

Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 13, 2019

In Attendance: John Dickhaus (Chairperson), Christina Boss, John Kelly, Rev. Tim Ralston, Bill Rapp, Chuck Cullen (Recording Secretary)

Absent: Jeanie Stephens, Sarah Holland

Guest:

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson John Dickhaus.

Faith Formation/Opening Prayer: John Kelly distributed an excerpt from “The Art of Loving” by Ciara Lubich and then read it. The selection reflects the author’s belief that the love we should have is the same love that Jesus has for us. It is a love that does not wait for the other person to display love first. It is a love that we must always display towards everyone regardless if that love is returned. The author writes that “It is love that makes us consider the other person as ourselves.”

After the reading, the members spoke about its meaning. Christina Boss mentioned that you are only hurting yourself when you don’t forgive others. John Kelly added that the minimum for loving another person is wishing them no harm or at least not taking any pleasure in their misfortune. Bill Rapp said that it is easier said than done. It is easy to hold a grudge, and all agreed with that statement. John Kelly concluded by stating that it is hard to get beyond that, but God expects us to do our best.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 6, 2019 Pastoral Council meeting were approved.

School Bathroom Update: Chairperson Dickhaus reported that a contractor relined the drainage pipes in the faculty bathroom. After some additional preparation, the restroom is now open. An estimate for the girl’s restroom was reviewed. That work will require additional services resulting in a higher price. The cost, however, is still more cost effective than other alternatives. Should the parish elect to proceed with the repair, the work will be performed during the summer to avoid the potential need to close that facility.

Parish Directory Update: Chairperson Dickhaus informed the members that a meeting will take place on Friday (March 14) to ensure the publication is completed on time. Assistance may be needed to help select pictures.

Anniversary Planning Committee: Father Tim and Chairperson Dickhaus asked if a committee should be formed to assist with anniversary activities. The members agreed to announce the formation of a committee to determine what interest there is in such a task.

School Updates: Chairperson Dickhaus:

- Advised the members that students were currently taking the Iowa Assessment (skill testing). Christina Boss added that projected enrollment could be a little higher next year. Changes in the New Richmond and West Clermont School Districts could positively impact enrollments.
- Asked the members about ways to get more student parents to participate in the Scrip program. Ideas included selling scrip at the Book Fair, Open House, and Meet the Teacher night.
- Reported that the fish fry last Friday (March 8) was well attended and generated larger-than-average gross revenue. The better quality of fish is now served, and hush puppies have been added to the menu.
- Informed the members that he is still working towards getting an enhanced locking system for the gym doors.

Festival Update: In recent years, there has been a scheduling conflict between our festival and the New Richmond Riverdays. This year, the City of New Richmond has moved its dates so there will be no conflict. This will likely increase attendance at our festival.

Pastor's Corner: Fr. Tim:

- Told the members about another round of an e-mail scam using his name to solicit gift cards.
- Asked about a replacement for Jeff Racic who resigned his Council seat. The members voted to keep the seat vacant until after the upcoming elections when Fr. Tim will then appoint someone for a full three-year term.
- Informed the members that there were about 30 in attendance at his recent Lenten presentation.
- Announced that there is some interest in having Eucharistic Adoration once a week. In order to work, however, a sufficient number of parishioners must agree to participate. An announcement will soon be made concerning this effort.
- Reminded the members that the "Light Is On For You" penance service will take place on Tuesday March 19 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Told the members that a joint penance service with St. Thomas More parish will take place on Tuesday April 2 at St. Thomas More Church.

New Business:

- John Kelly reported receiving an e-mail from a parishioner with some suggestions/ideas. Other members also reported receiving the same e-mail. The members requested that John talk to him and report back to the Council.
- Christina Boss asked about having a notice printed in the bulletin about the "box top" program. She was told to prepare the notice and send to Sylvia.
- With the resignation of Jeff Racic, the members of the Council expressed their gratitude for his service to the Council and the Parish.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Next Meeting - Wednesday April 3, 2019
Note: The April 3rd meeting was cancelled. Next meeting will be May 1

Approved: May 1, 2019