



Attendees: Elizabeth Cilano, Jim Peters, Fr. John Firpo, Lisa Coon, Mark Stechschulte, Gina Mussumeci, Linda Caligiuri, Jerry Streb, Ken Whitney, Jr., Annamaria Falzarano

Absent: Gina Reeder

1. Opening Prayer (Mark)

2. Approval of Minutes: 10-18-2022

3. Diocesan Bankruptcy Update (Fr. John) - details to be shared in the future once all is finalized and approved by judge

-may schedule December Parish Council meeting if requested by Fr. John

4. Staff Updates (Fr. John)

Finance council meeting - new compressor now in church, working on getting it running for hot weather. The expense was considerably lower than initially expected, is on payment plan - comes from savings.

Large tree removal also will come from savings - trees large, damaged and hazardous. Removal begins next week - to avoid property damage or harm to people. New trees will be planted in spring.

CMA Status Report - St. Charles is a bit behind where we were last year at this time. As of 11/15/22, there are 233 donors, with \$58,252 collected thus far which is 60.5% of the goal. The average gift is \$250.

Snow removal contract signed at a cost of \$14,000.

Youth ministry - Donna Gray will be Youth Minister for St. Charles and St. Lawrence. She has done a wonderful job at St. Lawrence.

Social media - with Tyler leaving next month, that position will be open. It is a part time position and talks have begun with a person interested in that position - details to follow.

Social media presentation sponsored by Opladen Scholarship fund was well received - 2 hour program included presentations and break out sessions - very positive feedback collected by evaluation.

5. Parish Council Members' Attendance Expectations/Requirements (Fr. John, Jim)

- Important to be current with each meeting and not spend time backtracking with keeping council members informed
- Should there be a minimum required?
- It is understandable to miss on occasion, but expectation is to attend majority of meetings
- Sequential absences vs overall absences

Sequential Absences: Missing more than 2 in a row would necessitate a conversation with the individual

Overall Absences: Absolute minimum requirement would be attendance at at least half of 8 annual meetings, including the combined Parish Council/Finance Council mtg

- Parish Council Chair and Pastor could discuss the situation/meet with the individual if attendance is a problem
- PC meetings are important, we have responsibility as council members to attend and support the parish and pastor - help be his eyes and ears. We help make decisions, and a quorum is needed to make decisions.
- As Council members, we learn a lot from discussions during meetings.

6. Strength In Numbers (Fr. John, Elizabeth Cilano)

Elizabeth prepared a quick survey to get a sense of parishioner interest/usefulness of these monthly prayers. Suggestion made to add a scale to facilitate answers, rather than having the open-ended questions. 4 choices will be added.

One version will be designed for hard copy - either in the bulletin or as a card left in the pew. A version suitable for the weekly parish email and social media will be created as well. Elizabeth will evaluate the possibility of having the form live and 'interactive'.

E will make changes and resend the form to council members for input.

For now, continue to use last year's prayers.

7. Review and General Discussion of Synod Action Items

A. Status of Homily Evaluation for Advent

Test run with 3 council members occurred recently.

Fr. John wishes to move ahead with this.

Might need to reframe the question regarding the homilist's handling of the 3 readings since the homilist might not discuss all 3 readings. Jim will make edits and resend to council members.

Respondent might not answer each question directly, but the spirit of all of the questions need to be addressed in the evaluation.

Council members will use evaluation during Advent to evaluate all 4 homilists.

Email completed evaluation form directly to Fr. John.

Start this weekend 11/19, evaluate each homilist.

Fr. John invites evaluation of homilists at any time, even after the 4 weeks.

B. Status of "Welcomers"

- Fr. John checked with couple at 10:30mass - they are interested in helping organize welcomers, but ready to start just yet
- Need to identify welcomers at other masses
- Give names to Fr. John

C. Status of Parish Council Photos

Mock up of display poster (for photos of Parish and Finance Councils) shared by E. Cilano, found to be acceptable by council

Parish Council members photos taken by Mike Moriarity (thanks Mike!)

Name tags for parish council members will be ordered - sign up sheet passed around to determine who needs them

Photos of staff members were sent to Elizabeth for use on a poster for staff as well

Posters will be completed asap - photos of Finance Council members need to be taken

D. General Discussion of Proposed Action Items #5-8

- #8 Invite the Holy Spirit to guide and direct Council - Mark's opening prayer reflected this!
- #6, #7 to be discussed in January
- #5 CMA well underway - evaluate what worked and what did not for CMA 2023
- Important to share with parishioners which current ministries are supported by CMA

8. Other Items

Jerry -The K of C is looking into a new movie about Mother Theresa. A copy may be purchased for a parish showing. It would be a movie night in parish center with fellowship and popcorn. Suggestion made to open the event to other parishes and promote the showing of the video at neighboring parishes.

9. Closing

Next meeting - January 31, 2023

Submitted by E. Cilano