

SAINT CHRISTOPHER PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR APRIL 21, 2016

Present: Fr. Dan Bedel, Jim Csenar, Dan Krodel, Jim McMechan, Vicki Murphy, Tim Ramion, Neil Schaefer, Fr. Paul Shikany, Bill Szolek-VanValkenburgh, Anita Thompson, Anne Thompson, Anne Wilmes.

Absent: David Ciechanowicz.

Guest: Tom Edwards

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: Chair Anne W. called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in Bethany room. In David's absence, Anne W. distributed a Memorial of St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church on his feast day. Each litany prayer was followed by a group response. It was especially appropriate for church leaders such as the Parish Council.

Volunteer for May Prayer: Dan K.

Festival Plans Update:

Representing the Festival Committee, Tom Edwards announced new plans for the 2016 Festival. For the first time, beer and wine will be sold in an adult beverage tent. Signs will designate the drinking area, and Speedway police will patrol the area. Consumers must show an ID and wear a wrist band. Entertainment will include the Uncle Juju band on Thursday from 6-9 p.m., a band in Leonard Park sponsored by the Speedway Park Department on Friday from 7-10 p.m., and a Star Wars movie on Saturday at 9 p.m.

The Festival Committee is requesting the closure of Biltmore Street and a partial closure of 15th Street during the festival. Youth activities will be in a new place. Tom explained that 75% of festival co-chairs have responded to the call to renew their leadership for this year, and open positions will be shown on the Emmaus Way screens.

Acceptance of the March 2016 Minutes: The minutes were accepted by consensus as written.

Staff/Ministry Reports

Pastors' Reports:

Fr. Paul announced that First Communion is Saturday, April 30th, at 1 p.m., and the communicants will be recognized at the Sunday Masses. Cardinal Ritter's Baccalaureate Mass will be at St. Christopher on Thursday, June 2, at 7 p.m. It will include seniors and their families, so space will be at a premium.

The architect firm of KRM will be working on a Master Plan, and they will speak at all the Masses on June 3rd and 4th. In addition, there will be two architect listening sessions: Wednesday, June 8, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.; and Sunday, June 12, from 2-4 p.m. There will be an executive/staff session on June 16 with parish staff and the executive members of the council, schedules permitting. It is important to look at the Mass schedule in conjunction with the Master Plan, as the number of Masses will have a direct impact on how we use our property.

The lower level of the church is in need of additional access to the outside of the building. Some adjustments will be made to an existing door that will allow this access along with a new sidewalk outside.

Matt Cornacchione and Sam and Marie Slevin are retiring from many years of service to Bingo. Corey Winters will chair Bingo, where attendance is very good right now.

Fr. Dan detailed the Cardinal Ritter Bacculaureate, adding that Damascus will be used, as well as the gym and the PAR. There are over 100 seniors.

Fr. Dan reported on an initiative of the West Deanery, uniting on a campaign to bring Catholics home on Pentecost Sunday. Parishioners are asked to reach out with a personal invitation to family and friends.

Pastoral Associate Report:

Bill had nothing to add to what had already been said.

Financial Report:

Jim distributed the Analysis of Revenue & Expenses for July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Discussion of items ensued with the recommendation from the Finance Commission that the Revenue & Expense report be placed in the bulletin rather than mailed to each household. Vicki made a motion that the Revenue & Expenses report be placed in the bulletin. Tim seconded. The motion carried. The document will be placed in the bulletin to inform parishioners. The YTD collection through 4/17/2016 is \$1,130,980.61, and the YTD Actual is \$40,595.93 above budget. At this time, 93 families are using on-line donations.

Committee Reports

Connected in the Spirit:

Dan mentioned that three representatives from St. Anthony attended the recent Connected in the Spirit meeting, where Fr. John McCaslin spoke on his Fatima, Spain Cathedrals, and Lourdes trip and recent National Catholic Schools award. The group will soon submit a progress report to the archdiocese on our goals for the past year. The Knights of Columbus is hosting a Mother's Day breakfast at St. Christopher. St. Anthony families are invited to attend. St. Anthony will sell tickets for their car raffle at St. Christopher Masses on May 14/15 and May 21/22. The raffle is part of their summer festival activities.

Next year the cohorts will continue activities implemented this year and may add new ones. The Hearts and Hands ministry is having a monthly meeting. Other suggestions include a quarterly Mass for those who have lost loved ones. The pope's emphasis on marriage prompted a discussion on holding a 5 or 6 week program for married couples to focus on the different phases of their relationship. A joint social event is being discussed for the cohort parish councils and the Connected in the Spirit team. The cohort schools may have a joint canned food drive.

Dan has tickets for a reverse raffle on April 23 sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The raffle benefits the Monsignor Ryan Scholarship for a Cardinal Ritter student and Bishop Brute Seminary.

Nominations/Elections:

Tim explained that bulletin inserts and pulpit announcements on May 7/8 and May 14/15 will prepare parishioners for voting on May 21/22. He gave council members a copy of the document to be inserted in the bulletin to introduce the nominees. There are 4 candidates for 3 open positions. Winners will be announced on the following two weekends after voting takes place. There was discussion on the number of candidates this year, those who ran last year and chose not to run this year, and other election issues.

Master Planning Committee:

Fr. Paul said campus plans are totally open at this time. The architects are taking an inventory of existing buildings, and the parish discussions with the architects will be held in the church. The architects will also interview the parish staff.

Old Business

Future Mass Schedule Planning: Because the number of Masses will affect the master plan, a Mass-planning schedule committee is needed at this time. Anne W. needs suggestions of 3 or 4 people to work on this Mass committee.

Campus Security: Dan reported on his contact with Karlie Macer and Indiana State Police regarding Active Shooter programs. The ISP will offer a 2-hour session to teach the public how to respond to an Active Shooter (or other threat). The sessions will be held on June 9 at Ben Davis High School and on June 11 at Speedway High School from 1-3 p.m. Dan will confirm the details. Ushers and other relevant groups will be encouraged to attend.

Council Development Committee: Anne T. suggested that prayers at future parish council meetings focus on our meeting topics, with scripture or personal thought related to the activity we are working on during the evening. She would like more of a themed prayer at the beginning and end of the meeting. As the prayer person next month, Dan would like to work with Anne to accomplish this change.

Announcements: Neil thanked the council for sympathy cards and well wishes on the death of his mother-in-law. Dan asked if the Social Committee is working on preparations for the next meeting. Since the council will meet before the election, there will be no social until the June meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Anita Thompson, Council Secretary