



# SAINT LAWRENCE PARISH

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## **St. Lawrence Church Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 24, 2017**

**Members present:** Fr. Joe DeCosta, Carole Pleines, Yale Gordon, Melissa Ferrara, Donna Lebert, Jackie Bousquet, John Mc Manus, Julia Duffield, Bob DeMarini, Bill Zeidler, Lou Hosking,

**Others:** Al Karg, Gina Offner, Margaret Whiteman

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm with a welcome from Yale Gordon and a prayer by Father Joe. Yale passed around an attendance sheet. All present previously read and reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting sent via email. Carole Pleines made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Lou Hosking seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Old Business:**

\*Strawberry festival: Yale Gordon recognized Gina Offner as co-chair of the festival. The committee is trying to come up with new ideas to refresh the festival. Gina will ask the Congregational Church if volunteers will be able to park across the street. Festival will start at 9 am this year. Masses will be at 6 am and 5 pm and those involved in the liturgy will be informed of changes. New food item: pulled pork. Yale Gordon showed the flyers that have been created for the auction and those present were asked to take one (some) and distribute. Melissa Ferrara will email the flyer to civic committee heads in town. Carole Pleines motioned for the report to be approved and Donna Lebert seconded.

### **Ministry Committee Reports:**

\***Healing Ministry:** Carole Pleines reported on the **Conversations about Health Care Decisions: Speaking from the Mind, Body and Spirit** which was very successful and well attended. Carole handed out a report from the last meeting. (see attached). Alica Lucas hopes to become our nursing minister. A lock box for confidential information has been purchased as well as medical instruments. A ministry fair date is tentatively set for September 10 and Carole will ask the healing ministry group if they

are able to chair this event. Carole suggests we need to confirm the heads of all pillars for this event. The healing ministry is looking to offer a program on stroke prevention and a hunger banquet in the future. Melissa Ferrara reported on the mental health expo on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Yale Gordon asked for a motion to accept the healing ministry report. Lou Hosking made a motion and Jackie Bousquet seconded.

**\*Service and Plant:** Yale reported that the specs of the quotes were reviewed and it was determined that they were too varied. Yale will send a request for a re-quote to companies with more specific specs. Sidewalk was completed and thanks to all who donated their time to complete. Donna Lebert motioned and Carole Pleines seconded for the report to be approved as presented.

**\*CCD...** Diana Blair was unable to attend and no report was provided.

**\*TIA:** (See report attached) Melissa Ferrara summarized the TIA activities over the past 2 months. Yale Gordon asked for a motion to accept the TIA report. Donna Lebert motioned and Bob DeMarini seconded.

**Liturgy:** John Balchus is ill. Minutes from their meeting are attached. Approval of the minutes will take place at next meeting.

**Finance:** Margaret Whiteman reported on behalf of Dan O'Sullivan. She reported that finances are currently even. Unknowns are strawberry festival, CHWC, and CCD registration. End of year totals are expected to break even unless there are unexpected expenses. Revenue from collections are down about \$8,000. Bob Demarini motioned and Donna Lebert seconded for the report to be accepted.

**\*Website/Communications:** Fr. Joe reported that the homilies will possibly be added to the website at some point in the near future. The March council minutes were not added to the website. Melissa Ferrara will send them directly to Bob Vissers and Al Karg as well.

**Creative Ideas for a Vibrant Church and Evangelization** (formerly called Rebuilding Parish Seminar)

**\* 'Fallen Away Catholics':** Fr Joe reported that the parishioner cards are still being reviewed/worked on. His phone will be activated soon. Greeting cards look wonderful.

**\*Yale Gordon** brought up that fact that the pillar ministry list is outdated. Fr. Joe passed out a handout that was re-created from one done years ago and the group reviewed and discussed. Melissa Ferrara asked that Birthright

be removed as it is an independent interdenominational organization separate from St. Lawrence. She also suggested that individuals' names be listed under the ministries they are in charge of so that it does not look like the pillar leader is in charge of every ministry. Bill asked that bereavement be moved to service. Al Karg mentioned that liturgy should be listed under faith formation, add evangelization, and add communications to the website ministry. Bill Zeidler suggested evangelization become its own pillar. Al Karg has spoken to several parishes with successful ministry fairs and reported on some of their ideas. Gina Offner offered that she feels many people are looking for a strong sense of community from their church and is the reason why some Catholics are attending other Christian churches. Bill Zeidler and John McManus brought up points about reaching younger families and the importance of enhancing our sense of community (possibly a blessing of the athletes Mass and/or sponsoring a sports team for example). Julia Duffield supported the idea as well and suggested larger community service projects for parishioners throughout the year. It was decided that this topic is too important to try to limit it to parish council meetings and that a special meeting inviting all parishioners should be scheduled.

**Stewardship Committee:** no report

**New Business:** none

**Suggestion Box:**

Diaper changing station: it will be purchased.

**Miscellaneous:**

Jackie Bousquet requested that Fr Joe review with parishioners the proper timing when walking up to the altar to receive the Eucharist. "Parishioners should be waiting for Jesus and not Jesus waiting for parishioners". Donna Lebert suggested the lector or cantor announce when the procession should start. It will be both announced and mentioned in the bulletin. Deacon Bob will be informed of the announcement.

Next meeting will be Thursday July 27, 2017 from 7-8:30 pm.

A motion was made by Yale Gordon to close the meeting. It closed at 8:42 pm with a prayer led by Fr. Joe.

Respectfully submitted by  
Melissa Ferrara  
Secretary