

Parish Council Minutes  
3/21/23

Members Present:

Peter Moles                      DJ Grant  
Mary Roulston                  Fran Foley

Council Advisors:

Jerry Ball                          Sharon Racht

Pastoral Staff

Father Severine                  Deacon Mike                  Donna Hurn  
Janice Corcoran                  Bobby Decker                  Deacon Dan

Other Attendees

Nora O' Dea

The meeting began at 7:00 with an opening prayer by Father Severine.

Pastoral Report

Father Severine shared his gratitude to the survey committee for their devotion given to administering the survey and tallying the results. The parish's lenten journey has brought valuable experiences to the parishioners, including Bible Study, Adoration, Holy Moments, Stations of the Cross, and Fish Fry. His hope is that parishioners will utilize the offerings more. Father talked about us listening to parishioners in social settings including Coffee/Donut hour and Fish Fry to hear about how people are feeling, listening to concerns and fears.

Ministry Reports

**School:** The Virtue of the Month is Self Discipline. Weekly Adoration is held Thursday's in the School Chapel. Thank you to the Colabufo and Metello families for their donation of a new Monstrance. Stations of the Cross are held each Friday in the Chapel. The school has hosted many events in March including a Movie Night, Gertrude Hawk Candy Sale, Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, PTA meeting, PTA bake sale at the Fish Fry to benefit the Eagles Fund, Red Ribbon Week celebration, Dance Recital, and Sports Banquet. April plans include a Monthly Service Project for the Bluepath Service Dogs, April Antics Break program, PTA Bingo rescheduled from earlier snow day, and NYS ELA testing. Nora shared that Annie Jr will be presented on May 11 and 12 in the school gymnasium. There are 50 students participating in the production who are working so hard and they are thankful for the support from teachers and families.

**Faith Formation:** Donna reported that that 28 students made their First Penance, who were escorted by their parents and godparents. DJ Grant led Stations of the Cross on 3/12/23 for the Faith Formation and Confirmation classes. Confirmation students prepared dinner for the Lyncourt Fire Dept in early March. Tenebrae will

be held on April 7, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. First Communion will be held May 7, 2023 at the 9:15 Mass with a reception held afterward. The May Crowning will be held on May 14, 2023 with a Mother's Day Plant Sale being held to raise funds for the Nazareth Farm trip. One student has signed up for Nazareth Farm, Donna is checking with Nazareth Farm to see if ninth grade students who are interested can attend (the policy is that students must be confirmed to attend). A suggestion was made to host a Ministry Fair after Mass for parishioners to talk with ministers about programs and volunteer opportunities.

### Parish Discussions

**Parish Facebook Page:** Nora O' Dea, our Facebook administrator, spoke with the Council on the importance of the page to share information with our parishioners. The Facebook communication is important to the Diocese who monitors our page to ensure that we are current with communicating with parishioners. Nora shared her needs for the page including providing her on fundraisers including write-ups and pictures (graphics pull well). She needs pictures sent to her in peps or jpegs. Insights on the FB page: 73.8% of the followers are women, the bulk of followers are in the 45-54 or 65+ age groups. Nora will be setting up a parish Instagram page, also. The largest pulls are school events and the Fish Fry. Please check the page often and like posts to help promote our page. Facebook posts can be sent to Nora at [nmodea@aol.com](mailto:nmodea@aol.com).

**World Mission:** Deacon Dan works in our Diocese's Mission Office and shared Mission information. He works to promote and catalog Diocesan response to World Mission Sunday which is the second to last weekend in October. World Mission donations are shared with places in the world that are suffering whereby the Catholic Church provides for basic fundamental needs of the people. The donations to World Mission Sunday have been declining since 2001 while the need of the people is extremely great. In 2022, Blessed Sacrament contributed \$1400. which places us in the top 20% of parishes in the diocese which indicates that our parish has a missionary mentality. Deacon Dan asked us to be conscious and positive about missionary presentations.

**Parish Engagement:** The comments from the parish survey were shared with the Council. The comments are 8 pages in length, indicating the parishioners want their voices to be heard. The theme of the survey was gratitude to the Staff for all that they do for our parish and Mass worship. Appreciation of the Faith Formation program, importance of our parish school, the Music Ministry, Fish Fry, Adoration, Bible Study, and bulletin communications.

Areas to improve upon and review: Homilies that are prepared, timely, and inspirational. More events for parishioners, especially recognizing volunteers. The funeral procedures and planning for the Mass. A consistent dress code for Ushers and Eucharistic Ministers. A desire for a later Mass time.

Five parishioners indicated that they would like to be contacted, Mary Roulston will reach out to those parishioners.

A discussion was held after the sharing of the survey of some offerings from other parishes. St Vincent's has a Senior Group, Father will reach out to them about events for both parishes. Senior events was a large area of request, also. Donna shared that St Daniel's would like to work together with us in planning events. Mary shared that the Engagement subcommittee will be meeting to plan more social events. A discussion was held about the Vicariate moving from concept to action. Are Vicariate meetings being planned? Father Severine will reach out to Father Kurgan about the direction of the vicariate.

Right to Life Oratory Contest - DJ shared that BS will be hosting the contest for 11/12 graders on April 23, 2023. Each presenter will share a 7-8 minute presentation. The event will be in the Andrea Polcaro Room at 1:00 p.m.

Annual Calendar - Father would like to see past events that were meaningful to parishioners return to the parish. Deacon Mike suggested that next year's dates be put on the calendar soon to allow for planning. The discussion will be held at an upcoming Council on how to best implement a calendar for the school and parish to have all information scheduled and shared consistently.

Upcoming Events: The planning is taking place for a Volunteer Breakfast in June and a Parish Picnic in August.

#### Closing

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Deacon Mike shared a Closing Prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Roulston