St Charles Borromeo Fort Wayne

Parish Council Minutes 3-12-25

Present: Fr Tom, Fr Bobby, Dcn Rob, Dennis Redding, Stephen Jahrsdoerfer, Cheryl Prater, Cynthia Crosby, Don Clemmer, Mike O’Neil, Katie Eckrich, Jared Hoy, Matt Smith, Tony Hasselschwert

1. **Buildings** – Updates: The school window project has been complex. In order to use our portable classrooms we were quoted $13k apiece to move them and $26k to electrify for heat. Instead, we are moving one unit and eliminating the other. The project can now proceed, just two rooms at a time, during the school year. The Youth house project is progressing. The kitchen cabinets are installed, ready to put in counters and appliances. Bathrooms will be next. Work is also taking place in the basement, upgrading ceiling tiles, flooring, etc. We had received an estimate for replacing the youth house of $5 million. Our renovations will be closer to $200,000.
2. **Coffee and Donuts—**The Jan. 29 event after 8:15 Mass went well, with good numbers. We will plan to continue this as a monthly event after Lent.
3. **Miscarriage Ministry** – Tony H has brochures printed and we are ready to begin a ministry of meeting with couples and presenting them with a box containing prayer books and sentimental items.
4. **Bequest** – The large bequest received by the parish will be finalized next week. We have tithed on the amount and received and received a large stack of thank you notes. The family of the donor has been very pleased to hear about this. Fr Tom would still like to see bulk of the bequest distributed where it’s needed.
5. **Pueri Cantore Mass** 3 pm Monday – Busloads of kids will come from around the diocese on Monday to train with a professional singing coach and then celebrate Mass with bishop. This event alternates each year between Fort Wayne and South Bend.
6. **Senior meal?** -- Jama Federspiel works for senior citizen center where they cook meals; about to retire, happy to do this for St Charles. She’s used to big numbers. It would have to be when school is not in session.
7. **Safe environment – homebound ministers** are now required to have Safe Environment screening and training.
8. **Ecumenical/Interfaith visits**. Tes made contact with Vietnamese Buddhist community. She found that the facility on State Street is storage facility, not a place of worship. She sensed that the community is probably not ready to welcome a group from St. Charles to their worship center on Decatur Rd. Dennis reached out to a Spanish Congregation in the neighborhood. Their fear of outsiders is high. This is probably not a good time to ask them. Fr. Tom will reach out to Bishop Crystal at New Zion Tabernacle.
9. **Cross Catholic Outreach – Water for Life During Lent** – In an effort to focus on almsgiving during Lent, we are encouraging donations to help drill wells in remoate villages in Africa. Substantial checks are coming in for this effort.
10. **St. Anne Home, Gala event –** Parish Council members attended and enjoyed the event.Bishop gave good talk about role of seniors in life in community. Liturgy Committee members are going to attend the upcoming Catholic Charities gala.
11. **Lenten Wednesday Adoration** – Good numbers of people have been taking part in our Wednesday adoration time.
12. **40 Hours Devotion March 23-25, Fr Herb Weber** – Fr Herb has been sending his topics and is excited about visiting. We will push sign-ups for adoration hours this weekend.
13. **Adult Ed... Catholic Social Teaching, 3/13 at 7 pm** – Steve Lalor from Bishop Luers speaking tomorrow night in the Hession Center. There will be a chance for questions and discussions. This is an important area for us to learn about Catholic teachings.
14. **New membership** – We don’t meet in April, but May meeting will be discernment of new members. Will need names. Will reach out to people not discerned last time. People must indicate they are willing before our May meeting. Fr Tom will contact in advance to explain role. Traditionally have added 4 every year for 3-year cycle (but folks are allowed to stay for a fourth year, making for a larger council). We have not had trouble getting people willing to join and stay on. Following discernment in May, council is interested in having another party in June to welcome new members.

Other business:

**Parish Reconciliation service** will be Wednesday, April 9.

**Parish lending library**. We had a short discussion about the need for a parish lending library. Fr. Tom is reluctant based on experience in previous parishes: large numbers of books were donated, with the bulk of them not useful. Very few were borrowed.

Next meeting: May 14, 2025