

St. Catherine of Alexandria

8661 N. 76th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53223

St. Catherine Parish is committed to worshipping God and His Son, Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. We are dedicated to living the Word of God by our Christian example. We shall achieve this through service to our Parish and stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

November 23rd, 2010

Present: Debbie Hintz, Parish Director; Ken Lacznia, Chairperson; John Scholz, Vice-Chairperson; Frank Maier, Secretary; Joe Carey, Trustee; Jack Fox, Trustee; Frank Balistrieri; Debby Korpela; Lynne LeMense; Renee Serre; Ken Van Fossan (arrived late); Bob Wazniak

Absent: None

The meeting began with member introductions to Frank Balistrieri, who will fill out the remainder to Ellie Okunseri's term.

Opening Prayer

Debbie led the opening prayer.

Comments from Parishioners

None present.

Approval of October Minutes

Renee motioned to approve the October minutes and Bob seconded the motion. The October minutes were approved.

Debriefing on Annual All Parish Meeting

Ken L thought it went well overall. Renee liked the reps from each committee. Ken pointed out that we have a very committed group of parishioners, especially on the committees. Several members discussed the one outspoken member in the audience. Most agreed his questions were valid, but his approach was not appropriate for the setting.

Parish Rep for District Meetings

Our constitution, article 5, section 2 states that the Council Chairperson is the designated person as our representative for District Meetings. This role can also be delegated to the Vice Chairperson or Secretary. Ken L stated that he will attend the meeting. There will be a spring meeting, but the date is yet to be determined.

Discussion on Church Chairs

The discussion began with the email the Council received from Janet Bitzan, who is not a parishioner. Debbie reviewed the process from 2008 on how the Faith In Our Future projects were selected. She handed out the original list of possible projects.

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The Council at that time determined the final list. The original Chairs Project was for the removal of six rows of pews on each side of church and budgeted cost was \$21k. The current proposal is for removing only four rows of pews on each side and replaces them with three rows of chairs. Debby pointed out the need to clarify the original need for the chairs. Ms. Bitzan believes the removal of pews is simply a stepping stone to moving the choir downstairs, which is not supported by the original planning done 2008.

Debbie had met Dean Daniels came from the Archdiocesan Office of Prayer and Worship to get his opinion on the situation. Mr. Daniels stated that the main focus of a mass is the lectern, altar, and priest. In general, he did agree that it is better for music to be downstairs, but each parish must consider their individual architecture. Any changes beyond doing the chairs would need a liturgical design consultant to ensure things are properly located. After the meeting with Dean, Debbie suggested just moving ahead with the chairs and then experiment with bringing different groups of choir down.

Debby suggested taking it slow and clarifying what we want to do. Frank M pointed out that the chairs project was already approved and money set aside for it in FIOF. Jack pointed out that carpet will need to be repaired as well. There were two sample chairs to view. Debby suggested that we view other options with respect to the choir. Ken Van Fossan pointed out that most opposition is to moving the choir downstairs, not removing the pews. Debbie wants to separate the pew issue from the music issue. Bob suggested clarifying the focus of the mass as the three items noted above and to bring more people closer to the mass.

We agreed to move ahead with the pew removal and replace them with chairs. A description of the project with supporting information will be in a future bulletin. Any decisions on the music issues are still under consideration. Joe did provide a short response to the Ms. Bitzan prior to our meeting.

Discussion on Catholic Education

Debbie restated the question of "Why do we support a Catholic school?" and wants the Council to discuss it. The Archdiocese does not directly fund the schools, but will provide grants from Faith In Our Future. Frank M asked how the Archbishop Dolan defines 'support' when referring to Catholic schools in his article from *American* magazine, which the Council was asked to read in preparation for this discussion. His definition was not clear. Several members provided examples of how other parishes support schools through donations, etc. Joe pointed out the costs our parish incurred by running our own school. Jack continued with that thought and stated the support of a school can not be at the expense of the parish's budget because of the other work the parish does. Debbie stated that supporting a school supports our mission of providing outreach to the community and providing education to the less fortunate.

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The general consensus is that we do want to continue to support a Catholic School. The specific definitions of support will be defined as time goes on and opportunities present themselves.

Parish Director's Report

No report for this meeting.

Committee Reports

Christian Formation –

Frank B will be the new liaison to this committee. John stated they discussed adult formation activities, such as mobile library from which parishioners can borrow books. They also discussed starting a study program sometime in January.

Finance/Administrative Services – John Scholz

They discussed the all-parish meeting and thought it went well. There currently is a deficit of \$24k, in part due to monies given to the school. There will be some reimbursement at the end of November after the school receives its next Choice check. \$109k has been received for Faith In Our Future.

Human Concerns – Lynne Lemense

For Advent, a decision was reached on which groups will be supported.

Parish Life – Renee Serre

The group last met in November. The chili dinner served 135 people and netted \$300 profit, since Jim Stout provided free entertainment. There was a lot of very positive feedback on the parishioner involvement in the entertainment. The Women's Evening of Reflection will happen on December 4th. There was a suggestion to have a social after the 4:30 mass on Saturdays, similar to Coffee and Donuts after the Sunday masses. Starting in February, a Saturday social will be tried to see how it goes. Another suggestion was to have a mid-winter social, but this was tabled for now. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th.

Prayer & Worship – Ken Van Fossan

The last meeting surrounded the pews and chairs issue. The committee was in full support of the proposal to replace the pews. The group also discussed the blue book for Advent and other minor housekeeping items. The next meeting is December 7th.

School Advisory Board – Bob Wazniak

Bob did not attend last meeting, which was held at the Archdioceses office. Advisory boards from other schools were brought together for a meet and greet.

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Stewardship – Debby Korpela

The group is still finalizing the number of volunteers. The events calendar in the bulletin was a success. On May 20th, there will be volunteer recognition with a special volunteer blessing at each mass that weekend. The next meeting will be January 24th.

'What are you hearing?'

Nothing additional.

Closing Prayer

Debbie led the closing prayer.

Handout: 'Prioritizing Needs' (2008 list of potential FIOF projects)