

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting on February 18, 2016

Present: Fr. Ken, Mick Deters, Dan Beckman, Sandy Gillespie, Bernie Hartke, Tony Pals, Sharon Waldhoff, Lois Meinhart, Mike Tipton and Steve Kroeger

The meeting opened with prayer.

The following committee reports were then given:

Finance: Dan Beckman

- Reported that offertory collections were up for this quarter.
- Religious Education department and the CHWC budgets are good.
- A parishioner made the final payment for the clock repairs. This has helped make the Building and Grounds budget good.

Building and Grounds – Bernie Hartke

- The chapel repairs will be finished, men's bathroom and Kim's office will be repaired because of water damage, and the budgeted painting will be finished.
- Trees to be removed from cemetery woods are a third finished. There will also need to be more fill dirt brought in north of the cross.
- Speakers are still being taken care of.

Liturgy – Lois Meinhart

- Nothing to report

Religious Ed – Sandy Gillespie

Adult Education

- The use of the recent Mercy survey results before weekend Masses has begun.
- St. Isidore, St. Francis and St. Rose each have someone who will make their profession of faith on Holy Saturday. We also have three people who are just beginning their journey in RCIA.
- Protecting God's Children continues to be offered for all who minister in any capacity at St. Francis. Feb. 23 a session will be held at St. Rose and on April 14 at St. Francis.

High School Education

- Nothing to Report.

Grade School Education

- Grade school children participated in the Blessing of Throats and Ashes Lenten Service.
- Grade 2 children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Saturday, February 20. There are 40 children preparing for First Reconciliation and First Communion.
- Grade 6 bake sale totaled \$1,123. The proceeds were donated to Elizabeth Weidner (classmate), Assisi to Africa, Notre Dame India Mission, and Fr. Paul Habing for his Mexican outreach.
- Grade 7 students are invited to participate in the Silhouette Stations of the Cross. This will take place Friday, March 11.

Stewardship – Sharon Waldhoff

- Six new families have joined St. Francis parish.

Social Concerns –Mike Tipton

- Pleased with the continued donations through envelopes and also appreciate Sr. Ann's half of the proceeds of mission bake sales and the Christmas store project.

- Discussed possible ideas to raise awareness/ownership for Assisi to Africa by our parishioners. It was decided to encourage families, parishioners and religion classes to write a brief letter and/or send a photo to the children in Africa and Fr. Damien.
- The photo board at entrance of church will keep parishioners up-to-date.
- “Love is Our Mission – the Family Fully Alive” group session begins again during the Sunday evenings of Lent. Begins Feb. 14 & ends Mar. 20, from 6:30-7:30. Facilitated by Kate and Jacob Pruemer.
- 40 Days for Life is Feb. 10-Mar. 20.
- Broadway for Life - March 5, to benefit Family Life Center.
- Effingham County Right to Life Rummage Sale - March 16 –accept donations, sale is March 17-18.
- Life Advocacy Day at the State Capitol – Wed., April 6, 9 AM – 1:00 pm.
- Mike noted that Angie Esker does a great job with this group.

New Business

- Fr. Ken stated that it is important that all parishioners need to take Protecting God’s Children. There are many opportunities available.
- Speaker system continues to be addressed. Will have the congregation take a small survey during a couple weekend Masses to determine if and where the issues are with the sound.
- The parish council feels there needs to be more communication between all the committees of the parish.

Next parish council meeting will be Thursday, March 17.

Submitted by Sandy Gillespie