

Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 2021
APPROVED Minutes

Annual Parish Life Report was provided for all in attendance

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Opening Prayer Father Walter Glory Be to the Father

Intro of Agenda read by Father Walter

Father opened meeting with the infamous "Nationwide" song and an original Blue Grass style "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain When He Comes" including staff members of St. Nicholas Parish and School.

Minutes were previewed independently and were approved as written by 1) Terri Romitti 2) Bob Schommer; unanimous

Financial Trustee- Chad Rottier read by Craig Schommer. We are very thankful for what we have and blessed with a wonderful community. We are hopeful that our time, talents and treasure levels not only return to pre-pandemic levels but surpass what we previously had!

REPORTS

A) Statement of Finances – Nikki VanHandel –

There has been a lot of diligent work to ensure numbers have been accurately recorded. QuickBooks is about 90% complete and we no longer have the Great Plains program. The School audit will begin Monday. Our first PPP has been forgiven as of August 1st. The application has been submitted for the 2nd round of the PPP loan. New this year we have the We Share online giving portal. Currently we have about \$5000 new money in about 2 months. We have two new volunteers this year; Melanie Lewin is our new church decorator and has been doing a beautiful job! Danielle Haessly has been doing a wonderful job not only helping in the office but also with the school kids! Thank you☺

B) Saint Nicholas School – Scott Vanderloop- read by Father Walter

Although it has been a challenge with the hybrid virtual/classroom learning, we have had a lot of improvements. Some include, updating our technology by getting four new TV's, webcams, speakers, changing the projectors to TVs, interactive boards, and adding more chrome books all thanks to the Fund 2 Learn Program! Marcia Wyman retired and will be greatly missed! However, we would like to welcome our new secretary Stephanie Krabbe! She has been bringing a new drive to the office. Our SuperKids reading and writing program has been updated. There has been a new collaborative for 3rd-8th grade. Our entire teaching staff has returned for the 3rd year in a row. Currently, we have 124 students and are hoping to raise the class average higher than 12 next year.

C) CNE – Coordinator of New Evangelization – Kathy Brennan

* The highlight of last year were the great catechists and staff. Most are returning this year. As of right now we have 230 students registered for New Evangelization. We are going to continue our homebased option due to COVID but only have 29 who have chosen this option.

* Thanks to Father's suggestion to combine Vacation Bible School with St. Edwards, the events were very successful! There were about 50 kids at each class throughout the summer. We began 2 classes in the morning in June, 2 afternoon classes in July and the final class held at the Shrine. The Shrine was a service mission focus with the kids putting together birthday bags for the food pantry and filling backpacks to give to children at St. Nicholas, St. Edwards, St. Ignatius and other local areas. The kids had a blast!

* Our next Parish Mission will be Missionaries of the Word February 3-5. Mother will be presenting Lectio Divina and the Eucharist. Keep the date open☺

D) Chair of Finance Council – Craig Schommer

- *We had received the PPP Fund
- *Throughout the pandemic we have been able to maintain the contribution levels pretty closely.
- *The parking lot project has not only been approved but is also 50% covered, thank you to the contributions by our parish members!
- *Contributions in July and August were up 40% from last year.
- *Thank you to Joe for putting forth a lot of effort to help enhance our stewardship!
- *Thank you also to Nikki for the extra work in moving our finances to QuickBooks. It has helped make the transitions for many decisions easier!

E) Chair of Pastoral Council – Terri Romitti

- *We have had many transitions this year in our committee. We were not fully staffed last year but are starting off with a full council this year. We realigned the members for a better fit to offer more support to the other committees in our parish.
- * Committees throughout the parish are very slim. Please continue to pray for new members and retain who we have.
- * St. Nicholas will be kicking off our Welcome Back event September 26th during our Family Fest Day! Please come join us for food, fun, and fellowship.
- *As a council, we were able to support the approval of a new parking lot.
- * A challenge for our community is to not only support Father with different needs of the Parish but to have a cordial conversation with him this year! Not just a quick hello as you leave mass.
- *We would like to also see the congregation improve our hospitality to those around us. For example, come early to open doors for others, stay and have a conversation with someone you may not know or even just staying an extra 5 minutes to pray for our parish to continue to grow and thrive.
- *As a council, we would like to represent the parish at large, so please let any of the members know about ideas, thoughts, or suggestions (both positive and negative) so we can improve our environment and continue to support the members of the church.

