

MINUTES ST. EDMUND CAMPION PARISH COUNCIL, SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Lori Brunette, President.

Those present were: Fr. John Gwozdz, Deacon Bill Bartlett, Lori Brunette, Sheila DeLaura, Alma Dulude, Leo Forte, Marie Gallo-Garabedian, Henry Genga, Barbara Hanson, Jean Nowik, Laraine Olinatz, Joan Perrone, Stephen Roczynski, Elizabeth Shaker, Maria Sousa, Jim Sundin, Anne Marie Volowski, Kathleen Welch, and Mary Whaples.

The Opening Prayer was said by Lori Brunette

Anne Marie Voloski made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Barbara Hanson seconded it to accept **The Minutes of the August 14, 2018 meeting** to vote in the Officers for the coming year. The minutes were approved and filed.

Kathleen Welch introduced herself. She indicated that the opening of the school year went very well. She indicated that the school would be taking over the Hands and Hearts project this year. She also mentioned that she was always ready to answer any questions that the Parish Council may have.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Fr. John...An exterminator was hired and work completed to for the Blessed Sacrament rectory in preparation for its sale. The roof had to be completely replaced at the cost of \$14,895. They are in the hopes that the rectory can be sold for \$175,000.

Fr. John also reminded the group that the Catholic Church will be holding a Synod and the Archbishop is requesting that he recommend 3-4 to attend a preparatory meeting on November 27, location to be determined. The Archbishop needs to have some names submitted as soon as possible.

The Archbishop also indicated that in light of the scandals that have been happening in the church, he has issued a decree that he wants every parish to hold a one hour silent adoration every week. Two people must be present at each adoration. Fr. John is open to suggestions as to day and time. In addition, St. Michael's prayer will be said after each Mass. We are already reciting this prayer at the end of the daily Mass.

Fr. John also said that Edie Gieras requested that we hold a parish rosary rally...a gathering of people outside the church to say the rosary and other prayers on Saturday, Oct. 13 at noon. He has given permission to hold the rally and has put Edie in charge of this event. It will probably be in the Marian Garden.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Lori spoke on her vision for the 2018-2019 year.

Lori has many things on her vision list; but realizes that we might have to begin by just starting with a few things:

Fund raising for the Parish...To help with the costs for Father's vision of continued beautification of St. Edmund Campion.

Fr. John would like to carpet the main church and sanctuary of St. Christopher Church. Father has seen some of the improvements done at St. Paul's in Glastonbury, such as carpeting and pew refinishing, and would like to take on a similar project. Vestibules would continue to have area rugs. He would also like to have pews refinished. Many pews, especially the front ones, are quite damaged. There is a sample of a refinished pew at the back of the church. Lori pointed out that some kneelers are broken, and probably need refinishing and repairing as well. Father John would also like to refinish the doors and the sides of the church, and get a spotlight and pictures of the saints for the confessionals.

Several members indicated that using the railings at the right rear of the sanctuary is difficult, as the landing at the top of these stairs is behind the chairs where the priest and deacon sit. Father will take a look at the area.

Publicity...Lori would like to get St Edmund Campion's name out to the public more on social media and in the newspapers. One thing might be the setting up of a Facebook page for St. Edmund Campion Parish.

Hospitality: Lori would like to see hospitality at ALL Masses –not just Children's Liturgy and soup & stations. It seems that other than Soup and Stations hospitality happens only after the 10:30 Mass.

Youth: Lori would like to get the children and young adults more active in their church community. We used to have a peer ministry group...maybe reinstitute that...How about CYO? Need to know how far Kristi goes. Is there a program set up for after the students make their Confirmation? She seems to have a program going, but it is not publicized.

Increase Parishioners: Lori would like to have parish members reach out and personally invite individuals who have left the church to come back to us. Perhaps we might get a list from Bonnie.

Parishes Across the Deanery: Lori would like to contact Parish Council Presidents within our Deanery to share ideas and thoughts.

