

**In attendance:** Elizabeth Cilano, Lorie Cook, Lisa Coon, Annamaria Falzarano, Fr. John Firpo, Michael Moriarty, Ryan Mulcahy, Jim Peters, Gina Reeder, Rosemary Ann Roth, Mark Stechschulte, Gerry Streb

**Excused:** Linda Caliguiri

***Opening Prayer—Jerry Streb***

***Approval of Minutes & Agenda***

***Staff Update—Fr. John***

### **1. Finance Council Update**

- Last met on Monday, November 6.
- **2023-24 CMA Campaign:** Our goal this year is **\$97,000** goal. As of 11/14/23, we are at **66.23%** of our goal (\$64,242 pledged; 224 donors). Parishioners have until May 31, 2024 to fulfill any pledge made to this year's campaign. (*\*It takes about 2 weeks for your pledge to show on the parish scroll; about 4 weeks for credit card donations*)
- **Annual Report to Parishioners:** The annual report to parishioners for the fiscal year 2022-23 was included in the bulletin on October 29. Dave Steklenski presented the information to the parishioners at all 3 weekend Masses.
- **Mother's Day/Father's Day Memorial Envelopes.** Envelopes have been ordered and an online giving option is in place as well for parishioners to dedicate their donations in the name of specific individuals and those dedications will be acknowledged in the bulletin the weekends of Mother's Day and Father's Day 2024.
- **Capital Projects:**
  - AC Issues in Church - Compressor, Water Tower. Chris Frontale has requested a 3 rd company to take a complete look at our system in church and to make recommendations on a path forward.
  - Sidewalk & Ramp Replacement. The work has started on the sidewalk from the south parking lot to Church (in front of the rectory) and the ramp into church on the school side. We are hopeful that the work will be done within the next week.
  - Snow Removal Vendor Change. Magar Maintenance will be doing the snow removal and shoveling of sidewalks this season. They replaced Everblack.
  - New Camera Equipment for Streaming. This has been put on hold for now.
- Next meeting will be held on **December 4**.

### **2. Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Update**

#### **Faith Formation Programs.**

- Home Study and Sacramental Prep. First Reconciliation for the 4 parishes (Holy Cross, Our Mother of Sorrows, St. Charles, St. Lawrence) will take place on Saturday, 12/2 (11am-12 Noon) at Our Mother of Sorrows Church this year.
- OCIA (formerly RCIA) candidates are preparing for full initiation. Deacon Don Eggleston is working with them. The Rite of Welcome & Acceptance will take place the weekend of December 2/3.
- Amanuel is also working with several families to help them have the children be part of OCIC this coming year.

## Youth Ministry.

- Donna Gray is helping Amanuel to promote the IGNITE program for high school students. Next meeting is December 1 at Holy Cross. They meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. Working on meetings and service opportunities for Youth Group.
- Hands of Christ nominations for 2023-24 high school seniors are being accepted until December 8. Nomination forms are available in the parish office.

## 3. Parish Pasta Dinner & Pancake Breakfasts

- This Saturday, November 18 is the Pasta Dinner in the Parish Center after the 4 pm Mass. All are welcome to attend. Parishioners are asked to bring a dessert to pass. Council members are encouraged to attend, wear name tags, mingle.
- Pancake Breakfasts are going well too. The October Breakfast had about 85 people.

## 4. Other...

- **Music Ministry update** : The Children's Choir, Adult Choir, and Schola are in full swing now with rehearsals and singing at Masses (Children's Choir will sing on Sunday, 10/29 at 10:30 Mass at a Children's Liturgy).
- **Home Visitations** continue to go well. There are two parishioners visiting Unity Hospital 1x/week. That is going well. There are 25 parishioners participating in the visitation program. There are approximately 95 people that they see on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.
- **Social Ministry Update.** The St. Charles parishioners are responding to the request for food donations to help with the Holiday Food Baskets at Christmas. The Advent Giving Wreaths will be out this coming weekend too. Detailed information is included in this weekend's bulletin.
- Follow up on parking lot security - no more incidents, Greece police are patrolling.
- Mike M. photographed new council members so that Parish Council Bulletin board in church can be updated.

## Finance Council Update—Lisa Coon

- Budget: At this time 2023-2024 1st quarter is running about \$20k short. First quarter is usually slow but collections are behind last year and if this rate continues, could be a much larger shortage at year end. There was the cost of seal coating and striping of the parking lot but the larger issue is collections are down about \$16.6k so far. (fiscal year runs July - June)
  - *Notes about this:*
  - Ironic as attendance seems to be up yet collection down.
  - Fr. John has noticed sometimes ushers are going too fast and not giving folks a chance Key ushers will be contacted at each mass to address this.
  - Discussed different approaches to collections, a possible increased giving campaign and reminding folks how to give online (Bulletin had info about online giving) or use their required minimum withdrawal from retirement accounts.
  - There are new ways to donate for Mother and Father's day memorials (similar to Easter and Christmas flowers).
  - Online giving is encouraged- can even be used for holy days, preferable since people often do not have cash
- Another contractor is looking at the air conditioning system (there is also a water tower issue) and make recommendations. Whole system is 33 years old –past median life.
- Contracted with new snow removal company, Magar Maintenance, who does most our other property work.
- Sidewalk on Dewey side of rectory and handicap ramp to church are not safe. Obtained estimates and cost will be \$12-\$15k to fix. This was not budgeted for. Discussed possibly holding a campaign or special collection noting that this is needed but was not included in the budget. Dave Steklenski may be speaking at masses about this - 'hunger wells' at church entrances could be used for free will donations.

