

Parish Council Minutes - Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

June 12, 2025 – 7 PM

Present: Father Perez, Keith Robinson, Eleanor Ames, Sharon Booker, Sandra Modersohn, Joel Fernandez, Kathleen Murphy, Rose Ann Smythe, Burrous Snellings, Jay Fuller, David Wittich

Father led us in an opening prayer. Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Finance Report: Current balances in our accounts were reported by Sharon Booker.

Account Balances Are:

- Checking Account: \$ 54,028.57
- DIAL Operating: \$ 1,085,450.72
- DIAL Building Fund: \$ 88,507.42
- DIAL Extra Ordinary Dividend: \$ 142,436.82

These dedicated amounts are currently included in the parish checking account:
Filipino Shrine: \$ 26,435.22
Ladies Guild: \$ 4,044.64
Actual Balance: \$ 22,223.50

Diocesan & Deanery Report - Father Perez

- **DOA Strategic Plan** – Father reviewed the strategic plan. Pointing out sections that we should consider particularly for our parish. We should consider taking on a fall Service Day project for the community. If anyone has some ideas, submit them to Father Perez. See the Diocese Strategic plan for the six pillars.
- **Bishop's Lenten Appeal** – 59 Pledges Made; 33% of 177 Households; BLA Goal: \$15,000; Amount Pledged: \$19,030; 88% Paid Cash, Percentage of BLA Goal: 127%
- **Jubilee Year** - Bishop Burbidge reinforced a message of HOPE in our troubled world.
- **Diocese Quarterly Meeting** – Discussion around the interest in a Catholic Vocation Technical School
- **Bio Ethics Workshop:** Sister Therese of the Dominican Sisters will be presenting a workshop in September.

Knights of Columbus Report

- Dave Wittich reported he has been extremely busy with KOC involvement. The new officer installation will be held on Sunday, August 10 at 1pm with a dinner to honor Past Grand Knights.
- Knights collected for Life Care Center at the end of May at Walmart. They collected a total of \$3,000 in goods and monetary donations. The Center was very pleased and grateful for the donations. Also stated WPER radio station held a diaper drive at the same time.

Our Ladies Council Report

- The last meeting was held this month. Meetings will resume in September. There has been some discussion on reorganizing with different committees and inviting members of parish to get involved in them. IE: Hospitality, Bereavement, Picnic, Christmas Party, etc.
- Rose Ann Smythe mentioned about filling in the area in front of the church entrance. Recently a parish member took a bad fall in the planter bed. Currently the area has pavers in place but want to fill the area with a solid concrete surface. Bids came in as high as \$7,200; Dawson Comer gave a bid of \$5,000 to do the job. Ladies Council will make a donation for the work to be done and parish will pick up the rest of the cost—to be completed after July 1.

- Please note this clarification from Susan King who was not able to attend the meeting.

In reading the part about the plan to add cement to the front of the church, there is a little confusion on it. The pavers are there to stay - at this time. The quotes for adding cement are to the two patches of grass in front of the church that go up to the circle drive. They are quite uneven and that is where parishioners have fallen and even one broke an ankle a while back. I just wanted the information to be clear as to the plan. Putting cement where that grass is now, will add a larger solid surface, like a piazza or patio, for people to gather after masses.

Music Ministry Report

- Sandra reported the music ministry participated in 110 masses. Other activities included Caroling, Nativity Play, Music Adoration Hours etc.
- Using the new space for practice and storage. Bell choir will still need to use annex for practice.
- She has applied for a \$2000 grant for parish music ministry.

Youth Group Ministry Report

- Joel reported on the Youth Ministry. Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Meetings consist of Mass, gospel education, food, and games
- They just completed a two-year Bible study on gospels of St. John.
- Working on a peer-to-peer project. Age range considered for group is participation up to 25 years old.

On Going Project Updates

- Confessional, Sanctuary, Portico – On hold

New Construction Project

- Files sent to the Ward Jones at the Diocese Building Commission. Bishop replied back to Father Perez with a letter.
- A Zoom meeting is planned for June 18 with Father Perez, Phil King and the Commission and they will consider everything sent in and along with discussion will make the final determination about building a new church.

