

Parish Council Minutes
Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church
February 6, 2023

Present: Father Perez, Keith Robinson, Irene Sommers, Frank Pandolfo, Susan King, Sandra Modersohn, Eleanor Ames, Kathleen Murphy, Burrous Snellings, Rose Ann Smythe and guest, Will Nesbitt

- Father led us in opening prayer.
- The September minutes were reviewed. One correction made - Keith Robinson is not a member of the Building Committee. Two others were added to the committee - Sam Finlay and Kathy Murphy. Minutes approved as corrected.

Old Business

- **October Attendance Count:** The Shenandoah Valley attendance is at 37%. Dioceses attendance is down with a 24% attendance rate. Our October count was: 186 first week; 298 second week; 318 third week. Average 201. Our parish has 150 families with about 400 family members in total. Attendance is usually higher for our parish during this time as we have lots of travelers in during fall foliage season.
- **Parish Picnic:** The Parish Picnic was a success. It has been suggested next time we leave tables outside for those who wish to stay longer and enjoy each other's company. It has also been suggested we might try this on Sundays after masses. There was a concern with vandalism if tables stayed outside.
- **First Sunday Social:** First Sunday Social will continue after Sunday morning masses. It was suggested we also have some healthier options available rather than just donuts.
- **Fill the Crib Donations:** KOC and Lady's Guild "fill the crib" collection for Front Royal Pregnancy Center was a success. It was mentioned we should consider another one for May. Someone should check with our local center to see if they have needs now.
- **Flea Market / Craft Show:** OLV Ladies Council held the show on Saturday, October 22. It raised about \$85. There is a need to plan earlier this year to recruit vendors. There were several other shows in our area at the same time last year. Funds were donated for a future parish pavilion.

New Business

- **Finance Report:** Frank reported on the church door situation. There was much discussion about the doors but after 3 years of dealing with this situation, and the customization needed, it is time to get it done. The finance committee is meeting on February 9 to finalize details and get them ordered. There will still be a possible 4 month wait as supply chain is still backed up with manufacturer.
- The finance committee member terms are 3 years so it is time for new members.
- **Current Balances** are:
 - Checking: \$ 3,231.49
 - DIAL Account: \$1,040,305.70
 - Dial Building Account: \$88,007.77
 - Dial Extraordinary Account: \$155,683.69
- Father mentioned with the addition of the new Luray Meadows Apts. and the new housing behind Wal-Mart, we have several new parishioners added.
- It was announced Lois Shaffer, Page One director has retired. John Horn will now fill the position.
- **Bishops Lenten Appeal** is now underway. Commitment weekend is February 11-12. We would like 100% commitment from our parishioners. We did meet our goal last year with the help of an anonymous donor.

- **Confessional:** Father has met with John Carlson, builder who has built several in diocese parishes. He can build an ADA compliant one located in the vestibule area. Diocese requires a physical barrier between priest and penitent. Plans must be submitted to diocese for final approval.
- **Security Lighting:** Several people complained about the lack of proper security lighting around the church as well as lighting at the door area to the meeting room. It was noted that the side electric pole security light was burned out. We need to notify SVEC so they can come out to replace it.
- **Renovation of Basement:** The entire area needs to be renovated. Storage area needs to be thoroughly cleaned out. Will Nesbitt asked about what our concerns were and how much could we afford to put into it. We want it all done properly so that the moisture issues will be alleviated. We need new flooring, paint, doors, tables and chairs. These areas can be utilized for so much if they were renovated. He will come back and evaluate the project and get a quote to us so we can hopefully get this going. We will get the diocese approval if necessary.
- **Financial Planning:** Burrous mentioned Robert Abata who does KOC Financial Planning/ Safe Investing presentations. It was suggested we might like to plan a presentation for parishioners who might be interested.
- **Meeting Dates Scheduled:** The next meeting will be held March 16at 7 PM. Other scheduled meeting dates will be: June 15, September 14, December 14.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned. Father led us in a closing prayer.

Eleanor Ames, Secretary