**Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 4th, 2022**

Attendees: Steve Bentz, Bob Current, Sam Ensley, Liz Furniss, Linda Gutoskey, Susie Hague, Keith Heimann, Steve Lutz, Joe McKenna, Fr. Tom, Fr. Koehl

1. We added the Rescue Mission to our annual parish tithe after a presentation and a discussion at a previous meeting. We were much impressed by their ministry to the homeless and we have committed to a gift of $7500/ year. [As parish sponsors, we were given 16 seats at the Rescue Mission May 6 gala. Many Parish Council members attended.]

2. We are very confident that the church will be ready for occupancy and liturgy at the end of the May. The organ should be put back together and ready, the tabernacle is in place and crucifix will be hung May 9th. Pews are set back in place. Sound technicians will be working for almost a week to install all the new audio equipment. More than likely, there will be a parish work day where all are invited to help clean and prepare for “re-opening day”. *[Note: after this meeting it was discovered that the contractor has subcontracted cleaners who will do this task. We will need to return hymnals and liturgical items to their places, but a full-blown workday won’t be needed.]*

3. Bishop Rhoades will preside at the Mass on May 31 as we return to our church. We will organize an ice cream reception afterwards, either in the cafeteria or a tent. We hope to promote the Mass and build excitement. We would love to have a full house.

4. As part of a 3-year national Eucharistic Initiative, our diocese is organizing a Corpus Christi procession on June 19th at 3:00 pm in Warsaw. Thousands of attendees from many parishes are expected. We will promote this in the parish, but we didn’t see a need to hire a bus.

5. Catholic Charities continue to resettle Afghanistan refugees into our area, and parishioners have been very active in helping. Most of the able-bodied working-age refugees are now employed. Ukranian refugees will also be coming to our area soon. We have furniture stored in the parish office garage to help with the resettlement.

6. The new Catholic Relief Service chapter for Saint Charles is up and running. With their help, the donations from the rice bowl campaign are much increased over previous years.

7. “Walking with Moms in Need” is an initiative promoted by the diocese and encouraged in each parish to assist young mothers in need of help. We have volunteers ready to launch the effort at St. Charles, working with Our Lady of Good Hope. More information will be upcoming. A mother in a difficult pregnancy situation will be able to contact us and a parish volunteer will provide resources and walk with that woman through her journey.

8. *Marriage Encounter* will hold a parish weekend at St. Charles on October 22 and 23. Rather than the traditional hotel setting, couples will meet in our buildings and go home at nighttime. This model worked successfully at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and they had good numbers in attendance.

9. Bishop Rhoades has asked that every parish in the diocese organize “Forty Hours Devotion” sometime between June of 2023 and June of 2024. A speaker will give a talk on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed day and night during that span. Parishioners will sign up for specific time slots to sit in quiet adoration. We discussed the best time of year for scheduling this. *[Since the meeting, Fr. Tom has contacted the bishop and we have dates Feb. 25-27 of 2024.]*

10. On June 1st, we will begin a new year with the parish council. Sam Ensley and Dan Schneider will cycle off the council. **We offer thanks to both for their years of service.** Don Clemmer, Katie Eckrich, Jared Hoy and Cathy Krouse will be joining the council. We are grateful that they are willing to serve.

The next parish council meeting is June 1st at 7:00 pm