Communicate better with the parish. Lori recently put out an article in the bulletin called the Parish Council Chronicle including information about the Parish Council. Perhaps put an item in the bulletin once a month to try to get people more involved.

Continue to tie the school and religious education together. Lori would like us to make a better effort to tie the school and religious education in the Parish in a better way.

Barbara Hanson asked if St. Chris religious education meets with the REDs in the deanery. It was suggested that we hold a pot luck dinner, or some other mutually interesting project. Fr. John reminded the group that the Deanery is quite a large group.

Mary Whaples asked if all parishes have Parish Councils. Perhaps 6 churches who do might meet with our Parish Council to share ideas. Fr. Robert Kwiatkowski at St. Peter Claver might be contacted, as he is head of the Deanery.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Decorating - No Report

Bereavement –

Jean Nowik reported that the Annual Memorial Mass for the deceased members of the St. Edmund Campion Parish will be held on November 4, 2018.

She is looking for helpers for the day before to decorate the hall, bakers, and donation of food for the reception.

Children of the St. Christopher School and Religious Education will be coloring dragonflies

People are asked to submit loved one's names that have died within the past year for the bulletin.

Lori has a list of helpers for the Mass. You can invite anyone to the Mass. The Prayer Shawl Committee will have some small knitted items like crosses available for the Mass.

Alma stated that the first row of candles always burns out very quickly, perhaps from the air from the door opening and closing.

Confirmation: Kristi had no report

Fr. John stated that confirmation is on Sat. Sept. 16 at 11:00 a.m. at the cathedral. We have 20 candidates and we will join with St. John church in Middlebury.

Extraordinary Ministers:

Sheila Delaura reported that we do not have enough EM's to cover all the Masses; and one EM has been eliminated in order to alleviate some of the scheduling issues. The 4:00 Mass is the only Mass that is not experiencing a shortage of EM's.

She stated that they are actively searching for people who would make a good EM. She asked that if anyone knows of someone they think would be a good candidate to please forward their name to her or Barbara Hanson and they would forward the name to Fr.

John to proceed with the processing of them to become part of this ministry and take part in the training sessions for incoming EM's. A discussion was held about the best way to handle switching Masses, such as using e-mail.

Lori stated that no shows are the biggest problem, as they do not try to contact a substitute for them.

Library Report: Joan Perrone gave a background of how the library came to be located in the St. Christopher Church Hall. She indicated that she is still logging books in, and hopes to have that work done soon. When that has been completed, a complete listing of the books will be listed with their location within the library for thereaders' convenience. The group thanked her for all the work she has done on the library.

Social Club:

Joan Perrone gave a background about the club. It currently has 135 paid members, and the dues are \$15 per calendar year. The club meets on the third Monday of the month, January through June at 1:00 p.m. (except for January and March where this is food involved), in August there is a picnic at noon, September through November meetings are at 1:00 pm., and in December, there is a Christmas Party held at an outside venue. The programs vary from informational speakers to excellent entertainment, and there are some sponsored travel trips.

Greeters:

Anne Marie Volowski stated that there will be an announcement in the bulletin on the weekend of September 23rd, and there will be a Greeters Meeting on Monday, September 17th at 7:00 p.m.at St. Christopher's Church hall.

Anne Marie will speak at all of the Masses on the weekend of September 16-17th In addition, she will have a one-on-one meeting with anyone on the Greeters Ministry who needs one. We currently have 5-6 greeters.

Ann Marie will be contacting the Holy Family Retreat House regarding a proposed retreat and an announcement will be made at the weekend Masses once a date has been set

Anne Marie will be checking with the Confirmation candidates suggesting that they do greeter time as theirserviceproject. All greeters get their own badges, Liz Shaker volunteered to be a greeter.Anne Marie said that she tries to spend some one-on-one-time periodically with the greeters, and they really appreciate that personal touch.

