

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Opening Prayer: Fr. Joe welcomed all and led us in prayer.

Opening Comments: There were approximately sixty people at our annual parish meeting. Fr. Joe explained the agenda format and asked that we add time for open discussion before the closing prayer.

Annual Financial Report: Mike Quinn explained that the main functions of the Finance Committee are to develop financial reports, keep an eye on expenditures, and create a budget. In view of the fact that we had several capital expenditures this year, we still only ended up with a deficit of \$2,055. Of our 247 households, 132 contribute over \$100 per year. Although our household count is down, those donating are contributing more. We could use some new parishioners. The economy is strong so our investment income is good. We also have a preservation fund that was set up several years ago. All the monies in this fund today come from parishioners who remembered St. John the Evangelist in their wills or trusts. However, gifts can be made to this preservation fund at any time.

Pastoral Council Report: Mike Calawerts, our new pastoral council chair, explained that because he just took on this position in June, he is still learning the responsibilities involved in his role. He shared a little about himself and why he joined our parish. He was passing by our church and saw that we had a 5:30 PM Saturday Liturgy. He attended this liturgy and liked the liturgy as well as the welcome he received. He feels that one of our goals should be to look at ways to grow our parish numbers.

Building & Grounds Report: Fr. Joe introduced our new Buildings Director, Mike Klatt. Steve Lepak spoke of the expenses incurred over the past year. The rectory was renovated with new flooring and walls refurbished and repainted. There were repairs needed to the boiler system and sound system. Mending the elevator cost \$4,600. The repair of the broken rectory sewer pipe cost \$10,000. The exterior frames of our large church windows were painted. The windows in the Ricklin room were replaced. In the next several weeks, there will be new flooring done in the Ricklin room. Soon, the portico in the rectory will be repainted. Steve also mentioned that because of all the rain we've had, water came into the Mazzuchelli Hall and also in the boiler room. The duct work needs to be redone so the rain drains away from our church building.

Deaf Community Report: Jean Laux, Deaf Liaison, shared that a generous donor contributed to a fundraiser the deaf community held to help pay for registration and hotel costs for the International Catholic Deaf Conference in Milwaukee. This was held on April 27-30 and six members of the deaf community attended. On July 7, around fifty people from five different states attended a retreat called “Playing on God’s Team”. Fr. Christopher Klusman from the archdiocese of Milwaukee directed the retreat. A cancer patient from his Milwaukee Catholic Deaf Community was too sick to attend the retreat. A fundraiser was held for this woman and approximately \$175 was collected from those in attendance. The former Executive Director of the National Catholic Office for the Deaf in Maryland was present at the July 7 retreat and was very impressed on how everything went so smoothly. Jean said that was a real compliment coming from her.

5:30 Mass Time: Fr. Joe shared that for right now he will continue celebrating the 5:30 Liturgy at St. John’s. Because of the low numbers who attend this liturgy, he feels a lack of engagement. He would like full active participation at Mass. Besides our physical presence, our spiritual presence is all important. Our commitment to active participation and a welcoming attitude will draw others to our parish. We need to find out why people are leaving. We need to reach out to people and find ways to advertise our Mass times. It is the latest English Saturday Mass in our area so we might also attract non-parishioners. One way we could grow our parish is to have socials after our Masses. We should become more aware of new faces at liturgies and make them feel welcome. We could introduce new members during liturgies or get their permission to have their name published on a “new members” banner. It was mentioned that St. John’s, throughout the years, has given up a lot because of our linkage to the Cathedral of the Green Bay Diocese. Things like losing some of our holyday liturgies and having less convenient Mass times. Some felt that a 4:00 liturgy would be better attended. Some wanted to bring back the midnight Christmas liturgy. Maria Hinnendael came up with a great idea for growing our parish...digital marketing. She knows of St. Norbert college students who need to do internships that could help with using social media to invite people to join our parish. Maria would also be willing to help. She will meet with Fr. Joe to work out the details.

2019 Diocesan Capital Campaign: Fr. Joe informed us that in the fall of 2019 we will be involved in a diocesan wide capital campaign. Our target is \$200,000. Half of this money will be given to our parish. Fr. Joe is asking parishioners to start thinking about ways to utilize these funds. He thought one possibility would be to give our sanctuary a face lift. We could also use a portion of these funds to repair our organ.

Open Discussion: Fr. Joe asked if anyone has other questions, concerns, or comments. Someone asked when the parish pictorial booklet would be available. Fr. Joe said we are waiting for a few more people to send in their own pictures. Only approximately twenty percent of our parishioners had their picture taken by Life Touch. There was a suggestion made that the pastoral council agenda and minutes be posted on our website. Also, Jerry DeGroot asked if anyone in attendance would like to lead the rosary before our liturgies.

Attachments to Agenda: The following sheets of information were attached to the agenda page:

- financial statements
- a letter from Connie DeMeuse, our Faith Formation Coordinator, with information on The 2017-2018 Faith Formation Year
- a letter from Jean Laux, our Deaf Community Liaison, listing their 2017-18 events
- a listing of Deacon Tom Mahoney's pastoral visits and liturgical and sacramental efforts

Closing Prayer: Fr. Joe concluded our meeting with a closing prayer and blessing.