

Our Lady of Light Family of Parishes

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, 19 September 2023

Present: Dave Laurash, Michele Jakoboski, James Holahan, Fr. Brian Phelps, Skip Fromm, Carrie Naples, Jill Delaney Shal, Christine Winters, Betsy Brown, Megan Sparks, Raquel Von Handorf, Lisa Grunkenmeyer, Christine McGrath, Tony Deliberato

Absent: Stacy Stang, Jeanette Fromm, Leah Coghlan

Welcome and Opening prayer at 7:32 PM by Father Brian

Reports/Commission Updates

- **Finance- Deacon Chris**
 - no report

- **Evangelization- Christine McGrath**
 - Started all classes for Pre-K- 12 550 kids, 350 families
 - Working with Leah Coghlan for school initiatives- parent prayer, etc.
 - Working on marriage enrichment programming

- **Worship- Tony Deliberato**
 - Bringing the two worship commissions together, merging the bylaws, hope to approve at the next meeting.
 - Distributed a calendar of events that will be distributed via email as well.
 - 11/22 liturgical ministers recognized at masses
 - Questions about including Issue 1 in mass petitions- primarily Sunday masses. Can be incorporated into daily masses if written in (Fr. Brian)
 - Christine W- rosary group is praying exclusively about Issue 1 for 54-day novena.

- **Love in Action- Fr. Brian for Christen**
 - Partnering with St. Vincents- efforts to get staff to go and participate and see what needs done
 - Michele J is setting up youth and family opportunities at Matthew 25, a worldwide ministry from Blue Ash that addresses needs following natural disasters. Hope to take the core team from EDGE, but also hoping the parish council could serve there together to see what it's about. Trying to come up with some dates.

- **Principal's Report- Leah Coghlan**
 - no report

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Staff Report Updates:

- no questions or comments on submitted reports.
- Michele- please pass on to Christine and Vicki Hume that we have a woman from Immaculate who is coming to the book study due to excellent information and opportunities described in our bulletin.

Pastor's Report and Beacons of Light Update- Fr. Brian

- The ISPD process is moving ahead, gathering feedback from about 100 people now, expect to collect ideas from 300 people before getting into committee work. How do you turn your parishioners into disciples? Who are the first 10% that are your champions that will move us forward?
- Update from the Archdiocese on next steps. Continuing priest shortages need to be planned for. Retired priests cannot be used to determine mass schedules. If we were down to one priest, we'd likely be limited to 4 masses per weekend. Need to start thinking about what this means for each family. Within the next 5 years, the Archdiocese will lose about 22 active priests, but then it should stay stable for the next 15-20 years. Seminary is full, but only about half are for Cincinnati. Rome added an additional year for seminary formation, which will leave one year where there will not be any ordinations due to the change.
 - Christine- does drawing on Indian priests still work as a possibility?
 - Fr. Brian- yes, but only 5 in diocese from India, and they are not to be used to determine local numbers, emphasis should be on building priests within the community
 - Need to push vocations. Our family has had only one priest vocation in the last 50 years
 - Carri N- what's the forecast for permanent deacons? They can't do mass, but can do community services.
 - Fr. Brian- need to build up ministries to support the priest's work (bereavement, sick/homebound, etc)
 - Fr. Joseph plans to be here 4-5 years; we need to plan for his departure.
 - Dave- Use of technology to telecast masses and hold services in 2 places at once.
- Marriage ministry- how do we support couples better with mentors though the first few years of marriage. Need a lot of couples who are willing to help with marriage preparation and walking with them. Helps create small church communities.
- Need to think about weddings and funerals and the effect on daily mass schedules. Anointings and funerals are much of the work of a priest.
- Have 2 deacons in formation, hoping to be back up to 4 deacons in the next 5 years.
- Betsy- there are opportunities to connect with families and extended families through cemetery burial, cremation, and funeral services.
- Christine- time of great cultural change, gives the church an opportunity to step in.

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- Fr. Brian- What do you see? What can we do better?
- Jill- connections to healing stories, the importance of healing moments as the best evangelization.
- Christine W- Could we take a lead in the pre-planning process for funerals?
- Christine M- Core teams are being formed for each sacrament
- Education opportunity for funeral preparation: teaching differences between palliative and extraordinary care, etc.
 - Christine M. suggest gathering a group of people and forming a committee
- Fr. Brian reiterated that neither the priest nor the archdiocese can close a parish. A very particular process must be followed.

Old Business:

- Donuts-in-between on October 1st at Incarnation Campus- please go to mass at Incarnation that day to be there. Michele will set everything up. Starts after the 8am mass. Question as to timing- Michele will check. The event will be held in the parish center. Please contact Michele and let her know if you can be there.
- PC Charter- council voted to approve changes to language pertaining to meeting dates and times. (1st Lisa, 2nd Carrie). Motion passed unanimously. Dave will send an updated copy via email
- PC retreat postponed due to scheduling challenges, possibly until after the first of the year.
- Parish deanery convocation for council members- purpose is to discuss the role of the family/parish council, beacons of lights, canon law aspects. Fr. Brian will send a registration link to Dave for distribution to the council.
- Betsy will make sure the info flier about pastoral council is updated with the new language.
 - Dave-no need to update current meeting info as it is correct for the current year.
- Motion to Adjourn (Lisa, Megan) at 8:46 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 17th, 2023

Respectfully Submitted by: Raquel Von Handorf