Religious Education K-8:

Maria Sousa – Eventually, one PC member will chair the hospitality meeting and coordinate with Maria for her functions.

Maria stated that a few more electrical outlets are needed in the choir loft. In addition, something needs to be done, such a piece of Plexiglas placed on the ledgeso that papers don't fall off the ledge, especially when the choir is up there. This will be looked into.

Buildings and Grounds-Stephen Roczynski(Oral Report):

Lori thanked Peter Marra for all of the work he has done around Our Lady of Peace, and Stephen Roczynski and Jim Sundin for all the work that they have done around both the campuses. Many limbs had fallen around the OLOP campus, and the current landscaper seemed to ignore them. So Stephen asked Peter take care of them, and he did the work for no charge.

Steve has sent out to bid to replace the mechanical systems at OLOP for the hot water heat and cooling, and air conditioning. He said that he needs to wrap up the confessionals with switches and recess cans to wrap that up. He is still working on a price to get a new fire alarm system for the St. Christopher campus. Now he is going to work with the Town of East Hartford to get a system that is connected to phone lines in the church. Both fire alarm panels will be connected directly to the fire department. Steve said that they are still engraving bricks for the Marian Garden. The plan is to engrave in the fall and install shortly after. E.g. engrave in Sept. and install in Oct. They will do some in the spring if they have at least 25 bricks.

The hall roof at St. Christopher still needs to be done, and they are putting out for bid and this project has been put on the short-list. They are getting a bid for the snow removal and landscaping at OLP. He does not think that the landscaping is up to par. So he is opening it up to other landscapers. He would hope that the landscaper would go above and beyond, such as trimming the bushes, doing needed fertilization mulch, etc. Right now, the one that does the lawn care uses our equipment, and stores his equipment in the other two garages. He also washes with our water.we will offer one bay for the bidder for storage and ask for a reduction of fee for the storage of his equipment. Steve doesn't know if we have a contract with the current lawn care person now. The Town has ordinances on the height of your grass, so have to be careful of "natural areas." Have not had the Town's approval yet for the mechanical drawings. We have to remove the wall where the mechanicals are, as it was put up after the mechanicals were put in, and we cannot remove the mechanicals. We hope get started on it in early October.

Building and Grounds (Stephen's Written Report :

- . The St. Christopher Church former confessionals have been refitted to be a statue display area. A contractor demoed and infilled the areas, Amped Up Electric will be installing the lights and switches soon.
- . Engineering package for the Our Lady of Peace Campus is being worked on as of 9-5-18 and he expects to receive the package by Thursday, 9-6-18 and send it out to get bids very soon.
- . Amped Up Electric is working on the fire alarm panel pricing and hoping to have an install date for the month of September. We are getting our own box for the fire alarm that will be direct to the fire department, eliminating a separate phone line.

- . Peter Marra has removed some debris from Our Lady of Peace Campus at no cost to the church! Thank you, PETER!!
 - . Jim and Stephen are working on clearing Our Lady of Peace Campus rectory for Father to sort through and decide what to do with the furniture.
 - . Stephen is going to work on getting prices to wash and fix the gutters at Our Lady of Peace rectory.
 - . We had Beacon Mechanical out to charge the condenser at the OLOP Rectory due to no cooling.
- .Fr. John has been heading up the cleaning out and sale of the Blessed Sacrament rectory. He has gotten one quote from a contractor to replace the roof of the rectory for the sale to proceed. Thank you, Father.
- . I do have a few other projects I would like to discuss about doing to continue with our capital improvements to our buildings. I would also like to hear any ideas you may have/or like to see going on at our campuses. Please feel free to E-mail or call me with ideas or come to me at the meeting.

School Outreach-Marie Gallo-Garabedian:

In the spring of the previous school year, standardized testing that the kids took was very impressive. Last year's 4th, 6th, and 7th grades achieved an overall score at least one grade level above their current grade; and two grade levels above in English language arts. 44% of the graduates will be attending Catholic high school this fall. Mary Poirier was awarded the Paula Muscillo Huston Scholarship for academic excellence, given to an incoming 8th grade student annually.

