

6/25/2024 Pastoral Council Meeting

In attendance: Fr. Robert Barnell, Cindy Robinson, Karen O'Rourke, Debbie White, Dan Young, Aaron Thompson, Patrick Parris, Jordan Eblin, Katie Earley, Kate Brockman, Abby Simon, Bryan Back

Absent: Jake Kerger, Tony Forns, Teague Ridge

Special Guests: Theresa Garrett, Deacon Cole McDowell

The meeting started with prayer at 7:01 p.m.

Father Robert introduced Deacon Cole McDowell, who is a seminarian, and will be with Ascension for the summer months.

The Council approved the April minutes.

Theresa Garrett discussed next year's budget.

- The budgeted amount for collection is reduced by \$40,000 since the parish has been running \$40,000 short of last year's budget.
- The budgeted amount for tuition increased by 5%. This is based on 177 students or 130 families, and the way we charge tuition, i.e. the number of students in the family. We have 38 kindergarteners for next year.
- Last year's budget reflected the sale of the former rectory, which didn't happen. However, Robert Garbarz is moving mid-July, when the house will go up for sale. We increased the projected guestimate on the sale of the house from \$260,000 to \$280,000.
- **Total salaries are reduced from last year's budget. This is due in part to a reduction in Parish Office Staff and the loss of a junior high teacher. The staff has been reorganized to cover the loss of the junior high teacher.**
- Salaries were increased 3% as recommended by the Archdiocese.
- Benefits went down by almost \$75,000, due to reduced staff and the insurance change from Humana to Christian Brothers Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Dr. Brian Reynolds, Chancellor/Chief Administrative Officer of the Archdiocese, was able to get a better rate for the next two years with better benefits.
- This year's picnic did very well. The gross was down by about \$4,000. Final results are still pending.

Pastoral Council approved budget.

Pastor's update: Fr. Robert gave a staff update. Dawn Wright will start in July as the new music minister. Robert Garbarz and his family are moving to North Carolina to be with both of their parents. There will be a going away party for Robert after each of the masses this weekend. The teacher positions for art and first grade are filled. We still have an opening for a foreign language teacher.

Fr. Robert mentioned there is a box in the back of church for nominations for Pastoral Council at-large members. This is Cindy Robinson's last year as Parish Committee Chair. Bryan Back is leaving as School Board Chair and being replaced by Mandy Goodwin. Abby Simon is leaving as PTO Chair and is being replaced by Jordan Eblin. Katie Earley is leaving as an at-large member.

A question arose whether committee chairs should be able to vote or just the at-large members. Fr. Robert stated he was okay with them voting. Sometimes they may need to abstain if the vote concerns their committee. Fr. Robert will determine at a later date the number needed for a quorum.

Another question is whether the committee members need to attend all of the meetings. This will be decided at a later time.

IGiveCatholic is coming up in November. Some suggestions coming in are for 3M film on classroom windows, a new playground surface, and astro turf grass on the muddy areas around the playground. Committee leaders were asked to send any suggestions for the August meeting.

A question was asked about whether there would be Vacation Bible School this year. Fr. Robert said last year we didn't have it since Tasha Gordon left in May and Eddie Jarboe, the new Director of Youth Formation, didn't start until October. Currently Eddie is spending an hour each Friday with the children in our Summer Camp Program in catechesis. There was a discussion as to why we weren't having it available to non-campers. Fr. Robert will ask Eddie if he can do anything this year and to put it on his calendar for next year.

Department Committee Reports

Building and Grounds: Tony Forns e-mailed his list of projects that are scheduled or in work.

Kate Brockman stated she had to update her Safe Environment Training. She stated it was all online and the process was really simple. Safe Environment Training needs to be updated every five years.

Picnic update: There will be a follow-up meeting on July 1 to review of the parish feedback and talk about next year's picnic.

Athletics: No update on gym rental policy. Athletics meeting is cancelled until early July.

Pastoral: Patrick Parris stated that, with Dawn Wright starting in July, she will start handling funerals. The tabernacle will be removed from Louisville East Nursing Home since it is no longer a Catholic institution, but we will still be serving them on a monthly basis.

Patrick stated he would be transitioning to Director of Stewardship in July and will still be in charge of communications.

RCIA Formation: We have one Catechumen. Her husband has been a candidate for Confirmation and Eucharist and he will receive the sacraments on July 6 during the Saturday Vigil Mass. Her formation will continue. There has been interest from some other people.

Adult Formation Series has 13-15 people on Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings to learn about the faith.

Patrick said he was working with the PTO Golf Scramble Event, and trying to develop a new way to sign-ups for events. He is trying to get away from Signup Genius and all of the advertisements.

PTO: Jordan stated the end of the year tailgate was fun and went as expected.

The used uniform sales made \$522 which was a 15% increase over last year. Another sale is planned during the winter conferences.

Pickle Ball supplies are ordered. Postings have been made on Social Media and in Ascension's Week in Faith. The gym floor will be marked off for play with special tape. It is being setup for 32 players. Currently 21 people have signed up. It is open to all ages.

Jordan is still finalizing Oktoberfest. More information to follow. The PTO wants to ask if the Men's Club will help with the food. Jordan was asking for suggestions of people to contact. Chris Bates name was suggested as a contact.

The Golf Scramble is August 2 at the Oxmoor Country Club.

School Board: Bryan stated the actual enrollment is 179 children with 38 in kindergarten. In addition, there are 16-18 children in the three year old program and 18 children in the four year old program.

Worship Committee: Karen said there wasn't a meeting in June. No updates.

Our next meetings are August 27 and September 24

Fr. Robert ended the meeting with a prayer and prayer requests.