- It continues to be important to invite people to register in our parish. Many have been lost to death - these people were big financial supporters of SCB. New parishioners are not at the level of investment of older parishioners. Stewardship campaign is being discussed. Identify specific needs of SCB - ask for help funding those needs. Increased giving can frighten people - even ask for just a little bit more.
- Deficit will most likely decrease with giving at holiday time.
  - Psychology of giving - helping people understand parish needs to increase giving
  - No capital campaign, need increased giving campaign.
  - Parishioners generally very generous.
  - Finance council's job is to look at future - avoid trend of deficits. Basically we're holding well above water.
  - Short term help for walkway - people will rise to that occasion. Mike M. can take photos of projects in process for bulletin.

### **Eucharistic Revival Update—Jim Peters**

- Elements of the Catholic Mass, Session 2, will be held Wed 11/15--1:30-3 and Thursday 11/16 -7-8:30. The sessions are not sequential so parishioners can attend some or all sessions.
- Eucharistic Adoration - Silent adoration planned for feast of Christ the King; 12-4pm (Nov. 26)
- Fr. Robert Kennedy will be speaking Dec.12th in church - 2 sessions: morning and evening. Very highly regarded speaker!
- Elements of the Catholic Mass, Session 3 will be held in January.

### **Pastoral Planning Update—Gina Reeder**

- The task force met November 8th - discussion mostly around subcommittees.
  - There is currently a sub-committee considering the question of which parishes could logically partner with each other in the event of a priest shortage or if the need to do so arose. The idea behind this is to assist and bolster each parish while also working to maintain each parish's culture, health, and vitality. This work is ongoing.
  - The Vocations Sub-Committee has begun meeting and will be reviewing topics such as fostering vocations to the priesthood and diaconate as well as religious life or lay ecclesial ministry.
  - The Website Sub-Committee has done some fantastic work on a common website. Our group (Holy Cross/MOS, St. Charles, St. Johns, St. Lawrence, St. Leo, St. Marks) will be referred to as ROC Northwest Catholics and a logo was created for our common use. The website should be live by the beginning of Lent.
  - The Evangelization Sub-Committee has created a flyer of Advent events representing all seven parishes and is also compiling a list of electronic resources such as apps and podcasts. The flyer should be available the weekend of December 2/3.
- The next scheduled meeting will be on January 10th.
- Main purpose of Pastoral Planning is to share resources among 7 parishes -especially ministerial resources. Look at short term solutions - as well as long term ones - like encouraging vocations. Originated w/7 pastors proactively to submit to DOR when time comes.

### **Centennial Celebration for 11/6/25 Anniversary—Fr. John**

- SCB was founded Nov 6, 1925 therefore Nov. 6, 2025 is our actual 100th anniversary.
- Establish centennial celebration working group - centennial activities to start Nov 4, 2024 and kick off year long celebration of parish activities such as a parish picnic, dinners, ice cream social, concerts w/ our own wonderful music ministry... It will be important to also have a spiritual aspect to the year of celebration. Note: The cornerstone on the original church building says 1926, but SCB 1<sup>st</sup> mass was held in a parishioner's home 1925. Where was the home of the 1<sup>st</sup> mass?
- How are other parishes celebrating their 100th? Look at what was done for the 75th celebration of SCB.

- Other ideas for committee to pursue includes tours of former school bldg, fundraisers - sell t shirts, etc and/or have a raffle. Looking for volunteers for committee in a range of age groups to form diverse committee. Committee to be formed by Jan 1, 2024 or so -to get a running start before Nov 24, 2024.
- Idea receives whole-hearted support of Parish Council.

### **New Business**

- CPR training - simplified course is offered, what is 1<sup>st</sup> step of emergency plan? Any progress on this idea? Staff did training, as did key ushers some years ago - retraining would be good. K of C could organize training for parishioners as well.
- AED machines are located in SCB church - they provide spoken instructions. Also available is emergency treatment for drug overdose.
- Annamaria was approached with the following information. On April 17, 2024, Bethany is hosting a CPR training community event. The training is free - offered by Barnard Fire Dept in conjunction with Ridge Rd Fire Dept. The training is for general knowledge, not certification. The event also includes a \$10 dinner at 6pm, cash payable at door. Our parishioner Dean Smith will speak during dinner. The training portion will follow, the event capped at 60 people.
- While training is good, it is important to be aware that it involves emotional commitment which can be lasting and difficult to cope with. Because of this, one council member is not in favor of this training, but all other council members support the idea. Annamaria will pursue it.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2024.

*Submitted by E. Cilano*