

**ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH**  
**Parish Council Meeting**  
**March 25, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fr. Jim Schuerman, Michelle Oberholtzer, Daryl Braun, Troy Weis, Lois Maywald, AnneMarie Janikowski, Daniel von Rabenau, Millie McCormick, Martha Cucco, Greg Desecki, Sandra Cruz, Mary Ferrini, and Kathleen Dobbler.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Michelle. Opening prayer was led by Sandra Cruz. Troy made a motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting. Greg seconded and the minutes were accepted.

**FR. JIM:** Confirmation is April 22<sup>nd</sup> and First Communion is the first weekend in May, Saturday and Sunday. Divine Mercy Sunday is April 12<sup>th</sup>. It will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier in Brighton. All of the churches in this area will be invited to partake of that.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Defibrillators:** Millie showed us one of the defibrillators. She said the cabinets came in but they were the wrong ones so they have been sent back and new ones will be sent out. Nine people are signed up for the first training session on March 26<sup>th</sup>. She said it is actually a combination of CPR and defibrillator.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Irish Night:** Michelle said we had a really nice turnout for Irish Night. She mentioned thanks to Leo for coordinating that effort. We had the Irish dancers from Trinity and a wonderful raffle which totaled \$770 which went to the Grace Weis Scholarship Fund. The food was close to \$3000 profit. They served approximately 420 dinners. Hawk's View was a very good location.

**Update on Implementation Meeting from Synod:** Fr. Jim said the representatives from the parish were able to hear a lot of statistics about the number of priests we have now and the projected number we will have by the year 2020. They talked about the importance of clustering. In the future, there will only be one pastor per cluster, but possibly more than one priest. They also talked about the Synod implementation beginning on the level of liturgy, talking up the priorities. September 14<sup>th</sup> is the date when all of the parishes have to submit their plan for collaboration within the cluster. Our cluster is St. Francis, St. Benedict's and St. Catherine's in Sharon. On some level, we have to meet as parishes to talk about what we see as collaboration in the future. Fr. Jim said a good way to start is for the Parish Councils or committees of the Parish Councils to get together to talk about visioning for the church of the future for our area and our cluster. It would be done some time after Easter, perhaps late April or early May. Troy asked if each church will still have its own council. Father said each church must maintain its own Finance Council, but they may combine the Parochial Councils in the future.

**Stewardship Committee:** Martha said there were a total of 19 people at the Stewardship Committee meeting. They discussed the various goals and worked on certain things like the New Parishioner

Welcome and the on-line giving. The next meeting will be in three weeks so people are deciding what they would like to do.

**Letters and Prayers for Confirmation Candidates:** Michelle said she has prepared cards for the candidates. They will be distributed this weekend so they can be passed out to all the candidates. We are also including in the packet a welcome from Council and an encouragement to them to participate in the ministries.

**Bingo:** Marcie Fain talked to Fr. Jim about some of her concerns: there are not enough volunteers and it is not very well attended. She would like our input – should Bingo be suspended for a time or offered on a limited basis. The license ends in April and needs to be renewed in May. There was much discussion about various ideas to encourage people to volunteer. Council members also had suggestions on how to advertise and get more attendance. Troy suggested that Fr. Jim announce from the pulpit how much money we made and say that we need more volunteers. Troy and Marcie will write something up for him. Mary Ferrini motioned that we renew the license for twice a month with the caveat that, if we do not get enough volunteers by the end of our license period, we will reduce the days or possibly cancel Bingo. AnneMarie seconded the motion and it passed.

**Volunteer Appreciation:** Michelle mentioned that we need to revisit the way we are utilizing our volunteers – how we are managing our volunteers once we have people on board. What kind of recognition do we give to our volunteers? We need to make sure that we are acknowledging the people that step forward to do the volunteering. Martha said we will have a Volunteer Coordinator.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**FORMATION COMMITTEE:** AnneMarie said their meeting will be in April.

**SCHOOL ADVISORY:** Daniel submitted the Principal's Report of their March 9 meeting. Casino Night was well attended. They are closing in on \$40,000 profit. They are moving forward with security upgrades. They will have new doors on all classrooms by the end of Easter break. Principal Gallagher is planning to purchase Chrome books for the middle school students. They will be doing Iowa testing after the break.

**HISPANIC COMMUNITY:** Sandra said they are very happy about having their first Soup and Stations during Lent. They will do a Living Stations on Good Friday. There will be a women's Emmaus retreat in English on June 5-7. She asked people with teenagers to think about the Steubenville Youth Conference.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Martha mentioned that the school has also created a website. There is a place where you can sign up to get a newsletter. They e-mailed several businesses for ads in the Ministry booklet and they have \$1400, so there will be no charge to the parish for the New Parishioner Welcome Packets. Last week, they had a new record of people visiting the website.

**FINANCE COUNCIL:** Daryl presented the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting, Profit and Loss Statement for the first six months of the fiscal year, and the Balance Sheet. The Balance Sheet deals with current liquid assets only, and does not show land and buildings. There was much discussion

because the Angel Fund shows a deficit of \$57,440. This means we are awarding tuitions for monies we don't have, so we are actually eating up the parish money. Many suggestions were given on ways to get the parents to pay for their child's education, including adding interest to the tuition, insisting that the tuition is paid before the child can enroll for the following year, using a collection agency, etc. Michelle asked Father Jim to look into resources for help from the Archdiocese with the tuition problem.

Daryl also said they are starting the budget process. They plan to involve Mike Johnson in the budgeting process to understand what he is looking at.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** Kathy Murray has talked to Daryl and she is ready to start thinking about the mailing for Fall Festival for donations. They plan to make a list of families who donated \$250 or more during the past three years and ask them for donations. Kathy asked who she should talk to about this. Michelle said it is not the Parish Council that would make the final decision. We need to work in concert with our Financial Council so whatever is approved by the Parish Council needs to go to Finance Council. Mary Ferrini said the Fall Festival will be on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Kathleen Dobbler said she and the Religious Education Director have been working on a summer program, probably June through August, once a week. They will start out small targeting middle school students, not just at the school, but also in the religious education program.

In response to Fr. Jim's presentations regarding the Synod, AnneMarie said Catholic Daughters have decided to try to start a program to get more altar servers, not only boys and girls, but also adults and possibly families.

Closing prayer was led by Father Jim. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Maywald  
Secretary