

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 29, 2019**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Corinne Bardgett, Celeste Engel, Don Franke, Pattie Hall, Denise Klevorn, Barb Paulus, John Ross, Deacon Dan Skillman, Patti Zerega, Mark Zimmerman

**OPENING PRAYER:** Corinne Bardgett

A prayer was said for both Doug Broleman and Mark Heisohn.

**SCCA BOARD UPDATE:** Paul Kappel

Paul Kappel highlighted the following items:

OLS Parish Involvement – there is a good mixture of avenues for a constant stream of communication, such as the bulletin, website, etc.

First Sunday of the Month is SCCA Day, where students participate at Mass in the offertory, as greeters, etc. The bulletin has contact information for the Principal, Laura Hirschman, and will include semi-annual updates from the Board. One was done in September 2018, and another is planned for March 2019.

SCA (School Community Association) has more short-term tactical responsibilities, including Catholic Schools Week events, whereas the Board is more strategic, dealing with long-term visions, financial stability, facilities, etc.

The SCCA Christmas Concert, Trunk-or-Treat, and Breakfast with Santa were all held at the OLS Campus in 2018. Trunk-or-Treat will rotate campuses each year, while the other two will continue to be held at OLS, because of the Parish Hall. Breakfast with Santa had a massive turnout and was a good marketing opportunity, and the concert was wonderful.

The Budget was approved with a 3% tuition increase, to account for rising health care costs, teaching consultants, etc. The value is still extremely high compared to neighboring schools.

The current enrollment is 204 students, while the budget was based on 210. They are comfortable currently operating in the black. From a statistical standpoint, SCCA can't use trends yet to help predict the future because the school hasn't been around long enough. The recent Open House was a huge success, and there were a lot of interested families. Between 27 and 29 new families toured the school, some of which were from St. James, which will close after this school year. Paul will find out where the remaining families were from. The school would love to see the 75 students from St. James join the SCCA family. Part of the Strategic Plan regarding enrollment management and the facility at SJA will be discussed in detail at their next meeting.

The students have enjoyed Catholic Schools Week this week.

During the March SCA General meeting, the SCCA Board will put out their Strategic Plan. The Plan has sub-committees comprised of Board members and others that will focus on areas such as Academics, Enrollment Management (Demographics), Finances, Facilities, and Marketing. At the meeting, their vision will also be announced, along with how these areas are tied to each other. Paul stated these are exciting times. SCCA is receiving assistance from the Archdiocese, which has provided a Financial expert, a Demographer, and a Marketing person, Maureen DePriest, for the Board to talk to.

Paul doesn't think there is enough room at the SJA campus for two classrooms per grade. The Facility sub-committee will be working on this in detail in order to be ready for any future enrollment size issues.

The current tuition is approximately \$4500 for one child, \$5500 for two children, and \$6750 for three or more children, per family. There are minimal registration fees, but no book fees.

SCCA students take a standardized test each year. The school also has a unique 1 – 4 grading system, rather than a letter grading system. It is objective, allowing for a more detailed understanding of how a student is performing. The system was not detrimental for 8<sup>th</sup> graders applying for high school, since every 8th grader got into his/her first-choice school.

**APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2018 MEETING MINUTES:** Celeste Engel

The OLS Parish Council Minutes were approved.

**FINANCE COUNCIL UPDATE:** Denise Klevorn

**OLS FINANCES:**

OLS was able to make the monthly SCCA payment for December 2018 and January 2019 from the cash account.

From July 2018 – December 2018, general revenue consisting of collections, online giving, and maintenance envelopes was down by \$12,000.

As of January 15, 2019, \$27,000 has been collected for the church roof repair. Repair estimates are being worked on, and it is estimated the cost could be 6 figures. The Parish has maintenance money available, also.

**SCHOOL BUILDING:**

CMG, the company that is developing the Macklind strip mall, is currently looking at the school building to develop Senior Living apartments. They did an initial walkthrough, a second one with Dominic Grana, brought in architects, and are preparing to apply for tax credits this summer, hoping to get them in 2020. They have not brought forward a proposal and nothing has been signed, but they are very interested and actively looking at the building. They are a good company to work with, are local, send their kids to Catholic schools, are in a parish, and have worked with the Archdiocese before.

Corinne passed on a second lead, Advantes Development, which is a local company that developed The Mack Lofts located on Eichelberger. OLS has reached out to them.

A decision is not close to being made yet. So, during this time, there are two avenues to look at for the building – selling it to a developer and potentially using it in some capacity if SCCA continues to grow.

**NEW PC COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTION (PENTECOST SUNDAY):** Corinne Bardgett  
In May 2019, new Parish Council members will be elected. Doug Broleman and Don Franke will be retiring this year.

**LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS BOOK:** Corinne Bardgett  
Corinne brought the book in for each of us to quickly browse through. She suggested that the PC members read and discuss the book throughout the Lenten season. It would also be a way to create relationships in terms of understanding our strengths and how that can help us serve the Church. We can then see the strengths of others. Denise suggested we see what the Faith Formation organization will be doing at that time, and Don Franke wanted to know the difference between this book and The Dynamic Catholic (by Matthew Kelly).

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP LIST –  
NEXT STEPS:** Corinne Bardgett

Corinne Bardgett, Celeste Engel, and Barb Paulus met the week before this meeting and accomplished the first step of organizing the items into the following categories: Commission, Communication, Relationship Building, Strategy, and Outreach. The team will have this ready for next month's meeting.

**COMMISSION ESTABLISHMENT & GOAL SETTING:** Mark Zimmerman and Denise Klevorn

Denise talked about the continuation of the resurrecting of the Commission Structure. The Parish Council previously talked about the Council's goals and how to align them with Father Sebastian's goals - forming relationships through small groups by hosting dinners, hosting the Advent celebration and the Feast of OLS, etc. He feels these are ways for him to evangelize. The way in which the Parish Council can facilitate this and bring Father's goals out to the entire Parish is through the Commission Structure. This will also help to engage the Parish, find out what all organizations are doing, and to pass our goals on. It's a way to bring everyone together.

There are 4 Commissions: Education, Social Justice, Fellowship, and Worship. Mark and Denise brought a handout with these 4 Commissions listed and the Parish organizations that would fall under each Commission.

The following PC members have volunteered to head up each of the Commissions:

Education: Mark Zimmerman and Denise Klevorn

Social Justice: Barb Paulus and John Ross

Fellowship: Corinne Bardgett

Worship: Patti Zerega and Celeste Engel (added at this meeting)

Denise talked about the remaining steps needed for the establishment and implementation of the Commission Structure:

- 1) Create a catch phrase/tag line that would communicate to the Parish what the Parish Council is trying to accomplish.
- 2) Write a letter that would go out to each organization head.
- 3) The two heads of each Commission would set up quarterly Commission meetings with one member of each organization in its Commission.
- 4) Once or twice a year, the entire Parish would meet to communicate and share ideas.

The purpose is to share both Father's goals and the Parish Council's goals with each organization, while trying to establish dialogue and relationships.

The catch phrase should cover the OLS Parish Mission statement in a few words. Mark, Denise, and Corinne previously met and came up with the following four potential phrases:

- 1) Evangelization and Engagement: Sharing our faith through Worship, Stewardship, and Fellowship (1 vote)
- 2) Strengthening our Parish through Worship, Fellowship, and Evangelization (6 votes)
- 3) Renew our Faith, Care for our community, Build upon our history (6 votes)
- 4) Spreading the faith, Engaging our Neighborhood, Building on Tradition (7 votes).

At the meeting, each PC member voted on their two favorite options and discussed other options and combinations, as well. The votes were close for three of the four options. After voting, the members discussed the four choices, began changing words, combining the phrases, and eventually came up with a catch phrase that was agreed upon that will be presented to Father:

**\*\* Sharing the faith, Caring for our community, Building on tradition \*\***

Dan Skillman suggested using the final catch phrase everywhere: on letterhead, on our website, in the bulletin, etc. The final choice will become the Parish Council Mission statement that will be used in the Commission meetings.

Denise would like the catch phrase and the letter to the Commissions finalized by the end of February. The first four Commission meetings could then be scheduled in March and will be run in a very similar manner.

The members discussed alternatives for the word “Commission”, but they decided to keep it.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:** Deacon Dan Skillman

Deacon Dan stated that the Archdiocese is offering the program “Presence – the Mystery of the Eucharist” at the Deanery level, and Sorrows will be hosting and providing the space for the South Side Deanery. The Education Office is putting this program on the first three weeks of Lent, and Connie Stoffel is our representative for the Parish. It will run for three Tuesdays in March, with both an afternoon and evening session. It’s a DVD series with a study book, and there will be discussions at tables and a presentation to the larger community.

Deacon Dan also informed the members that the Men’s Club will be bringing the Mouse Races back. This fundraiser will be held in May 2019 with all proceeds going back to the Parish. Corinne suggested we get a Parish Council table together. Ray Bockscopf’s son and daughter-in-law are putting this on.

Deacon Dan also said that the Men’s Club might host a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on Mother’s Day.

**NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday, February 26, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:30pm

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Deacon Dan Skillman

**SUBMITTED BY:** Celeste Engel