

Approved Parish Council Minutes

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Joliet

April 22, 2014

In Attendance: Mike Harvey (Representative of Men's Club and Parish Council President), Mimi Hernandez (Spanish Ministry & Finance Committee Chair), Kurt Kambic (At Large), Lynn Michels (Worship & CCW), Father Pete Jankowski (*Ex Officio*), Deacon Darrell Kelsey (*Ex Officio*), Paul Kolodziej (*Ex Officio*), Deacon Chuck Peterson (*Ex Officio*), Alicia Tocwish (*Ex Officio*) and Councilman Jim McFarland (guest)

Absent: Adriana Hernandez (Service) & Rosario Gurrola (RE/ Adult Formation)

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. Opening Prayer led by Fr. Pete

I. Approval of Last Month's Minutes

II. Reports

- A. **Finance.** The Committee will approve and submit the 2014-2015 Budget by June 1, 2014, per diocesan guidelines. The Parish was audited for the year 2012 by the diocese. Small areas need to be addressed but overall the report is very good (much better than the previous one!). Jim Wright from the diocese's Catholic Mutual Insurance inspected the property and stated that the facilities have not looked any better. The 2014 May Newsletter will continue to focus on Estate Planning. We seem to be running in the black for fiscal year 2013-2014, so this is very good.
- B. **Food Pantry.** The Mobil Food Pantry will come to the parish on April 28, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; about 175 families are projected to come for food. In addition, another food truck is scheduled for June 1, 2014, sponsored by BMO Harris Bank.
- C. **Hispanic Ministry.** Now that Easter has passed, the Círculo is preparing for their Spring Day of Reflection, as well as the Diocesan Círculo event to be held at St. Patrick's.

- D. **Religious Education.** The Confirmation Liturgy took place on April 27th. Twenty-Five students from St. Patrick's were confirmed as well as fifteen students from St. Joe's in Rockdale. Mimi, Julie and Fr. Pete will meet next month to discuss the game plan on collecting outstanding tuition for 2013-2014 and tuition for 2014-2015, based on the recent diocesan financial audit of the program.
- E. **Worship.** Holy Week was a great experience at the parish. As usual, Jim & Julie did a wonderful job preparing the church for the upcoming events and so many people commented on how beautiful the church looked. The bus tour around the city of Holy Thursday was a highlight, as members of the parish took it upon themselves to offer prayers during each stop of the seven-parish journey. The intersection of the Teen Walk of the Cross Group and the Hispanic Stations was another highlight. Attendance was good, possibly a little lower than the previous year. Fr. Pete called the police, asking them not to ticket cars on the streets during these type of events at the parish.
- F. **Pro-Life.** No Report.
- G. **Men's Club.** The Panera Bread pick-up has been extended to two days a week. The Harvey & Lockwood Family collect the bread on Thursdays; the Chavez Family collects the bread on Fridays. When there is an overflow of bread, it is taken to the shelter. Different locks were discussed to be put on Pantry refrigerators.
- H. **CCW.** CCW held two meetings recently, chaired by Mary Maher. The focus of these "brainstorming" meetings was to reevaluate the CCW at St. Patrick's due to the demographic shift at the parish. As opposed to the prior configuration of the CCW, many of the parish's women no longer are home-based and the ethnicity among the core women at the parish has changed. The CCW are still in need of officers. The ladies discussed the idea of holding "circle" meetings based on the interest of the group, having the group meet weekly or monthly to invest in specific project or prayer opportunities.
- I. **Teen Ministry.** Deacon Darrell reports that the Teen Group will meet two more times before taking a summer hiatus. The teens will continue to sing one Saturday a month during the summer. The Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) will be held on June 27, 2014. The teens will sponsor monthly car washes in the summer as fundraisers.

J. **SVDP.** No Report

K. **55 Club.** Lynn Michels reported that the last 55 Club Meeting saw over seventy seniors in attendance at a “55 Club Expo” at St. Patrick’s. Each table on display related to senior needs and was well-organized. The next meeting would be their annual Day of Reflection, which will be reduced to just the afternoon this year per the request of the group.

L. **Kurt Kambic.** Kurt expressed his gratitude for all the support he has received personally from the parish and wishes to continue supporting the parish in return as well.

III. **New Business**

The sole item of New Business concerned the manner in which we recognize volunteers at the parish, especially at our Appreciation Mass & Dinner in May. Chair Mike Harvey suggested that we return back to recognizing individuals for their gift of service by offering some type of recognition, similar to what we used to do in presenting “The Dominican Award” at the former Shamrock Gala. Many ideas ensued in this discussion, at the end of which the council agreed that the Appreciation Mass should recognize at least one member of *every* committee at the parish as a representative of each committee as a whole. The invitation to honor an individual would be extended to all groups at the parish, big and small. In addition, the pastor would select “Pastor’s Choices” at St. Pat’s, recognizing those at the parish who might not fall within a specific group but whose service to the parish should be recognized nevertheless. The group would continue to discuss exactly *what* would be given to the recipients at the Mass. The key was that we constantly recognize those who serve the parish each year by this particular means.

IV. **Pastor’s Report**

1. Fr. Pete asked the group if we should pursue Councilman McFarland’s idea of a “meet and greet” for the community in the summer at St. Pat’s. The group agreed that because of the need to plan better, this idea would be shelved for 2014.
2. The Diocesan Financial Audit for 2014 recommended that the parish start paying off its loan from the diocese. The parish agreed to pay \$500 a month off the loan, with the understanding that estate planning will satisfy paying off the debt in the future, with the grace of God on our side.

3. We received a donation from The Parks Foundation and Catholic Charities to repave the parking lot, as requested by the Diocesan Insurance Agent during his 2014 audit of the parish. Work on the lot will be completed in June. Fr. Pete also received a \$6,000 gift to install the remaining twenty-one windows in the rectory that were not previously installed. The parish installed \$1,200 in carpeting for one of the guest rooms because...
4. In May, Fr. Mike Pennock will be residing at St. Pat's for six months, as he continues to recuperate from heart surgery and his bout with pneumonia from last year. The parish staff have done whatever possible to make the living arrangements in the guest room as amenable as possible for Fr. Mike as he comes to St. Pat's for the summer. Fr. Mike will leave St. Pat's in October for warmer climate, per the instructions of his doctor. Fr. Pete expressed his gratitude to the diocese and to Fr. Mike for this opportunity to help and for Fr. Mike in assisting the parish whenever possible.
5. Because of the success of the twenty-four hours of confessions that Fr. Pete held on April 5-6, Fr. Pete proposed to hear confessions on the feast of John Vianney (August 4) from 8:00 a.m. until midnight, keeping with the spirit of the saint. This idea seemed to be well-received.
6. The Legion of Mary will begin home visitations in May to welcome our neighbors to visit St. Patrick' Church. Fr. Pete wished to thank the Legion publically for their wonderful volunteerism at the parish.

Deacon Darrell ended the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The Next Parish Council (the final one of 2013-2014) would be held at Aurelio's Pizzeria on May 27th, as is customary for the group.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Peter G. Jankowski