

Parish Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Attendees: Deacon Mike, Mary Bachynsky, Deacon Anthony, Deacon Dave, Fr. Brighenti, Sr. Phyllis, Isabel Hart, Sr. Maria, Regina Edersheim

Location: Google Meet

Opening Prayer

- Fr. Brighenti

Approve June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

- Fr. Brighenti approved
- Mary B. seconded the approval
- Meeting minutes approved

Pastor's Remarks

- Received donations for painting of Narthex, in progress; 3 coats should be done for weekend
- Plan to fix the bricks next week on the bottom of the rotunda wall and repoint as necessary
- Oct 1: Mass for St. Therese; New Mass in Latin; will be blessing roses at Mass
- 2 parishioners died in the storm
- East Amwell parishioner had severe flooding in basement & first floor; offered Hope House for potential needs
- No flooding on Parish Campus except for a little water in Hope House basement
- Diocese offering a program of increased giving; Regina to provide more details
- Sr. Phyllis will talk about enrollment; around 300; May grow as school starts up
- Fr. B. visited National Shrine of St. John Neumann in Philadelphia and got tour of church; would like to set up a pilgrimage to the shrine, to St. Magdalen de Pazzi Parish in Philadelphia and the Miraculous Medal Shrine (all in Philadelphia) instead of going to the North American Martyrs Shrine in upstate New York.

Administrative Items/Deacon Anthony Items

- Welcome to Sr. Maria & Sr. Mary Martha; they will be part of the Parish Council
- Monthly reports requested by 2nd Friday of every month to prep for Parish Council meeting
- Ministry request form required for new ministries; send to Deacon Anthony
- SFC doors at bottom of stairs were found propped open; this is a SAFETY issue; doors must be kept closed; people can be let in by using buzzer by door or texting someone inside
- Women of Grace want to start meeting again with Michaelyn Hein; they would like to start baby-sitting service during Mass

- Dan Amabile- wants to start Jubilation Ministry; trying to schedule meeting in Parish Center in the next month
- Legion of Mary wants to do presentation on eucharistic miracles; maybe have CCD children help
- Legion of Mary would like to have traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Anthony did podcast on my journey as a deacon; it is part of a series: “Help Me I’m Middle Aged; it can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fjxKel8h8E>

175th Anniversary- Deacon Anthony

- Latest dates in 2022:
- History coffee table style book to be issued before Anniversary Mass
- Jan- Apr: Narthex video of St. Magdalen history
- Mar-Apr: Dr. Dianne Traflet will make presentation on Carmelites that lost their lives in WWII concentration camps; she has a degree in Carmelite Spirituality
- May 15th Anniversary Mass; need chair; reach out to Hospitality Committee for help
- Change pilgrimage to shrines in Philly (see Pastor’s Remarks)
- June 18th: Parish picnic
- Sept 18: Organ recital and reception
- Oct 20: Vespers and talk by Fr John Barbella and his time here
- Oct 27: Fr. Tim on his time at St. Magdalens
- October: Youth or CCD presentation

Stewardship Parish Reawakening – Mary Bachynsky

- Campaign to use Flocknote and ENGAGE for parishioners
- Did not push out engage yet
- One page this weekend to have people sign up for Flocknote
- Seven 2-3 minute videos starting next Thursday, Sept 23rd
- Decided to send video to all Flocknote subscribers, not just CCD parents.
- Mary working with Isabel for best way to push out to Hispanic Community (use of “WhatsApp” app?).
- Isabel to translate one page ENGAGE flier into Spanish
- Welcome Back Weekend is Sept 26-27: there will be table set-up in plaza; Handouts include updated Ministry Book, “A Minute in the Church-The Mass” booklet; sign-ups for Flocknote and tours of the campus.

Commission Reports

Stewardship Commission – Mary Bachynsky

- Military Ministry meeting in person
- FASTMAG:

- talked about the Feast San Lorenzo Ruiz on Sept 28th; he was the first canonized Filipino martyr
- Danny Labung and Mary Geraldine Navoa were elected as President & Vice President of FASTMAG respectively
- Knights
 - Soccer Challenge
 - Padre Pio Shrine Blood Drive
- Welcome Ministry tour sign -up during Welcome Back Weekend Sept 26-27
- Hospitality: at all Masses for Welcome Back Weekend