New Business

- Kathy Murphy asked if the council might want to consider the time of the parish council meeting so that we did not have to drive in the dark. No decision was made. More discussion at next meeting in July.
- Kathy Murphy shared a suggested Guidelines on Parish Council Policies which she, Rose Ann and Susan developed based on diocese recommendations. Members should read carefully and there will be a special council meeting in July to go over them and discuss. Input from all is encouraged.

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

Next meeting is July 10 at 7 PM. Future meetings scheduled are August 14, October 9 and December 11 at 7 PM.

Eleanor Ames, Secretary



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2026



VISION

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington will glorify God by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ through reverent worship, loving evangelization and committed charity to all.

MISSION

In communion with the universal Church, we strive to be disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Kingdom of God in both Word and Sacrament throughout our diocese, and by working together in the service of charity and mercy so that all may know the joy of the Gospel.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

REVITALIZE EVANGELIZATION AND FAITH FORMATION



We will empower parishes to foster a culture of encounter that joyfully attracts people to the Life of Christ and the beauty of his Church.

CULTIVATE AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP IN CHRIST



We will inspire and form parishioners to follow Jesus and the teachings of his Church so they actively engage in her apostolic mission.

INVIGORATE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL



We will nurture students spiritually, intellectually and humanly so they can go out into the culture and positively transform it for the glory of God.

STRENGTHEN PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE



We will build vibrant parish communities where people are welcomed and moved to engage in the sacramental and communal life of the Church.

FOSTER ONE COMMUNION OF MANY CULTURES



We will foster understanding, respect and appreciation for the different cultural expressions of Catholicism so as to live as the one Body of Christ.

DEEPEN OUR COMMITMENT TO CHARITABLE WORKS



We will proclaim the Lord's call to serve the poor so all are inspired to participate in the Works of Mercy.



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2026

STRATEGIC GOALS

REVITALIZE EVANGELIZATION AND FAITH FORMATION



- Provide best practices, resources and training in evangelization that is rooted in the Truth and joy of the Gospel
- Form disciples who articulate convincingly the sacredness of all human life and who witness to it with courage and love
- Provide approaches for parishes to increase parishioner involvement with the liturgical and pastoral life of the parish
- Use new and creative means to attract and welcome people back to the practice of the Faith
- Prepare ministry participants, leaders and staff to see their work as an opportunity for evangelization

CULTIVATE AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP IN CHRIST



- Educate and explain what discipleship in Christ is and why it is relevant to each person
- Lead parishioners to accompany others in their growth in holiness with charity and patience
- Proclaim and celebrate the reality and power of the sacramental life, especially devotion to the Eucharist
- Teach parishioners the importance of and need to deepen their spiritual lives through personal prayer
- Inspire parishioners to identify their God-given gifts to become catechists, youth leaders and volunteers

INVIGORATE CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL



- Improve formation of students in the Faith, deepen their interior lives and prepare them to witness to the Catholic Faith in today's culture
- Make Catholic schools more affordable and accessible, and develop sustainable funding models
- Develop new, engaging and relevant methods for faith formation and high school youth ministry
- Make Catholic schools, faith formation and youth ministry programs more accessible to students with special learning needs
- Attract, retain and form teachers who are passionate about and devoted to the Catholic Faith

STRENGTHEN PARISH AND FAMILY LIFE



- Encourage small groups so that youth, young adults and families can build community and relationships
- Build faith formation around the entire family to include devotions, retreats and catechesis
- Develop and communicate resources and programming for parents raising children in today's culture
- Develop enriching programming for the various stages of married and single life
- Share and adopt best practices for integrating Catholic school families into parish life

FOSTER ONE COMMUNION OF MANY CULTURES



- Improve recruiting efforts for vocations from all diocesan communities
- Make the Spanish Apostolate and Multicultural Ministries more effective for parishes and parishioners
- Celebrate ethnic richness and promote engagement across communities
- Create structured, thoughtful, continuous messaging on unity in the Church
- Increase significantly the language skills and cultural understanding of clergy and staff

DEEPEN OUR COMMITMENT TO CHARITABLE WORKS



- Form and educate parishioners on the call to serve others and to give of their resources
- Emphasize and focus on ministries to the disabled, the chronically ill, the elderly and those in crisis pregnancies
- Strengthen the partnership at each parish with Catholic Charities
- Increase assistance at parish and diocesan levels for people with food, clothing, rent and utility
- Provide more resources at the parish and diocesan level for those suffering from a range of mental health issues