



Parish of Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2014

Members in Attendance: Father Peter Joyce, Carol Ann Allen, Mimi Benvenuti, Marge DeFoney, Ellen Pfeifle, Craig Jurasinski, Peg Kroger, Jacquie Olansen, Annette Sherby, Kevin Smyth, Bill Zipparo

Opening Prayer: Jacquie Olansen

Pastoral Council Leader: Bill Zipparo

As this was an open forum for the Parishioners, all council members introduced themselves to those attending.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Peg Kroger to approve the minutes. Carol Ann Allen seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Presentation: Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) -- Agnes Bross

Agnes stated that there are 390 students enrolled in the Religious Ed program. Of these, 65 will be making their First Holy Communion on May 3, 2014 and 55 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 13, 2014. Fifty Catechists have taught the students throughout this year.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) had only three weeks preparation time for the 2013 session; however, 90 students attended. This year the goal is to provide for as many as 140 students. There is coordination with other churches for VBS as there is considerable scenery, materials, etc. required; thus the cost is shared by all.

For the 2014-2015 Religious Ed program, there will be a new format - Finding God. This format uses various mediums to teach the children including art and music. Much of the 7th and 8th grade presentations will be in the form of videos.

There is ongoing coordination between the Youth Group and Religious Education.

Old Business:

Parish Center: To date, Father Pete has not received specifics regarding costs from either the architects or the engineers; therefore, there is nothing new to report.

Capital Improvements:

Basketball nets -- One net has been secured and another is being donated. They will be in place shortly.

Carpeting at St. Casimir -- Bill Kroger has been working with Father Pete to facilitate laying of new carpet in the Church. Fr. Pete will be soliciting the assistance of as many parishioners as possible to assist with this project in order to reduce costs. Once the carpet is laid, the intention is paint some of the walls to correspond to the church's setting.

Flag Post -- Another Eagle Scout, Jacob Williams, will be working with Father Pete to enhance the area around the flag pole.

Gathering Area at Resurrection -- There will be changes made to the gathering area. The Knights of Columbus are assisting with the funding and installation of new glass doors. Corresponding glass windows will be incorporated in the gathering area. The Resurrected Christ that presently hangs in the sanctuary will, after Pentecost, be placed in the gathering area and the Crucified Christ will be placed above the Altar. A light will shine on the Cross in the gathering area. The new Holy Water Font and Intentions Booklet stand that are in place already were made by John Olansen.

The Shrine to Mary -- Gus Jurasinski has completed his Eagle Scout project. This beautiful area will be dedicated to Mary on Sunday, May 4, 2014 after the 9:30 Mass.

During the discussion of Capital Improvements, there were suggestions/comments made from our parishioners:

Signs for Mass times -- The signs have already been made; they are just awaiting framing

Crowning of Mary, a May Procession -- The statue of Mary will be in place and the "procession" will be the parishioners after Mass.

Saint Maximilian Flag -- This information will be taken to Jacob Williams as it was not known if his final plans had been submitted for his Eagle Scout project.

Gift Card Fundraising: Father Pete has determined that we will put the use of credit cards in place to enhance the sale of these cards. Jacquie Olansen will work with Father Pete to get this process started.

Bishop McHugh Regional Catholic School: The school will open in September. There are 126 students enrolled to date.

Applications are being taken for the hiring of the new principal. To date, several have applied with May 23 being the final date for applications to be accepted.

In this year's budget, each parish pays \$75,000 toward the school subsidy. The Diocese has also subsidized some of the operating costs for the school.

House of Charity: This year our goal has been set at \$89,000. So far, \$60,000 has been pledged. Our Parish is behind where it was last year where we exceeded our goal. Father Pete will discuss this in the next few weeks with the parish as it is incumbent on the pastor to enable the parish to achieve its goal.

There was discussion regarding Catholic Charities and the funding from them. It was thought that with the increased needs brought to Catholic Charities that their funds may have already been expended.

Lenten/Easter Review: There was mixed thoughts on the Tenebre service having been moved from by the Altar to the extension. The larger crowds this year at all the services was duly noted. Father asked for any suggestions to improve the Lenten Season and Easter season.

Parish Feast: August 14 is the Feast Day and the Council requested that we return to Strathmere for the Mass and other activities. Father Pete will apply for the required permits, etc. It was noted that the various committees, Liturgy, Hospitality, Social should begin their preparations for this day.

Small Christian Communities: Marge DeFoney and Father Pete will meet and provide us with more information.

New Business:

Communion/Confirmation: The dates have been set as May 3, 2014 and May 13, 2014 respectively.

Smoking receptacles: The need for smokers to have a place for their cigarette butts was discussed. Kevin Smyth will see if the Knights of Columbus could purchase two for the Church of the Resurrection and one for St. Casimir.

Budget/Pastoral Planning: Father Pete provided a hand out of the budget items for present fiscal year 2013/2014, i.e., Profit and loss, budget versus actual. He then requested that we make suggestions as to where to put our emphasis for parish improvements in the mission of the parish. Not Capital improvements.

Art Lombardo requested Lay Ministry Formation. Information regarding courses for such is published in the bulletin. Also, Art provided us with some contact information. He stated that Richard Drabnik, at the University of Dayton, could be contacted at 888-300-8436 for anyone wishing to obtain more details on this matter.

Jacque Olansen stated that the needs of the Food Pantry have greatly increased; therefore, this might be an area for consideration.

Diane Leo also stated that the Saint Vincent dePaul Society is in need of assistance with the increase in those who need help.

Parishioners' Forum:

Joe Hutter suggested that there be a covered area by the front doors so that Father could greet people regardless of weather conditions.

Joe also requested that we have supplemental music and songs that are not in our Mass books.

Another thought from Joe was the need to get the youth more involved with the music at mass, perhaps playing various instruments, etc. It was stated that every other Sunday at the 5:00 p.m. Mass, there is a youth choir and the youth do the readings/usher/etc. Jack Griffin has been extremely helpful with the children/youth with the music

Final Thoughts: Prior to closing the meeting, Bill asked for thoughts from the members. Some of the comments were: Glad people came; looking back at what has been done and looking forward to what can be done; winter is over and spring is here. A handout was provided the council members for the Canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II to be held on Sunday, April 27, 2014.

Action Items:

Father Pete and Marge DeFoney -- Small Christian communities

All members -- Parish Feast Day

Father Pete and Jacquie Olansen -- Credit cards for sales of Gift cards

Kevin Smyth --Smoking receptacles from Knights of Columbus

Father Pete -- House of Charity

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 8, 2014 in Parish Rectory at 7:00p.m.

Prayer: Annette Sherby

Refreshments: Marge DeFoney

Closing Prayer: Father Pete