

2016- 2017 Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes
St. Christopher Parish
2017

Meeting
January 10,

In attendance: Sue Barker, Jim Kinney, Deb LaBerge, Nikki Schuh, Liz Frias, Ryan Zakrzewski, Ryan Hartberg, , Mark Heyde - Chair, Fr. William Vernon - Pastor,

1. **Opening Prayer**, 6:35 pm – Fr. William
2. **Minutes** of December 13, 2016: with minor amendments, Sue made a motion to accept the December minutes and Nikki 2nd. Minutes accepted. Sue has agreed to take minutes in February and March for absent secretary, Deb.

3. **Scholarships for Catholic Education:** Fr. Vernon, Liz Frias --This has been a goal for St. Christopher Parish for several years. The main purpose is to support Catholic Education and secondly, maintain parish membership by helping our families with a tuition break which they would get as a member of a parish with a Catholic school. The four Catholic Schools which are included in our future program are St. Peter's in Ashton, St. Ambrose Academy, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Francis Xavier. More information needs to be collected such as the number of parish members attending a Catholic school, setting up a Catholic Education Fund, and the amount of scholarships to be given. The plan is moving forward with Fr. Vernon talking to Treasurer Patty, Ryan Z. and Liz working on a information poster for the Parish to be presented during Catholic Education Week, January 29th - February 4th. and Liz getting more information from Catholic schools about their scholarship programs.

4. Communication plan status: Ryan H. no update

5. **Meeting with Parish Finance Council:** Mark H. will talk with Patty and then put out a doodle pole with possible dates. Each group will have a short meeting, 6:30 - 7, and then meet together for a potluck social.

6. **Pastor's Report:** Fr. William, with very little break over the Christmas Season and New Years holidays, is well and pushing on.

1) He said to be sure and promote "The Lamb's Supper", our latest book give away which beautifully shows the vision of Christ and how he gave us the Mass.

2) The spaghetti dinner is January 16, which is a fund raiser for our young people attending Love Begins Here, and mission trips.

3) Eucharistic Adoration on First Friday went well, there were several people there for the Benediction.

4) Fr. received a phone call from Fr. Norbert from St. Hermine's Home. The girls wanted to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!. They were happy to get the cards and candy canes from the St. Christopher Parish children.

5) Pictures for the Parish Directory went well, almost 200 of the 800 parish families

participated. The sitting time may be extended.

2016- 2017 Parish Pastoral Council
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6 Commission and committee liaisons reports:

a) **Worship and Spiritual Life (Liturgy)**- Fr. William reported that Christmas went well, 1200 people attended Mass, the books, "Resisting Happiness" have all been taken, the decorations were beautiful and the trees stayed fresh as they kept in cold storage till used in the church, rather than used for Advent by Candlelight earlier in the month.

b) **Religious Education & Formation:** Ryan H. no report

c) **Parish Life:** Couples Night out will be on February 17th.
Mike O'Brien is the potential speaker.
Catholic Multicultural Center's Culinary Creations will be catering.
PLC social on Dec 20th was well attended.

d) **Stewardship:** Fr. William reported that the replenishing the savings campaign is going well. Patty and Fern have put a display on a table at the entrance of church to inform the Parish.
Jim suggested that a name for authorization should be added to the request for money.

e) **Human Concerns:** Sue reported that the last week in January will be the march for life at the Capitol at Washington DC.

f) **Vocations:** Fr. William asked to keep Drew Olson in our prayers as he continues his studies in Rome toward the priesthood.

- 1) Fr. William is meeting again with a young man, Tom, concerning vocations. Keep him in our prayers as well.
- 2) Fr. William would like to have a Sister in a traditional habit come talk to the girls in the religious ed program. He is coordinating that with Laurie. Nuns in habit generate more vocations than those in plain clothes.

