

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Pastoral Council

September 26, 2023

In attendance: Dave Geitner, Dawn Kozminski, Mike Kozminski, Dan Manion, Bill Leven, Craig Cuthbertson, Bill Graham, Kim Ditz, Kim VanHorn, Harry Solarek, Fr. John, Fr. Jim, Joan Yohe

1. Craig opened the meeting with the Prayer of St. Francis
2. Minutes from the August meeting were approved with no changes
3. Priests updates:
  - Father John
  - the bill for the organ at St. Francis will be coming soon
  - cemetery committee meeting will be held next week, a new mausoleum will be discussed as well as scheduling volunteers along with Josh Kramer, possibly a Scout service project, to remove leaves and cob webs
  - Faith Formation update – our high school program will be transforming to the Edge Program, Confirmation for grades 9 and 10 will be held at St. Francis in March 10 2024 at 2PM, it will include 3 counties. Their retreat will be 12/10/23 in Kane from 10:30 to 5.
  - Possibility of applying for a grant to cover a DVD and TV for the meeting room at the parish center
  - Father John is making visits to the Confirmation classes
  - Renovation meeting tomorrow afternoon, more sample painting has been done on the wall near the side door towards Tops with beige, off-white and blues
  - Sister Euphoma spoke at last weeks' masses, approx. \$4,300.00 was collected
  - Rosary Altar annual Rummage Sale will be next week at St. Francis
  - Pet Blessing will be held Sunday 10/1 at St. Francis
    - Father Jim – has been kept busy with 3 weddings since last month along with visiting the sick and burying the dead
4. Kim VanHorn reported that she is still in need of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for 6 -7 students, right now they are lumping 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades together. The current make-up consists of grades 1-10<sup>th</sup> 55 kids (8 first Reconciliation, 6 First Communicants, 8 Confirmandi).
5. Finance Committee Report – Bill L. and Mike -inserts were in last weeks' bulletin for both parishes – next year there will only be one report, reminder that the roof and gym updates were extraordinary expenses from the operating budget. Mike reported that OMPH should be listed with realtor, Nate Frederico soon. Also working on updated tax assessment.
6. Old Business:
  - A. 2024 Mass schedule – Father John is working on this and passed out a tentative sample, more adjustments will be needed. Also discussed was the practice of scheduling masses for deceased. Canon Law requires that a mass needs to be offered for parishioners each weekend. This has been covered by the Thursday morning mass, as it is usually said by the pastor and there are so many mass intention requests for weekend masses. Stipends for masses go to the priests and this is not as needed where priests have a salary, but very needed in missionary locations. Explanation of the process to the congregation is needed. Easter is very early in 2024 – March 31.

B. Mike reported that he and Dave will be coordinating a pickup of extra religious items by the Warehouse in Pittsburgh next week. Dave also reported that holes have been dug in the cemetery for relocation of some of the outdoor statuary. Also vestments from OMPH have been donated to Fr. Paschal.

C. Renovation/Heating systems updates as progressing, hoping to soon be able to schedule a State of the Parish Town Hall meeting.

D. St. Francis feast day dinner will be next Wednesday, reservations are coming in, over 70 so far for the ham dinner following the 5:30 Mass.

7. Open discussion –

Father Jim suggested having a Grief Minister to take some of the responsibilities related to funerals to assist Fr. John (possibly a paid position since the parish will have his salary savings)

There have been a few applicants for the cemetery position, but still looking for more.

Upcoming events: Oct. 7 – Dueling Pianos dinner theater

Oct. 28 – CWC sponsoring a spaghetti dinner from 5 to 7

Nov. 3 & 4 – Kiwanis Kapers

Next meeting – October 24 at 6:00 pm and that will be the final meeting for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan E. Yohe*