby’s Bibles & Burgers drew big crowds, with cooking by KofC.
    2. Outdoor movie Aug 1 – moderately good crowd, difficulty with how late it gets dark, but food truck and games for kids
    3. Cardinal Fest Sept 6. In addition to food trucks, kids’ games and Bingo, the K of C is adding a mushball event. Katie suggested organizing a parish council team. She was quickly nominated as recruiter and coach.
    4. Wed morning Coffee and Donuts – next date set at Aug 20 after Wed morning Mass
11. **50th Anniversary of church building**, Jan 25 will be the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our current church building. This is a Solemnity for the parish. We will produce a short video to show before Mass, giving some of the history of our church building. Special readings, coffee and donuts.
12. **World Marriage Day** is Sunday, Feb 8. We discussed having some event at St. Charles to honor married couples. The diocese has a Mass and dinner for those celebrating 25th and 50th anniversaries; we don’t want to replicate that. We threw out many ideas. We are thinking of inviting all of our newly-married couples as well as 25s and 50s, serving hors d’oeuvres in the Hession Center and playing a game.
13. **Priestly Ordinations.** Deacon Sam and Deacon Noah will be ordained at the cathedral onJune 6. Their First Masses will be at St. Charles on Sunday, June 7. They will both participate in Corpus Christi procession after 11 a.m. Mass, with two receptions in the Hession Center.
14. **St Joseph Mission Dinner:** Thanks to the people who helped. The crew was told that St. Charles dinners are a highlight. Next dinner is in January.

Next meeting: 9/24, 7 p.m.