Jim asked about having a deacon in our parish and Fr. said that would be the Bishop's decision and that several priests have asked the Bishop to restart the deaconate program in our Diocese. Currently, the closest study is in LaCrosse. If a

man in our parish was ordained a deacon, he would most likely stay in our parish.

g. **Building & Grounds** : Jim reported that there wasn't a recent meeting, but the Ganser Company contacted Bob Shunk about overseeing the St. William roof repair pro bono. Fr. William said that he is meeting Thursday with Bob and will set up a meeting with the Building & Grounds soon after.

2016- 2017 Parish Pastoral Council
St. Christopher Parish

Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2017

h. **CCW** : Sue reported that the CCW

1) had some concerns with the handicap access doors not being open during most of day because there were no cameras covering them. The CCW would be willing to pay for cameras with the stipulation that those doors would be open the same hours as the main entrance. Fr. William said that the wiring for the cameras is not easily accessible, major electrical work may be needed. A big concern too is increased vandalism with more than one door open. The vandalism diminished greatly when Fr. William came and had the locks fixed and only one door open during the day, except at weekend Masses when all doors were open. Fr. will discuss this with the police. Mark H. suggested that the extra \$800 given for the rectory driveway repair could be used to buy the cameras.

2) Another concern for the CCW was the poor lighting at the main entrance at night. The outside lights in the covered area give out very little light. Fr. William said the bulbs had been changed but made little difference. The birds nesting on the lights cause problems as well. He will look into solar lights.

i **Knights of Columbus**: Mark R. reported via email that the Knights helped serve the Saturday January 7 lunch at the BPNN
Up coming activities include:

- 1) changing the council name from St. Andrew's Council #11155 to Monsignor Delbert Schmelzer Council # 11155.
- 2) Sell raffle tickets
- 3) Pancake Breakfast is changed from January 29 to February 26, proceeds to be donated to St. Christopher's replenishing the savings fund.
- 4) Planning a Marriage Prayer weekend for February 12

j. **Respite Care Team**: Ryan Z. had a meeting 12/8, continue to serve multiple partners, have an upcoming social, and Laura Z. has taken over hours tracking.

k. St. Vincent de Paul Society: Mark R. via email:

- 1) January 21 social at Bill and Deb LaBerge's house
- 2) Starting January 26, Cathy Schneider will lead the book study "Evicted" on Thursdays at 6:30 pm. Sign-ups are at the back of church.
- 3) Hosting a "Recycle the Warmth" blanket drive the weekend of January 28/29 with donation boxes at the back of church

l. Technology: Mark H.

- 1) Continuing to work through a draft style guide
- 2) Discussion about website improvements

2016- 2017 Parish Pastoral Council
St. Christopher Parish

Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2017

- 3) Welcomed Nathaniel Turner as a new committee member
- 4) investigating visitor access to WiFi

m. Adult Faith Team: Deb

- 1) First Friday Eucharistic Vigils went well with all hours filled. We will have a permanent person for each hour each month who will be responsible for getting a replacement if they cannot make it along with the multiple sign ups.
- 2) Sign up for "The Lamb's Supper" book discussion will begin January 14-15. The study starts January 23rd and 25th and runs six weeks.
- 3) A three week video called "The Gospel of John" is planned to begin March 20th & 23rd.

n. St. Hermine's Home: Fr. William/ Nikki/Ryan Z.

- 1) There are new pictures of the girls to display
- 2) Fr. William is formulating questions for Fr. Norbert to answer which would bring to light the disabled elderly as well as the girls who live at the home.
- 3) Along with a new picture board there will be albums of the past pictures so the Parish can see the progress of our sister parish, St. Hermine's Home for the Destitute.
- 4) Fr. Norbert sent a group picture of the girls. Some wallet size prints were made for our parishioners who wished to have a copy.

o. Other:

7. Next meeting will be February 14 @ 6:30 pm

Liz and Ryan Z. will provide snacks, Thank you Nikki for this meeting's wonderful foods.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Vernon
Minutes submitted by Deb

Parking lot issues:

1. Catholic Education Scholarships
2. Communication box at church- Ryan H.