

Finance Committee Minutes
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Joliet
September 17, 2013

In Attendance: Mimi Hernandez (Finance Committee President), Glen Gummess (At Large), Bob Vergo, Father Pete Jankowski (*Ex Officio*), Cynthia Vaca (At Large), Alicia Tocwish (*Ex Officio/Business Manager*).

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

II. Reports

A. Business Manager

From May, the group discussed two issues that needed to be addressed concerning the parish's financial situation: the Sunday Collection and Religious Education. Subcommittees were formed to deal with each, one successfully and one not so much.

Concerning the Parish Collection, the group agreed to try the approach advocated by *The Bannon Associates* and Bill Bannon (a parishioner from St. Pat's). The system is used diocesan-wide to great success. A discussion ensued as to whether this system would work at St. Patrick's, as the drop in collection was due more to the demographic shift than anything else. As in previous years, Fr. Pete will preach at the Masses about stewardship for three weeks in October.

Concerning Religious Education, our efforts have produced a much better result. Due to the significant increase in enrollment (Fr. Pete came to the parish in 2006 when the enrollment in RE was just over a hundred; now it is over 300!), the Finance Committee strategically worked with Julie Dillenburg to find ways to balance the RE budget for 2012-2013. The committee set up an "Early Registration" Process and was able to procure a Credit Card machine at no cost

to the parish. By doing so, these and other efforts towards reaching the target number for RE was reached before the start of the RE year in September. A big thanks goes out to Cindy Vaca, Mimi Hernandez and Julie Dillenburg for working together on this project.

The parish now enters the second year in the contract with Catholic Charities and *Head Start*. The group unanimously agreed that this program has been a blessing to the parish, as not only has it educated the 150 children from our area who would otherwise not be able to afford to coming to preschool but also brings in significant money to the parish to offset our parish bills. Alicia believes that our parish will be able to keep to its budget for the year and “keep us in the black,” so to speak.

B. Pastor’s Report

Wally Martin was kind enough to donate his services (and some heavy construction equipment) to level off a few concrete pads in our sidewalk so that they would be level. This was a major undertaking for which we were all grateful, especially in regards to keeping everyone safe at the parish.

Great thanks to Rafael Hernandez and a few of his assistants who did some significant ceiling/roof work at the parish. What we estimated to be a \$10,000 job was only done for the cost of materials (\$2,000). That and our masonry volunteers (community service) has saved the parish a great deal of money for repairs.

Dividends have already been paid by lining the major grassy areas of the property with bricks (the salt from the winter no longer kills our grass, as it now lands on the brick lining we installed on each side of the sidewalk. We are also grateful to the Chavez family, who at no cost beautified the parish by constructing planters around all of our trees and cleaned up all of our landscaping for the 175th Anniversary. The members of Finance agreed that the parish looked beautiful for the celebration and that the parish grounds presented itself well during the celebration with Bishop Conlon.

The group agreed to next meet in 2014 to start up talks concerning the budget for 2014-2015.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.
Respectfully submitted by Alicia Tocwish