

Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2020
APPROVED Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m.

Opening Prayer Father Walter

Intro of Agenda read by Father Walter.

Financial Trustee- Chad Rottier announced how blessed we are with our faith community. We have had a loss of our Countryfest and some fundraising due to the pandemic; however, our income vs debt ratio has been operating well despite COVID. We were granted a paycheck loan. As far as involvement we will cross that bridge when we are able. Thank you to some generous donors we are putting money aside for a “rainy day fund” for future needs.

Minutes were previewed independently and were approved as written by 1) Derek Schuh 2) Bob Schommer; unanimous.

Father Walter began with many questions he received from the parish community during Covid including how much to spend on a bottle of wine? Father replied with about 30 min..... Father proceeded to do a reprise of the Brad Paisley’s “Nationwide is by your side” followed by Joe Diffie’s song Home, reminding us that the miles behind are easier than the miles ahead, but the Holy Spirit will guide us home. The Gospel of Luke 11:5-13 was read. Remembering our Parish Mission “The Happiness Effect” pre-Covid is a good reminder to look for the good in all situations. There have been many changes but a lot of people reminding us of our faith includes: Cortney Curran new position elsewhere, our continued prayers go out to her. Andy Poquette, assisting with our new paycheck protection program grant; Paula Nault, helping with the book keeping between business managers; Alyce Sauer, helping move our program to QuickBooks and with our payroll; Nikki VanHandel, stepping in as new business manager; Justin Green, assisting in our new cleaning schedule; Paul Mattek, accepting our custodial position; Mark Lang, all the years at St. Nicholas, but now full time with St. Eds. Lee VanCamp and Ethan Roskowski volunteering to help sanitize the school; the lunch volunteers, serving while lunch is in limbo due to Covid; Baby Lucas, was baptized at 16 months but was so joyous at a mystical level during the ceremony; Farmer Erv VanCamp, it is his 90TH Birthday today! Happy Birthday! Rose, was in hospice had tears of Joy for Communion with Father Walter; Andrew LeGrave joined us for 10 week from April – August; Sister Martha stayed with Randy and Peggy Conrad during her visit for our missionary from Africa; and Deacon Don and Shirley Newhouse, to continue prayers for them during these times.

REPORTS

A) *Statement of Finances – Nikki VanHandel –*

Payroll and taxes were sent to Spurlock, Runyan, Miller and Associates LLP that is partnered with Bob VanEpre. St. Nicholas has changed Great Plains to utilize QuickBooks. They will be meeting with the Building and Grounds crew soon.

B) *Saint Nicholas School – Scott Vanderloop*

The school is officially WRISA certified! March of 2020 went to virtual learning. Scott met with councils and staff to work on a program to make sure schools would be open this fall with the Reopen to Inspire Plan. The goal is to continue in-person class as long as we can safely during 2020-2021. Met with Dave Everson, our Tech support, who helped upgrade the technology in our classrooms with our Technology Grant Ask of Winter Auction. Mrs. Wyman is assisting Mr. Vanderloop with contact tracing. Some updates that happened prior to school starting were: painting of the hallways. There have been 6 mobile stations added that include computers, webcams and projector/TV. Plexiglass has been set up for students and teachers. A full time Custodian has been hired, welcome Paul Mattek. Currently, enrollment is at 117 students which is down

from last year of 120 students. Scott Vanderloop meets with the GB diocese to discuss fundraising, marketing, enrollment and finances to figure out ways to market the school. Also, meets with the Outagamie County Health Division to discuss ongoing health concerns about COVID and the county.

C) CNE – Coordinator of New Evangelization – Kathy Brennan

- * Had a bus load of students and adults go to Chicago for the March for Life in January. Went very well.
- *The Happiness Effect was perfect timing as it happened right before the Shut Down in March.
- *There was a bus that went to St. Therese outside of Chicago that was very interesting. Would like to go back again sometime.
- *Father was allowed to do Confirmation because Bishop couldn't do it due to COVID. Confirmations took place July and August with about 50 getting confirmed.
- *1st Communion was extended to more masses over a month to alleviate the number of people at each mass. One child was so excited he was there to get Jesus! Andrew LeGrave was touched to see the children's faces of excitement!
- * The first night of Religious Ed went very well. Took place 10/7/2020

D) Chair of Finance Council – Kristin Romanowicz read by Father

- *The highlight of the fiscal year was the blessings from our parish community.
- *Finalized the Building for the Future loan with the total about of pledges received.
- *The Bishops Appeal was fulfilled before the goal and were able to purchase new microphones for Father and Deacon to enhance our worship including the new hearing loop system!
- *Thank you for the hard work of the committees and fruit of our community that we had great financial success with fundraising!
- * The school incorporated the School Choice dollars to upgrade the technology with the goal to grow enrollment.
- * The Finance Council continues their goal of growing stewardship.
- *Have applied and received the Paycheck Protection Program to help assist with needs during pandemic.
- * Pray for an increase not only in financial giving but an increase of our mass attendance.

