ST CHARLES PARISH COUNCIL

SEPT 4, 2024, 7 PM

Present: Fr Tom, Dcn Rob, Cynthia Crosby, Cheryl Prater, Stephen Jahrsdoerfer, Don Clemmer, Tony Hasselschwert, Jared Hoy, Dennis Redding, Mike O’Neil, Linda Gutoskey, Cathy Krouse, Katie Eckrich

1. INTRODUCTIONS: for new members/anyone who missed last meeting; update on Fr. Tom’s kidney donation/recovery
2. BUILDINGS
3. **School window project**: a couple little hitches; there are permits that we didn’t know we needed/didn’t have the right permits for. We’re replacing more than just windows. And portable classrooms/electricity hookup, etc. require permits. Mostly cleared up now. Nonetheless, project continues apace. Building more energy efficient, protected from pests, etc.
4. **Portable classrooms**: Are not soundproof and do not have restrooms.
5. **Youth house project**: Back brick wall of youth house is now gone as main meeting room is expanded onto back porch. Chris Rittenhouse and Chris Roberts are the contractors doing the work, which is impressive so far.
6. RELIGIOUS ED: Starts Monday of next week, all teachers recruited. Keith Heimann is new director for program. Have already gone through parish roles, contacting anyone who’s not in Catholic schools.
7. CHRISTMAS BOOKS?: Two Matt Kelly books “33 Days to Euchartistic Glory” and “Ordinary Voices of God” are possibilities for gifting to the entire parish at Christmas. We would choose one or the other. Council sees benefit of both.
8. SR GENEVIEVE, OCT 4 & 6: She is leaving after 42 years, will be in Brazil for 3 weeks, then at Mother House. Farewell all-school Mass on Oct 4, then event at parish on Oct 6. Asked for plain coffee and donuts on Sunday morning because it’s simple and doesn’t make people take an extra trip to church. Parish purchased a new car for her in past year, and it will go to her community. The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart have been here since 1958, one of Fr Hession’s first items to make school solvent. Question of parish gift would be served by charitable gifts or gifts to her community. Perhaps name something for her? Youth house is one possibility. The Franciscan sisters did live in that house for many years, and naming it more generally – e.g. Franciscan House – might be appropriate. Perhaps a San Damiano cross with plaque commemorating the service of the sisters would be appropriate. Also, “Genevieve’s Garden” after plots on the property. Good chance we can get a retired priest in the condo we purchased for Msgr Suelzer’s retirement.
9. TRINITY ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH: In correspondence with Pastor Gary Erdos about possible ecumenical encounter. Looking for a date for possible come and see, comparable to visit to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox last year. The site of the former St. Paul’s parish is on their property too.
10. ADULT ED – Catholic Social Teaching? It’s a topic we haven’t touched on. Could visit it after the election. Labor unions, immigration, etc. Possible series. For a presenter, Fr tom will make outreach to sisters at University of St. Francis/Mishawaka.
11. DOOR-TO-DOOR MINISTRY IN NEIGHBORHOOD: The diocese sponsored something like this last year. Would it be worth revisiting here? How could we do it in a way that doesn’t evoke the stereotypical doorknocking missionary? One idea: Christmas carols, hand folks a flyer. Let neighbors know we’re here and friendly. Our outreach has been more through electronic signs than personal contact. What about community events? St. Joe United Methodist on Reed and St. Joe Ctr have had events where hosting sports, other events created a showcase for the spiritual life of the parish. They also host meals for the whole community. Blackhawk Ministries does a lot of outreach along these lines as well. Young people offering service hours is another positive way to venture out into community. Saints on the Move at BDHS is one model. One idea: Send a flyer around to neighbors to solicit requests for help/projects. Will think more on this. We need to reach out to the neighborhood in ways that we haven’t been/think more about people who aren’t already here. It should be something significant. How can we promote the “All Are Welcome” dimension of our identity? St. Vincent de Paul chapter could be one group for facilitating neighborly outreach. Walking With Moms in need also has connections in community without overly robust reference back to the parish.
12. CARDINAL FEST, SEPT 7: This Saturday.
13. BEQUEST IDEAS
14. Charitable endowment: Putting together little committee to look at how we’re giving away money. We tithed on the first half of the bequest; the second is coming. Will also seek bishop’s input on where and how to give.
15. Building for funeral luncheons, RCIA, meeting – On funeral luncheons, Hession Center is well suited, except for access to school. Fr Tom would prefer simple building suitable for funeral dinners, evening meetings, bathroom access for football field, etc.
16. Transportation van
17. Daycare for teacher children
18. Athletic fields
19. Others – We aren’t supposed to be building bigger barns to store up money; it should be used to spread the Gospel.

NEXT MEETING: OCT 2 – Don will not be present to take notes.