

OUR LADY OF SORROWS
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 28, 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Father Sebastian, Corinne Bardgett, Dominic Grana, Deacon Dan, Doug Broleman, Patti Zerega, Dick Zerega, Joe Pavlik, Barbara Paulus, Don Franke, Denise Klevorn, Celeste Engel, and Ray Bockskopf, John Ross, Fr. Sigmund

OPENING PRAYER AND REFLECTION:

Corinne Bardgett

GUEST PRESENTATION:

Fr. Rich Creason gave a presentation on social justice and how it relates to inclusion and outward action of our faith. Fr. Rich's main points about social justice included:

- it is not about guilt
- it is an affirmation of life and human dignity in family and work
- it is being faithful to the covenant of God and is the best kept secret in the Catholic church
- Fr. Rich told us he is a child of the 60's and his father was active in the civil rights movement while his mother was active in the peace movement so his passion for social justice was taught by his parents

Fr. Rich explained that there are 4 “stops” along the path of Catholic social ministry:

- direct service, e.g., St. Vincent De Paul Society
- good community education
- community development
- social action

We are called to make this world a better place for all and Fr. Rich talked a bit about his time at St. Pius V parish. His first challenge was to determine how to build community and how to build the body of Christ. He solicited 30 parishioners to hold 1-on-1 conversations with 10 people each, thereby reaching 300 parishioners. This action brought a whole new spark to the parish.

There was a bit of discussion about what social justice means to those in attendance with Fr. Sebastian ending the discussion by stating the practicality of social justice sometimes seems beyond our reach.

Minutes of the November 7th meeting were reviewed and a motion made by Denise Klevorn and seconded by Joe Pavlik to approve the minutes as submitted.

Organizational Group Meeting with Parish Council--Corinne then discussed having a group meeting in the future with the parish council and one or more members of each of the parish organizations to determine common goals parish-wide. The goal is to work together

both spiritually and financially. February 22, 2018 is set as the date for this meeting. In the meantime, a parish council subcommittee of Corinne, Dick, Ray, Celeste and Dominic will meet and brainstorm ideas for goals and activities with answering the question “what does the parish council want from the parish organizations and what do they want from us?”

OLD BUSINESS:

Town Hall comments--Dominic led the discussion and gave this report:

- parish relations with South City Catholic Academy (SCCA)--closer contact is being established between OLS and SCCA. The school children will be part of the Sunday mass service at 10:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month. SCCA principal, Ms. Laura Hirshman, is writing a monthly column for the OLS bulletin and several members of the SCCA Board of Directors who are OLS parishioners have agreed to be contacts for the flow of information from the parish to SCCA.
- Joe Pavlik reported that he has worked with Kate Harden to develop a master list of email addresses that can be used to notify those interested when there is a death of a parishioner or a member of a parishioner's family. Kate will place an item in the bulletin asking those interested to submit their email addresses to her. Joe will continue to work on development of an OLS alumni list to be used in communicating upcoming parish events. Fr. Sigmund suggested building an email list for all registered parishioners. Initially, we may have to send a request via regular mail to get this information. Ray said he will talk with his brother about how Ascension parish accomplished this effort. He will let Joe know the results. Fr. Sebastian will attempt to get more information from Our Sunday Visitor (the party responsible for setting up the online giving accounts) so that those who use online giving can designate donations for SVDP, maintenance fund, etc. Currently those who donate online have no way of designating specific funds.

We then discussed more town hall comments that could be immediately addressed. Corinne will contact Nicole Williams regarding greater use of social media, e.g., twitter, Instagram, YouTube, to communicate information about the parish. An item for discussion during the February 22nd meeting will be better follow-up with new parishioners who are welcomed monthly at mass. Patti will contact the Archdiocese regarding the need for additional insurance should the parish decide to rent Faenger Hall for non-parish functions.

Welcoming and Liturgy Committee Report—Corinne and Marge Asbury will strategize how to get support from parishioners to serve as greeters, ushers, etc. at weekend masses.

December 15th Caroling event—Denise and Patti will serve as judges for the Christmas tree decorating contest and host the event. Denise will meet with Fr. Sebastian soon to determine needs for food, volunteers, etc.

Fish Fry—Doug distributed a handout with information about most of costs involved in moving the frying equipment from the rectory to Faenger Hall. The estimate does not include new gas hoses and the cost of a fryer but without those items it stands at \$22,672.74. Profits for the last 3 years, resulting from 7 fish fries each season, were:

- 2017--\$10,173.68

- 2016—7,493.14
- 2015—6,293.68

After much discussion, including the fact that there is not much time to get the work done as well as not enough money to do it, it was decided that the area in the rectory would be used for one more year, after it is thoroughly cleaned, and we will continue to pursue moving the fish fry for 2019.

Pump Repair—Doug stated that we have received an Archdiocesan grant of up to \$20,000 for pump repair and that it would not cost this much to complete the repairs. **NOTE:** The following update was received from Cathy Newhouse after the meeting:

Doug obtained bids for two repairs to the boiler. These bids are to replace the steam condensate water tank and to replace the air compressor in the boiler room. The total of the bids for the boiler repairs is \$9039.00. On May 3, 2017, the Archdiocese awarded us an Emergency Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00, which was to be used for the sole purpose of repairing the pipes in the school. As many of you are aware, over the last few years, we have experienced numerous breaks in the pipes in school. Tracy Lato had been obtaining bids to do this project before he departed employment. I have not yet seen these bids, but had been told that the bids for the necessary work to the school pipes were much greater than the amount awarded and that we would need to cover the remainder of the costs. Please be aware that the money granted to us by the Archdiocese is for replacement of the pipes in the school and not for replacement of the steam condensate water tank or the air compressor. If those repairs are necessary, we will have need to pay for them out of the parish fund, not the grant money.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Fr. Sebastian thanked the parish council for the bread given out at the Thanksgiving Day mass and also those who helped with the South City Deanery meeting earlier in the evening.

Kneeler discussion/report—the kneelers have been ordered and should be installed by Easter 2018.

Seat cushions discussion/report—it will cost about \$11,000 to have cushions placed in about half of the pews in church. Fr. stated that we will continue to discuss this in the future.

Christmas—an invitation has been printed for the December 15th event and a two-page Christmas calendar pamphlet will also be printed. Flowers have been ordered to be placed on the altar for Christmas. Fr. will send out the normal end-of-year letter to all parishioners and will include information about the use of year-end gifts for the possible installation of security cameras around the parish campus as well as an electronic message board.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00 P.M.

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Sebastian

SUBMITTED BY: Barbara Paulus