

Parish Council Minutes – January 21, 2021 – 7 PM

Present: Father Perez, Keith Robinson, Kathleen Murphy, Burrous Snelling, Sandra Modersohn, Susan King, Frank Pandolfo, Eleanor Ames and Sharon Booker participated by phone.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Keith Robinson with a prayer. The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Old Business:

- **Parish Feast Day** – April 8 was chosen as the feast day for Our Lady of the Valley.
- **Renovating Blessed Mother Statue & Circle** – Susan has found a statue at Church Supply Warehouse. It is a Fiberglass 5 foot statue. Cost \$2000; shipping \$300; 2 rebar at \$80. Approximate total \$2500. It will take six weeks. It was approved to go ahead and purchase so we can have for spring dedication.
- **Update on Church Office & Other Projects**
 - Parking lot has been lined and working as well.
 - The office has now moved to the church sharing the space with the confessional. The library has been streamlined.
 - Wireless connection has been completed.
 - Dehumidifier system working well but we need to rip out the carpeting and put in new laminate flooring.
 - Risk management visit by the diocese representative was conducted in September. We are working our way through the list of issues they need corrected, most of the major ones with door openings going outward with only one key to the locks and keypads have been resolved.
 - Eye wash station is being installed, signage for defibulator.
- **Security Considerations**
 - Since the office has now moved into the church and is sharing the confessional area, we will be purchasing up to 3 SimplySafe cameras for the handyman to install. Still working on network connections for office separate from the rectory. Also getting VOIP. Church is more secure with people in their now.



New Business

- **Construction projects**
 - All of the construction projects all still on hold due to Covid and diocese. We can always take donations towards projects. Liturgy office is projecting spring.
- **Music Program**
 - 12 ringers participated in the chimes project started for Christmas. Those were rented and we want to purchase a full set of chimes. The chimes are less costly than bells. Total cost will be approximately \$3200 for a 37 bell/chime set. We will be doing a fund raising effort starting this weekend. Plaque with donors will be placed in the church.

- **Finance Council Report- Kathleen**

- There has been a significant drop off since August. In Pew Offertory down by about \$4000. But online has more than doubled to \$12,000. Holy Days and Second Collections are down. When comparing all collection amounts from 2019 to 2020 from balance sheet we are down just \$4,300. 2019: Approximately \$63,000 and in 2020: \$58,000. So we are in much better shape than most parishes who have had to borrow money and lay off people We have managed to keep up with expenses and not have to borrow from the Dial account. We are also now receiving a bit higher interest rate on the account.
- 70% of parishioners have continued to pay regularly. One recent visitor has paid \$1000 to help support the parish. Everyone who visits is included on our FlockNotes news.
- Father needs to look at purchasing a smaller safe to fit in the area he wants to use for it.
- Online giving is up and we are encouraging as many parishioners as possible to give online. If you know longer want to use envelopes, notify the parish office and they will take care of it for you. This will help save us paper and mailing costs.

- **Facilities Upgrades / Other**

- New doors, ADA bathroom, and church painting are also on hold because it all needs the diocese approval. They have their hands full with Covid-19 issues right now.
- We can always take donations towards projects. Liturgy office is projecting spring before projects can get started.
- We will need several new sidewalks and fix several cracks around the parish. We will also ask the mason to look at the statue base to see if adequate for the new statue. We will be getting bids soon.
- A Parish office sign and a video doorbell would be a good idea for the office.
- We would like the Knights to go through their supplies and see what can be taken out or stored elsewhere. We need the room to be more organized. We are also cleaning out the closet as well.
- Someone will need to put away the Christmas decorations.

- **Church Website Usage**

Eleanor shared information on visits to the website the past month. Visitors have increased and most are viewing the information from the home page and the weekly bulletin. 626 separate sessions with 1,015 page views. Devices used pretty much split in half between computer and mobile.

Next Meeting Dates: March 18, June 17, September 16, and December 16 at 7 PM in the meeting room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and closed with a prayer.

Eleanor Ames, Secretary