Evangelization- Deacon Dave

- Juan Corrales was contacted to coordinate the Spanish ministries helping with the October Food Fest
- Cursillo not meeting at the Parish
- Women of Grace not meeting
- Gifted & Talented: concern about how G&T graduates are getting involved in ministries; ***Deacon Dave to follow up with Kathy Behre***
- Christlife start on Sept 21; 81 participants; roughly ½ Spanish & ½ English; there is a waiting list for ChristLife
- Emmaus Ministry meeting mostly in person
- RCIA is starting up; not many adults; 12 children going through 2nd year of confirmation
- Senior Citizen Ministry group not active; Fr. B. would like to consider combining with St. Joachim & Anne ministry; ***Deacon Dave to reach out to Mary Eyles***
- Marriage Ministry is active; providing NFP training at the Diocese
- Bible Study: starting in October
- Young adults had in-person retreat; had musicians come in, prayer session and lectio divina; planning another retreat with Franciscan Friars on October 23

Sacred Liturgy and Worship- Cheryl Manfredonia

- Fri Oct. 1: 7:30 pm Mass in Latin (novus ordo) in honor of St. Therese
- Mon Oct. 11: Columbus Day - no adoration
- Mon Nov. 1 is All Saints Day, HOWEVER, NOT a Holy Day this year. Morning mass is 8 am as usual.
- Tues Nov. 2 - All Souls Day 7:30 pm Evening Prayer for parishioners who passed on this past year.
- Fri Nov. 5 - 7:30 pm another Novus Ordo Mass in Latin for All Souls
- Altar Servers: Miriam Hennessey – no updates
- Daily Rosary: Monika Szmul – no updates
- Decor / Environment Sr. Faustina was reassigned. She has been replaced by Sr. Maria Lan.
- Extraordinary Ministers (Church) Ronnie Thomas: EMs for masses in church are not yet back to serving.

- Extraordinary Ministers (Homebound) Michaele Casey: Michaele is speaking with Ronnie to see if any of the 'church' EMs would consider taking the Blessed Sacrament to the increasing number of 'homebound' parishioners. Training is provided.
- Eucharistic Adoration: Beginning Oct. 22nd, we will be having Friday overnight adoration into Saturday mornings.
- Greeters / Ushers: Ushers are still all Knights of Columbus
- Lazarus Ministry Ed Pictroski: Small, but very dedicated core group take excellent care of the families when they attend a loved one's funeral mass.
- Lydias: We have 4 teams of ladies who generously give of their time to dust the statues and small altars in church.
- Marthas Rosemarie Doremus: resigned May 1st; new Martha Ministry Leader is needed
- Children's Choir: Gina's children's choir has begun, but she only had 6 participants at their first rehearsal. One parishioner said she is pulling her 3 children out because they are required to wear masks.
- Adult Choir: rehearses every Thursday evening; Excited to have new members, however the cantor situation is still dire.
- Rosary Altar Society Remy Dixit: First mass together is Oct. 3 at noon. Their first meeting is Thurs Oct. 7th.
- Church Decor / Environment: Sr. Faustina was reassigned. Sr. Maria Lan has taken over.

Evangelization & Catechesis of Children & Youth – Sr. Phyllis

Religious Education Program – July/August

2021-2022 Program

- Registration continues – about 200 Registered (July/Aug) September up to 325
- Many usual register in late August, early September
- Still need Catechists – Mon/Tues (No Sunday classes – due to no catechists)
- Planning to return Grades 1-8 to classrooms
- Following Diocesan Recommendations and Guidelines for In-Person Religious Formation
- Preparing rooms for in-person classes, cleaning up and cleaning out
- Books
 - Our Sunday Visitor – Alive in Christ - Grades 1-4
 - Ignatius Press – Faith and Life Series – Grade 5-8
- Revisions were made to Parent and Catechist Handbooks and Crisis Management Plan
- Meetings for Catechists and Parents
- Program Calendar – includes monthly Confessions (Grades TBD)
- Outlining Sacrament Programs requirements, including Mass attendance, retreats, service hours, paperwork, etc.
- Bill has prepared Confirmation Program which includes Saint Reports, Retreat, Vocation Panel, Hunger Banquet, candidates attending living Stations of the Cross

