

Church of the Good Shepherd

Parish Pastoral Council Minutes – October 9, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr. Glenn Whitman; Ed Grober; DJ Puskar; Mike Bartolo; Kathy Bauer; Brian Biggins; Jim Bird; Pat Chovan; Mark Colella; Pat Miller; Deb Sokolak; Leah Ann Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS: Lauren DeFelice (Religious Ed) - absent.

OPENING PRAYER: said by all members.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: the August 14th, 2023, meeting minutes were approved.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: the election of new members was conducted at all weekend Masses the weekend of September 16-17, 2023. Five parishioners agreed to run for Council. Brian Biggins, DJ Puskar and Leah Ann Williams were elected to three-year terms.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Officers for the next twelve months will be:

- President: Mark Colella
- Vice President: DJ Puskar
- Secretary: Mike Bartolo

Community Food Warehouse Presentation to Council by Bailey Shepard & Gary Salatino:

- Ms. Shepard had handouts and commented that there is a critical shortage in the West Middlesex area for a food pantry to satisfy the elderly and others in need. She is hoping that our parish might host future food pantry events. Mr. Salatino said that the pop-up food pantry recently organized at the Church was very successful and that we could continue with pop-ups or more regular food pantry events. Gary agreed to be the point person to coordinate the project and to visit other established food pantries to understand details of how others do it.

Liturgy:

- The Parish offered a Liturgical Ministry Fair, seeking new Ministry assistance, in the Gathering Space before and after the weekend Masses on September 30 and October 1. Twenty-five parishioners signed up to assist in the areas of Ushers (10); Greeters (4); Eucharistic Ministers (5); Lectors (4) and Altar Servers (2). A report by Deb Sokolak is attached to the minutes.
- Fr. Glenn mentioned that there is a need to increase the number of volunteers for adult Altar Servers at Funeral Masses.

FINANCE: comments submitted by Fr. Glenn:

- Nothing to report.
- It was mentioned that a number of parishioners were pleased to see a letter from Fr. Glenn thanking those members who increased their weekly donations to cover additional expenses.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: report submitted in absentia by Lauren DeFelice.

- Report submitted by Lauren attached. There currently are 66 students enrolled in CCD.
- A kindergarten class (not required) is added this school year. Three students are enrolled.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: includes Brian Biggins and Pat Miller.

- Pat Miller and Fr. Glenn met with Police Chief Jason Newton to discuss strategies for the congregation to vacate the Church building quickly in an emergency. The Chief plans to coordinate educating all greeters and ushers with effective practices to employ in an emergency. We will announce that a drill will take place in advance and then prepare the congregation how to leave the Church building safely and quickly, putting this plan into action.

SOCIAL: includes Jim Bird, Pat Chovan, Deb Sokolak and Leah Ann Williams.

- The Parish Picnic was Sunday, Sept. 10th, attended by close to 200 parishioners. The Picnic Committee included Kathy Bauer, Deb Sokolak and Leah Ann Williams and numerous parishioners. There were children's games; slushy and popcorn stations; bingo and a Chinese auction and quilt/television raffle sponsored by the Altar Rosary Society. Teen Shepherds assisted with children's games. Emergency Services provided a fire truck, ambulance and police car for children and adult viewing. A report by Kathy Bauer is attached to the minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: none to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Parish Directory: Fr. Glenn mentioned that some late entries to the book, (commentary and additional photos) may have been compromised by a computer virus and this data will need to be re-entered and saved to file. The plan is to submit the file to Minuteman Press by mid-October. Once books are proofed by the committee, Minuteman will print the booklets.
- After discussion, it was decided that the Annual Charity Dinner will be postponed until 2024.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We are looking at the possibility of constructing a Shelter/Picnic Pavilion on the Parish campus grounds, perhaps on the northwest side of the parking lot area closest to the meeting room and garage structure, so that it would be closer to the kitchen and garbage receptacle bin. In addition, Police patrols would be more frequent, while they are driving around the School District campus grounds. Fr. Glenn will need to discuss with the School District Superintendent to see if they have any interest in sharing the costs for future track and sporting events. These plans are only preliminary at this time and costs and building design will need to be formalized.
- The Fall Wine & Cheese event is scheduled for Saturday, 11.4.2023 after the 6:00 PM Mass. The Social Committee will be meeting to discuss menu and event setup and teardown.
- Community Food Warehouse - it was decided to look further into assisting the CFW with distributing food to local elderly and those marginalized. Concerns for food storage places; logistics; timing of food pantry events (pop-ups; monthly; weekly; on demand) and manpower requirements will need to be formalized and brought back to Council for discussion and review.

ITEMS TOO LATE FOR AGENDA:

- It was suggested adding more social events to the Parish calendar, as people naturally are drawn to food events. Ideas included soup dinners (carry-outs); cabbage rolls dinners (for eat in and/or carry-out); and publishing a new cookbook (last book was issued in 2002).
- Kathy Bauer and Ed Grober were thanked for their service to Council, in excess of eight years. Both are active parishioners and will continue to participate in future Parish needs.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, December 12th, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Social Hall Meeting Room.

CLOSING PRAYER: said by all members and guests.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

- 11.4.2023: Fall Wine & Cheese Event
- 12.12.2023: December PPC meeting
- 2.18.2024 or 2.25.2024 (tentative): Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Respectfully submitted by Mike Bartolo – Parish Council Secretary