



St. Sebastian Parish Council

Meeting Minutes

3/21/2024

In attendance: Fr. Valencheck, Susan, Sue, Terry, Chris, Jim, Barb, Hannah, Dave, Will
Excused: Ana, Linda, David

7:00PM - 7:05PM

Opening Prayer – Chris Slattery

7:05PM - 7:20PM

Father's Update

- Michelle Huber (Head of Marketing) plans to retire this Summer.
- Lynn Stewart is retiring in May and Matt Andrusky (who fills in for Lynn) has accepted a full time job and will be leaving the parish as well. Matt will stay on until after Easter. The new organist, Dave, will hire someone as his backup once he comes on board.
- The church, Z-Hall and rectory plastering is completed. Work on the slate walk is ongoing and was slowed down due to wet weather.
- St. Victor, Guardian Angels, St. Hilary and St. Sebastian parishes are grouped together to build up Catholic Schools. These schools will be able to advertise at each other's schools in the effort of promotion.
- Ryan Arto is leaving in less than one month as his internship is ending.
- The diocese contacted Fr. Valencheck with the following information: one priest will be ordained in 2024 with 7 more in 2025 and 7 in 2026. In the meantime, Fr. Bozek may need to be transferred to another parish.

7:20PM - 7:40PM

New Business

7:40PM - 8:00PM

Old Business

- Peter Kreeft - the renowned author and speaker will be speaking at St. Sebastian on Saturday, April 6th from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The event is sponsored by the West Side Catholic Couples. To date, 300 people have registered to attend.
- Nominations Committee Report - The subcommittee has interviewed 6 candidates with 5 more to be interviewed on March 23rd. 4 candidates and 1 alternate will be asked to join the Parish Council. The Parish Council will then vote for approval on the nominees.
- Evangelization Plan update - The subcommittee met last Tuesday. The topic of the Alpha Program was discussed. The Alpha Program is intended for people not involved in the church a lot or outside the church, but anyone can go through this program. It is a series of programs (typically 11) exploring the Christian faith. This program is supported by the Diocese. The Subcommittee visited St. Ambrose parish last Thursday to attend the second to last Alpha Program session (How do we talk to the Lord and what do we say).

The Alpha Program is structured so that small groups, with a leader, meet for all sessions so that members become comfortable with their group and are more apt to open up about their faith and what it means to them. The group shares a meal and watches a video. The group leader presents discussion points about the video. A list of ministries is given to the group members and they have the opportunity to circle the ministries in which they are interested (as it pertains to that parish).

The next steps for the subcommittee are to obtain answers to remaining questions and then a proposal will be brought to the Parish Council as a whole for the April meeting. A vote on the Evangelization Plan will occur at the April meeting.

- International Pilgrim Virgin Statue planning/volunteers July, 2024 - Parish Council requests to be given and assignment for this event rather than be a part of the planning process.
- Spectacular auction donation from Parish Council - members donated various wine and liquor bottles to be used as an auction item or items at April's Spectacular.

8:00PM - 8:25PM

Pulse of the Parish/Commission Reports

8:25PM – 8:30PM

Compline (Chris Slattery)

Next Meeting:

Thursday April 25, 2024 7:00PM – 8:30PM

St. Sebastian Rectory

Prayer, Compline, Refreshments – David Newyear

Evangelization SubCommittee Meetings: Tuesdays 3/19, 4/2, 4/16 in Forest Lodge, 7:00pm

Members: Keith Johnson, Jim Lundy, Sue Sassano, David Newyear, Christina Mastromatteo, Ed Pfeiffer, Tiffany Kenny, Susan Clark, Michelle Huber (communications/marketing).