- Rod has prepared Reconciliation/Communion Program which includes materials needed for catechists and families, retreat. He also has provided training for the new Catechists
- JoAnn – office work mainly registration and materials needed for meetings, certainly reorganizing/cleaning out “stuff” from resource room and office areas, etc.
- Regina has kept the necessary paperwork needed for the Catechists & Aides – still need Aides
- Met with Dolores Wright regarding children for the RCIA – Youth classes
- Fr. Matthew, Rosa and I have coordinated a class (Grades 3-6) – children that need to prepare for Rec/Com therefore its name – Rec/Com classes (using OSV Encountering Christ series)
- Working with families with Special Needs
- Meeting with Deacon Mike and Mary about ENGAGE

- Little Flowers - Met with Michaelyn Hein
 - Adoration Time (3:00 – 4:00)
 - In October – Dads will meet for building project with the girls (Rosary holder)

Commission for Hispanic Ministries -Isabel Hart

- Hispanic Pastoral Council: Meeting virtually, monthly. Last meeting was June 29th (Paused for the summer) Next meeting is Thurs. 9/30
- Most recent major event was the Hispanic Cultural Day celebration on Sunday, September 12th. This will be debriefed on 9/30 so I will bring info/ report to our next PC meeting.
- As of 5/27 it appears the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass is approved for Sunday, 12/12 at the 1:30 pm Mass (time?). Prayers and readings will be for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, but the procession and homily can be Guadalupian, homily by Bishop Cruz who I believe is also the celebrant
- Our Advent mission is scheduled for 12/8-12/10 and Allan Caballero from the Diocese will give a talk (Spanish) on 12/10
- Spanish Language Choirs (2): No concerns to report currently, meeting as usual at home. I may still need calendar requests from 1 choir for 2021-2022.
- Hispanic Ministry Monthly Holy Hours in Spanish Language: Next monthly holy hour is Saturday, September 25th from 8-9 PM in the church. The following one is October 30th.
- Hispanic Prayer group, Sendero de Amor: Ministry is meeting regularly, no changes since last meeting.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Planning Committee:
 - No changes since last meeting
 - Debriefed 2020 celebration. Mass only. Completely set up gym and SFC for overflow but neither were needed. We counted attendees and it remained at 145 (usually 300+)
 - Planning for 2021 when OLG Feast Day is a Sunday in Advent.
 - Fr. Ken suggested Mass be bi-lingual with worship aids in Spanish & English
- Pre Cana: Spanish language: No report
- Spanish Language Bible Study: Next course TBD

- Living Stations of the Cross Ministry & Planning Committee: KofC SPT (Spanish Round table) has taken over this ministry, as reported above.
- Hospitality Ministry: No changes since last meeting.
- Spanish Language Lectors: No changes since last meeting.
- Ministry of Extraordinary Ministers at the Spanish Mass: No changes since last meeting.
- Hernando Patino will receive Rite of Acolyte in October
- 6 Adult RCIA Candidates

Commission for Social Justice – Sr. Maria

- Received info from Fr. B. & Regina on responsibilities for ministries
- Lord's Supper: Pat Beckman has resigned but she has someone in mind as her successor
- Bereavement Ministry – contacted Joan Purdy but she cannot manage group due to surgery; she has someone in mind as successor
- Hope House now have 75 families signed up for food assistance
- 25 crates of fresh fruit were donated
- 15 crates of fruit that was sent out to different organizations
- Meeting with St. Joachim & Anne tomorrow; 30 people planning to come
- Independence Manor to bring dogs to St. Joachim & Anne meeting
- Melissa is replacing John Kelly at Independence Manor
- Hope House (St. Vincent de Paul) packages groceries twice a month for families in need
- Sr. Mary Martha helps to unpack food delivery donations on Mondays
- Planning to have a Spiritual Day of Reflection for Hope House volunteers 4 times a year; last week the group went to the Blue Army Shrine for Mass & reflection.
- Tom Jeffas (runs St. Vincent de Paul food pantry) had a serious fall while delivering groceries; the doctors decided not to do facial surgery; he is in a confused state and his wife Donna asks for prayers for Tom
- Susan Rice will help with Christmas Card sales
- Meeting with Vince Terranova & Tim Hand (KofC) next week for Christmas Toy Drive for children

Business Administration & Finance- Regina Edersheim

- Diocese has approached parishes for increased offertory giving; St. Magdalen's will participate; discount on paper & postage; letter scheduled to be sent to all registered families the end of September; do pulpit announcement at end of Sept/early Oct
- Oct 16th: Parish Social with food and drink; to be used to fund renovations in the Parish Center (e.g., refrigerator)
- Background checks: any volunteers in ministries working with children MUST have background checks

Closing Prayer