E) Chair of Pastoral Council – Derek Schuh

- *We have a great community! COVID is a burden but we have a safe environment for mass and school.
- *Although Bishop has discernment of mass, Father still offers mass because, "The mass never ends, it must be lived!"
- *The Facilities Usage Policy has been updated. You can reserve by calling office or using the new website with the shared calendar to view the events in the facilities.
- * Our Strategic Planning is hold. When restarted will create goals to grow the community with 1-5 year goals.
- * There are 2 members of the Pastoral Council that need replacements. Carrie Decoster has already resigned and Derek Schuh will be ending in December.

F) Maintenance – Paul Mattek – by Father Walter

- *Purchased a new sanitizing machine that seems to be working well. Lee VanCamp and Ethan Roskowski have been helping after school to sanitize each classroom. Currently, there are 0 children out with COVID; however, some have been out due to having contact with someone with COVID.
- *Paul Mattek is a member of our building and grounds committee.
- *Also, purchased a new vacuum and scrubber.
- * The bricks on the steeple need repair. We have looking for referrals. The Rubber roof needs to be taken care of on the steeple. Currently Security-Luebke Roofing is the only one who has provided us with a quote. Roughly \$4K for just the areas that need to be replaced or \$33k for an entire new rubber cover that has a warranty of 50 years.

- * Door 5 is getting handicap Assist. Bob Schommer is hoping to get a start on it this weekend. Maybe have some help holding doors until finished. TriCity Glass will be doing the door install.
- *Will be finishing landscaping this fall yet. Paul is getting bids to rebuild the east parking lot next year, 2021.

G) Cemetery – No Report- Going Well

H) Worship Committee –Bob Schommer

- *Missed the Easter season due to COVID. However, we received a beautiful Corpus that was installed during this time. We will have a dedication on Saturday, October 10 at the 4pm mass.
- * We have sanitizing wipes for the pews to be cleaned after each mass.
- * So far there have been no Catholic churches shut down due to the pandemic that we know of at this time.
- * The new speakers have been installed!
- * Oversaw the cleaning of the ceiling fans!
- * Hopefully we will be fully functioning for our wonderful Christmas masses.
- * Tuesday night masses have a wonderful organist! Please come enjoy the music and the mass.

I) Living Justice Committee – Heather Ponschock

- *Wanted to have a speaker on Peaceful Purpose to have a fundraiser for woman’s cancer.
- * The Mother’s Day Rose sale was cancelled due to COVID, but the Anointing of the Sick mass will continue but without the dinner. The Angel tree is still continuing.
- * We had an infant burial in May and also another this fall last week. The family would like the stone engraved. Would like to use money from a grant that was engraved to make sure the engraving gets complete.
- * This is Heather’s 5th year of leading the Living Justice Committee and would like to step down. Currently, there are 8 people on the committee. Would like help with delegating events.

J) Pastoral Report – Gary Vanness

- *We had a calling tree during the shutdown to maintain contact with the parishioners. Some appreciated it others did not.
- * We have a very vibrant community!
- *Goes to assisted Living and one continues to be outside. Getting a little colder for that though☺
- *Starting to do homebound visits
- *Helped fill in positions while the pandemic continues.

K) Building for the Future – Capital Campaign Committee

- *Currently have a loan of \$200k all of which has been pledged. Currently, there have not been any defaults despite the virus! Great job everyone! Although, one has passed away. There is about \$25k in interest.

L) Building for the Future – Building Committee combined reports – NO REPORT

M) Pastor’s Comments – Father Walter Stumpf

- *Father has been here 7 years and would like to do a Sabbatical. It will be a 10-12 week absence, so he can further his education and fulfill a retreat need. He will need a fill-in before he leaves.
- * Will continue to encourage vocations.
- * Has done a one day clergy gathering virtually
- * Welcome to Larry Westenberg and Brian Higgins to our Finance Council!

Motion to Adjourn 1st) Derek Schuh 2nd) Chad Rottier; unanimous

Closing Prayer 8:12 p.m. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

*******Note***** The Annual Parish Life Report is a draft pending our auditors adjustments**