Lori expressed congratulations on those test scores. Marie stated that the kids were doing great and Kathleen Welch is doing a terrific job. And congratulations to Mary Poirier. Also for the balanced budget. This is two years in a row with a balanced budget. Maria stated that Kathleen Welch is an amazing lady, she really is. She gives her whole heart and soul to the school.

Marie stated that the opening day of school went very well. Maria Gallo-Garabedian reported that the children were welcomed back on Tuesday, August 28, 2018. It was a hot day; but they were so excited to be back! The parental community was also welcomed back with the annual bagel bash hosted by the school board.

The kids are very excited about the new Spanish program. They are using a computer based Rosetta Stone program with headsets and microphones. Dr. Deacon Tangway Has a lot of exciting things in store for the kids with his science programs.

Marie stated that there were a lot of new ideas coming up. Every year, the school has an ice cream social at the beginning of the year. This year it was held on Friday, September 7th, they coupled it with a color run...a kind of obstacle course, of sorts, where the kids and adult run through, and they get squirted all over with some color. The kids just couldn't get enough of this color. There were about 60 kids and some adults running the

obstacle course. It was a huge turnout. We had about 150 people at this ice cream social. The kids had a ball.

Marie reminded everyone that the parish picnic will be on Sunday, September 23rd from noon till 3:00 p.m. on the OLOP canvas. There will be DJ, free pony rides for the kids, a free balloon artist, a bounce house, and other activities, hot dogs, hamburgers, possible sausage and peppers, corn on the cob, chips, drinks, water, and Daisy Ice Truck here. All tickets are \$1, except the corn, chips and water will translate to about 50 cents apiece.

The only thing we will be charging for is the food, at a nominal fee. What we are looking for is fellowship and participation. We would like to make sure that someone has a camera so we can put pics up on social media. So tell everyone you know to join us. The music and friendship is free. Help is needed on Saturday morning September 22nd to help set up the tents. The rest of the setup will be on Sunday morning starting around 8:00 a.m. Tickets will be on sale shortly after the 10:30 Mass.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Report submission due date and importance... The due date for the reports to be sent to Lori is set at one week prior to the meeting so people can have time to read them, and copies made. We need to have their information so that we can find if the committees need any assistance.

As per the By-Laws, members need to be a liaison or Chair a Committee. Lori asked for members to select to be members or Chairpersons for Hospitality, Fund Raising, Publicity, and St. Edmund Campion Award, as they are still open. She asked members to think what they want to be on and let her know.

We do want to receive reports from the following committees, as we have yet to receive a report from them: Prayer Shawl, Prayer Line, Choirs, Homebound, Knights of Columbus?, Pro-Life, and Small Community, Bible Camp, Lectors.

Lori again asked those members who have not yet selected a committee to chair or become a member of, to think about what they would like to do, and get back to her. We are especially in need of chairpersons, as a committee cannot function without them.

The subject of a Ministry Fair will be tabled till the next meeting.

Members Concerns:

Lori received a phone call from a parishioner. She left her a voice mail stating that the music at the 10:30 Mass is too long and we sing too many verses. The woman had left her work phone number and Lori tried, but was unable to get back to her. Fr. stated that there were reasons why we do several verses. Since the woman was unreachable, the issue was considered closed.

Peter has contracted to have work done on both right and left entrances to St. Christopher Church. He is supposed to start it sometime this month. At a given point we will need to close one side of the church entrances to do the repairs on the other, and vice versa. This would leave at least one entrance open while the work is being done on the side.

Copies of the By-Laws will be sent electronically, with a few exceptions, and extra copies will be available at the next meeting.

The Closing Prayer was led by Lori.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Perrone,
Parish Council Secretary