F) Maintenance – Paul Mattek – read by Nikki VanHandel

- *We added A/C in the offices.
- *RJ Jacques finished tuck pointing the church brick work. Blindauer roofing finished the bell tower roof.
- *Many updates throughout the building include: painting rooms and offices, updated the Notre Dame room, new carpets in some rooms, cleaning carpets in others, restoring the Rocket Café to the original wood, power washing the bathrooms, reinstalling the boiler pump, making Door 5 handicap accessible, fixing a few things on Father's house and sanding the gym floor. We have also installed new card readers, upgraded our fire alarms, updated some counters and are working to continue to start the parking lot.
- *There was a suggestion at the meeting for additional lights to be added or brightened near the carport parking lot.
- *Parishioner would also like to thank Deacon Gary & Jill for the bigger chair with a cushion to help increase the height and also the arms on the chair for added support when getting up and down.
- *Our summer maintenance crew was amazing! Thank you for the summer staff. We are welcoming you all back but will be accepting any additional help as well for next summer 2022.

G) Cemetery – Ted Vosters, Cemetery Sexton, Vern Newhouse gave report

- * Vern started out with the committee 35 years ago in 1986. He started out helping and worked his way to President and has been doing very well. Bob and Jim Greiner help cut at St. Nicholas.
- *We currently receive \$230 from Outagamie County for maintenance of the veteran's graves. The current cost is \$600 for members and \$1000 for nonmembers, and \$50 for infant graves.
- *This past year we had a loss of 36 souls, 17 burials, 6 cremations, and 2 babies. There were 21 headstones put in. We do own 2 additional acres to accommodate for future use.

*Ted Vosters is retiring. Terry VanHoof will be taking over for him. Vern would also like to retire and sure deserves it after 35 years!

H) Worship Committee –Bob Schommer

*Covid protocols changed how the meetings went. Although Disposition of Mass went on, Father and Deacon Gary did a wonderful continuing with the sacraments of 1st Holy Communion and Confirmation.

*New members this year are Jim Newhouse, Carol Vosters, Judy VerBust and Joe Hinshaw.

*The organ needs services. Ann Thelen in working to help maintain this.

*Would like to change Stations of the Cross time on Sundays at 1pm. Can revisit if others agree.

*Father was able to get every student in school and New Evangelization reconciliation services despite the pandemic!

*Lent went very well! Praise God we could have Easter Masses☺

*St. Therese of Lisieux statue was moved to the Fellowship Hall. Would like some input of renaming the Fellowship Hall.

*Some new business is to ensure we have greeters at each door to welcome and assist worshippers coming to mass. Fall Bazaar has be renamed to Family Fest. There will not be a Blue Mass this year due to low attendance.

*Tuesdays mass was suggested to be moved to a later time. Any support to change from 5:45? Discussion during new business. *The music program is looking to have a more youth friendly option for school mass. Including getting new songbooks just for this mass. A survey was created to see if there is any interest to be a pianist or cantor for school or weekend mass. There were a few interested.

*Parishioner thought streaming the masses has been very beneficial. Would like to see them continue but was wondering if it costs to run. Livestreaming was already wired in so there was no extra cost besides adding 2 extra cameras.

Stewardship – Joe Hinshaw (added in during meeting)

*Held 3 events for our youth ministry program of middle and high schoolers. Each event has had anywhere from 5-20 students attend.

*Hosting Get Jo with Joe after 10:30 mass at B's Brews for the High School students. Church will provide drinks.

*Updated website include HYPE for the middle school and 3:16 for the high schoolers. Added some resources to the site such as young holy lives lived and any other local events happening.

