

Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 7:00 pm

Council Members Present: Father Peter Wittman, Father Erik Lundgren, Julie Bennett, Anna Brekke, Mark Bury, Tom Dyrhaug, Brian Kane, Kathy Kupfer, Brian Luce, Roxanne Pieper, Carter Sharp, Marco Soto, Greg Stoks, John Weckman

Trustees: Fred Jurewicz

Absent: Don Beno, Dick Stoks

Guests: Deacon Bill Heiman, Joe Schiller, Ruth Schiller, Jim Palmersheim, Gail Vogel

Opening Prayer: Father Wittman

Approval of Minutes: Greg Stoks made a motion to approve the minutes from December 9, 2014. John Weckman seconded the motion. Motion carried; minutes were approved.

Ministry Update: Deacon Bill Heiman

Deacon Bill and adult education leaders presented an overview of parish ministry activities:

Baptisms

- There were 114 baptisms during 2014.
- Baptisms are rotated among the churches.
- Baptismal guidelines have been rewritten and published as a booklet for couples attending the Baptism preparation class. They are also located on the parish website.
- A new commemorative certificate has been created for baptisms.
- Currently standardizing the baptismal processes.

Marriage

- There were 27 couples married in 2014; thus far, 21 couples are preparing for marriages in 2015. Five couples are currently undergoing the annulment process.
- The parish has seen an increase in marriage validations.
- Cathy Wideman created a new sacrament of marriage booklet.
- Wedding workshops are conducted for those undergoing marriage preparation.
- Fifteen new couples are being trained in FOCUS, which is required mentor training.
- There are currently 5 wedding coordinators.
- World Marriage Day is February 8 and plans are being made for a parish-wide celebration.

Ministry Outreach

- Deacon Bill continues to be active in the Shakopee Ministerial Association, a group representing seven religious organizations committed to serving the needs of our community. His ministerial work also includes FISH (Families and Individuals Sharing Hope) and serving as the Police Chaplain.
- Shakopee Community Assistance (SCA), a 501c3 that grew out of the Loaves & Fishes program, was formally established in October 2014. This is an all-volunteer ministry that serves the immediate personal needs of Shakopee community members. This ministry supports the needs of children and families by providing hygiene and nutrition products and

clothing. This ministry receives community support, including a partnership with Cub Foods to provide overstock food items. SCA established a Board of Directors that includes Jerry Ince from our parish. They also formed an Advisory Board whose membership includes Deacon Bill, Barb Brekke and Farmer Marschall. Deacon Bill noted that the SCA, which is housed in the St. Mark's school building, is intended to be the parish's main social outreach program.

- Project Community Connect (PCC), a one-day event for those in need of various social services, was very successful this year. Our parish is a key sponsor of the PCC, which was held in November. Parishioners volunteered by making lunches for the event and offering their time and services during the event.
- The Hands of Christ stewardship committee recently welcomed new members. Members, who serve two-year terms, recently visited several places served by our contributions. Our parish continues to support the CAP Agency and Shakopee Police Department emergency assistance programs; Homelessness and Human Services (Food Shelf); Scott County Health and Human Services; St. Mary's Healthcare; Catholic Charities; Madonna Program, CCW; Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center; Parish Loaves and Fishes program; Shakopee Mobile Meals; Southern Valley Alliance and a Parish Emergency Assistance fund. This myriad of agencies is a reflection of the time, talent and treasure the Hands of Christ Ministry dedicates to serving our parish's call to social ministry and outreach.
- Sister Antonice continues to offer Grief Support and organizes Healing Masses.

Adult Education

- Jim Palmersheim informed the council that "Exodus – Called to Freedom," a 10 week bible study program, will start on January 10.
- Joe and Ruth Schiller recommended the "Life in the Spirits" program.
- Jim also stated that an Adult Faith Formation committee should be created to help support adult education initiatives such as "That Man is You," the current men's program. A formal Adult Faith Formation program would allow adults to conduct bible study programs and other educational opportunities.
- Gail Vogel noted Adult Education would benefit from additional marketing support (e.g., pulpit support from the priests, etc.) in addition to current bulletin notices.
- Julie Bennett informed the group that \$9500 is available for adult education, which represents 20% of the interest from the existing endowment. This money was just received.

Action: Deacon Bill will seek approval of these funds so they can be dispersed.

December Communication: Comments and concerns received during the month were reviewed:

- Jim Palmersheim called with concerns related to support for Adult Faith Formation. He also indicated that endowment funds should be available. The council noted the previous discussion related to Adult Education should resolve these concerns.
- John Weckman received a call from the ushers at St. Mary's stating the ceiling fans are not working and people were fainting at the 8 am Mass because it was too warm. John also noted all of the windows at St. Mark's school have been fixed which should save on the heating bill.

Action: Julie will ensure the maintenance people are notified so the issue can be resolved.

Update: Magi for Christ fundraising campaign

- The subcommittee was unable to meet in December due to scheduling difficulties. Fr. Erik stated this initiative could be on hold possibly until this spring.

- Kathy noted it was still the intention of the Finance Council to create a Stewardship Committee, which would oversee our fundraising activities.
- Members discussed what aspects of fundraising, if any, the Parish Council should be involved in. The Parish Council took the lead in finding new chairs for the Julifest and it would be helpful to have at least one member of the Parish Council on the Stewardship Committee. Brian Luce asked if there were guidelines from the Archdiocese regarding Parish and Finance Council duties. Kathy will research guidelines and report back.

Administrative Updates: Julie Bennett

- Since the request for repairs was initiated, almost \$65,000 has been donated.
- Calendar raffle sales are currently at 50% of the targeted goal. The deadline was extended due to late mailings. The previous years' calendar raffle leads were not contacted this year, which may have contributed to the delay. The council expressed the need to incorporate learnings from this year into next year's process. A Stewardship Committee would also provide support.
- The parish is currently maintaining expenses.
- An annual parish report will be distributed in the near future. This report will provide an overview of parish finances.

Parish Festivals Update: Carter Sharp and Brian Kane

No update at this time. The co-chairs anticipate ramping up festival activities in January with meetings starting in February. These meetings will include past chairs and current Marystown Festival chairs to discuss the upcoming festivals and how best to implement a succession plan for Julifest chairs. Greg Stoks graciously volunteered to create a festival project plan during the first meeting.

New Business

- The special meeting regarding rectories and office space has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 24th at 7:00 pm at St. Mark's. The majority of council members are able to attend.
- John Weckman noted that two wheelchairs have been donated by the Knights of Columbus. One is located at St. Mark's church and one is available in St. Mark's cafeteria.

Closing Prayer: Brian Luce

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Council members welcome any interested parishioners to attend parish council meetings at St. Mark's at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of the month.

February 3, 2015

March 3, 2015

April 7, 2015

May 5, 2015

June 2, 2015

July 7, 2015

August 2015: Summer break

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Kane