St. James Pastoral Council Minutes

March 12, 2024

Members Present: Fr. John Hemsing, Jeff Kenkel, George Fox, Liz Pierce, Hayde Becker, Dan Sawyer, Dennis Lentz, Sharon Young, Scott Granicki, Charles Demge, Cheryl Romauld

Not present: Joe Gonzalez

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Follow-up** |
| Call to Order 7:04 PM STJ Great Room  Dennis offered the opening prayer and reflection |  |
| **Approval of the February 13th, 2024 PC Minutes**   * Minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Dan made a motion to approve, and Dennis seconded the motion. With all in favor the minutes were approved. |  |
| **Commission Reports**   * **Human Concerns** – Dan - A check of cards taken from the Lenten Giving Tree, showed few had been taken. Rice Bowl collections - 25% of the monies will be donated for plantings around the pond, and the other 75% will go to Catholic Relief Services. We are assisting the Elacuria hosts from El Salvador in getting visas, to visit St. James and Good Shepherd. Laudato Si - Creation Care is working to solicit donations for restoration of the area around the pond. Deb Schneider will be spearheading the planting of the Holy Garden this year. There will be no other gardens or plant sales. St. Ben’s received a record 170 guests in February. * **Prayer and Worship** – Sharon – No update. Dennis asked PC members to join in setting the Altar during the Holy Thursday mass. Terry Grennier will walk through what to do prior to mass. Jeff, Liz, Cheryl, Dennis and George indicated they would serve. * **Stewardship** – Liz and Hayde – The Welcome/KofC Breakfast is March 17th, to date only one new family has signed up to attend and receive a free breakfast. Calls will be made to 12 other new parish families. Welcome Sunday’s start in April (6th/7th) hosted by Stewardship. The Parish Council will host in May. We need to decide who will be present at each mass. Confirm which mass you will participate in at our April meeting. 72 families have already signed up for the parish photo book directory. Photos will be taken April 15th – 20th, and April 22nd – 27th. Make-ups May 17th-18th. * **Christian Formation** – No report * **Finance** – Chuck – Chuck shared Terri Weber’s summary from the finance meeting. Previously Building and Grounds showed $30K negative. That is attributed to - roof repairs $3,200, Refurbishing the Chapel Tabernacle $7,200, Our Lady of Grace statue $4,800, replacement of the commercial water heater $13,000. YOY we are up $12K. Cash balance is over $300K. We have received another LOA Campaign payment of $97,824. LOA receipts to date are $274K. With those amounts we can now begin discussions on when to start some of the projects designated in the LOA campaign. The Earned Retention Credit has a balance of $103K. ERC monies had been used to paydown the parish line of credit. The ERC monies will be moved to an interest-bearing account at about a 5% rate. Parish Financial Stewardship - 442 pledges which total $723K and increase of $9K over last year. We are budgeting for increased costs this year as market influences drive up insurance, work comp, health, and dental costs. The Personnel Committee made a recommendation for a 3% pooled payroll increase, to be issued at the discretion of the pastor. Buildings and Grounds are beginning to request quotes on digital signs, to replace the sign along Town Line Road. * **Knights of Columbus** - Scott - Pancake breakfast Sunday 3/17/24. The Knights may hold a chess tournament in May or June. Use of the parish facilities was raised as a possible concern due to potential liability. The Knights are sponsoring the Special Olympics in Whitewater this year by providing volunteers. They are also working to be more visible within the parish - ushering and fellowship. Fr. suggested the Knights be included as a host of a Welcome Sunday. | Confirm your participation at the May 4th/5th Welcome Sunday at our April meeting |
| **Pastor’s Update**   * **Parish Deacon** – On June 1st, Deacon Lance Tappa is joins the parish, returning from St. Mary’s where his children attended school. He will be able to support Fr. by performing funerals and weddings (services without a mass). Father will be asking Lance to take over coordination of Adoration as his first assignment. * **Love One Another Campaign** - We have received approximately $270K of the $870K pledged. * **Stewardship** - Working with Stewardship Fr. Is focused on reaching out to all those folks who buy a condo or build on a lot in the new Bella Vista subdivision to the east of the parish. * **Easter Masses** – Fr. invited all to attend each day’s mass. Thursday evening, Friday afternoon, Saturday after sundown and either of two masses on Easter Sunday. * **Catholic Stewardship Appeal** -Fr. contacted the archdiocese coordinator regarding the doubling of the parish goal this year, and since we hadn’t reached last year’s goal. Realizing it was a significant increase, the feedback was “do the best you can.” |  |
| **Open Discussion** –   * Cheryl shared that the lot across Town Hall road is for sale. Others shared that it may have once been a consideration for added parking, but that need no longer exists. * Fr. mentioned it is once again time to re-address our 5-year strategic plan, or long-term planning for the parish. * Fr. shared that discussions continue with staff regarding moving to a single mass on Sunday. There is some pushback on the idea on how that change impacts Christian Formation. |  |
| **April Meeting – Tuesday the 9th 7:00 PM**  Fr. John provided the closing prayer  The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM |  |