*Looking to get some events that will truly deepen our relationship with Jesus. Would like to connect with more families of students and gain more interest in the events from young men.

*There is a link to volunteer on our website.

*Created a music ministry survey. Received over 150 back with some interested in playing.

*Will be added events to help lead people back to the church which will hopefully create more opportunities to increase our time, talent and treasures!

I) Living Justice Committee – OPEN POSITION

*Living Justice Committee chair is open. Please pray for someone to fill.

*We have one infant burial on October 4th.

*The 40 days 4 Life begins next Saturday, September 23 through the month of October. St. Nicholas Parish has the 1:00pm prayer vigil hour at the abortion clinic. Joe Hinshaw would like to bring the middle/high school groups to the clinic and also for the March for Life held on October 2 in Madison.

J) Pastoral Report – Gary Vanness

*Resumed home visits on Fridays. Visits have increased would like to add more help.

*Retraining is being done for new and returning servers. Eucharistic ministers are returning to mass one at a time. Gift presentation during mass are also returning!

*Has been visiting the classrooms at least 1x/month.

*New Evangelization has adoration after every class. We started this years ago and the kids are really getting a lot out of it.

*Our Prayer Shawl Group invite anyone to join in knitting or crocheting.

*The Widows Group has started back up. Glad to see this continue as it is a good asset to our community and those grieving who seek support at this time in their life.

K) Pastor's Comments and New Business – Father Walter Stumpf

*Father would like to recognize Quinn, who plays on Tuesday nights. He informs Father of any deficiencies or updates that maybe needed.

*Need to complete painting of area near Door 3 up to the balcony near Narthex, of the Anjou Pear color. Hired Chuck VanderLoop to complete this. Have the funds to cover the paint and painter.

*Possibly move the time of the Tuesday mass to give those working more time to attend. Discussion followed with suggestions of 6:00, 6:15, 6:30, or even 8:00. Most agreed that 5:45 has worked for many years. Maybe we just need to make sure it is better advertised. It was suggested that 8 was too late, we could do a survey to see what parishioners think, ask during the Tuesday mass what they prefer. It is mostly the same group that attends week to week. There will be meetings that will be affected if the mass time changes.

*St. Nicholas Day is Monday, December 6th. Let's make a feast of it! Have Worship Committee and New Evangelization help with this. Suggestion of Thrivent to help sponsor something for this event. Maybe the Giant Sock fill again! Peggy Conrad and Kathy Brennan to continue discussing and put something together.

*We should keep an eye on what St. Ignatius School in Kaukauna is doing. They are keeping the technology minimized as we are increasing our technology? Observe if they have success with the classical education structure.

*Ice skating rink is to be created this winter!

*Proxy was approved for the parking lot. Contractors have been filled and will begin work when school lets out in 2022. Lighting needs to be planned prior to rebuild to ensure they are aesthetically appealing to neighboring business and homes.

*Would still like bells added to the tower. Looking for cost and work to be done.

*There is a possibility of installing a band shell. Currently, we spend about \$8-10 thousand to rent each year. Looking to minimize cost by building our own and saving in future years. Could use for concerts, exhibitions, and plays.

*Father will be speaking with an expert regarding church seating and front pew kneelers next week.

*Re-naming the fellowship hall, the "Saint Therese Hall" was suggested.

*The Hallways to school are available to view updates after meeting if anybody is interested.

Members of councils and committees in attendance include: Carl Peterson, Randy Conrad, Jim Smith, Larry Westenberg, Craig Schommer, Bob Schommer, Jen Otto, Terri Romitti, Nikki VanHandel, Father Walter, and Deacon Gary. Roger Stanley and Chad Rottier were excused.

Motion to Adjourn 1st) Joanne Bowers 2nd) Judy Bekkers; unanimous

Closing Prayer 7:16 p.m. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Saints Pray for us. St. Nicholas Pray for us.

Submitted by: Jennifer Otto