

**Minutes of Our Lady of Mercy Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 26th, 2024 6:30 PM in Notre Dame Church Hall**

Attendees: 17

Sal Merenda	Eleanor Landry	Karen Whalen
Bobbie Sicignano	Ray Arrigoni	Sue Ingraham
Debbie Spitzmacher	Carol Banack	Dave Laducer
Diana Cathcart	Alda Fernandes	Gail Mullaney
Tom Capega	Gary Sawicki	Pat Sicignano
Carrie Reny	Nadine Ernst	(visitor)

- I. **Call to Order:** Sal called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- II. **Opening Prayer:** Sal offered the Our Father & a Hail Mary prayers.
- III. **Minutes:** Minutes of February 20th were accepted as written.
- IV. **Reports:**
 - 1) **Finance Report:** Gary said the next Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for April 9th. (Addendum- meeting was changed to April 10th).
 - Offertory collections were down early in the year but have now shown some improvement. It remains not enough to make up for the deficit.
 - There has been no response yet received to our letter stating we would not be sending in the requested payment for the class action suit until Supreme Court makes its ruling and determines if the Diocese can use a channeling injunction to go forward to find a settlement.
 - 2) **Faith Formation:** Diana said there was nothing new to report
 - 3) **John Paul School:** Sue I. reported the next meeting will be held on May 1st. There will be 3-4 meetings scheduled during the year. Enrollment is good and they are running out of space.
 - 4) **Property Management:**
 - A. Notre Dame: Ray Arrigoni reported:
 - a. 3 diseased trees that were deemed necessary to cut down would be removed in a few weeks.
 - b. Septic tank utilized by Rectory has to be replaced
 - B. Saint Colman:
 - a. Gravel sidewalk between SC Church parking lot and school is being constructed
 - b. Tom Capega reported that Earthlight has installed all the LED lights and it is expected to show a considerable savings in electric bill.
 - c. 2 Oak Trees near rear entrance to parking lot, were cut down (close to a pole)
 - d. There were no leaks after the last storm with considerable wind and rain.

- 5) Care & Share: Sandy sent an email report to say the last 2 receptions held were in excess of 100 attendees. It was very successful with good food, good people and good volunteers.
- 6) Ladies Guild: Diana reported:
 - a. The Easter basket raffle profited \$600.00
 - b. Ladies Tea is scheduled for April 20th at St. Colman. Tickets are on sale now.
 - c. Ladies' Guild will be selling T-Shirts and Polo shirts with the OLM Logo beginning on April 27th until May 19th.
- 7) Knights of Columbus: Ray Arrigoni reported
 - a. St. Patrick's day dinner served 135 meals
 - b. It was decided they would not be renewing the subscription to APP: FORMED as it did not seem to be utilized enough by the Parish
 - c. They purchased a new American Flag for the front of ND Church
 - d. He said the knights would be available to help at the Parish Picnic in June.
- 8) Flower Angels:
 - a. Cheryl said her volunteers would be decorating SC on Thursday 3/28 at 9:30 AM
 - b. Carol B. said ND will decorate on Saturday Morning 3/30
- 9) Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors: Nadine & Karen
 - a. There are 2 new Eucharistic Ministers who will primarily be used as substitutes at this time. Reviewed with volunteers the duties, responsibilities and details of this ministry. They are always looking for new volunteers.
 - b. Nadine currently has 4 volunteers serving as lectors on a rotating basis. Volunteers must commit to minimally 1 time per month. A 6-month schedule is sent out in advance.
 - c. Father Jan does the training. Written instructions are posted. Lectionary book with notes is helpful. Volunteers should arrive 20 minutes before Mass and assure Father they are here as scheduled. Each priest may revise duties as he chooses.
 - d. A question was asked as to whether a Eucharistic Minister can serve at other churches. Nadine said the EM is commissioned by a priest and they can offer their services in another church.
- 10) Youth Group: Carrie Reny said they are planning a fun game night. They have 2 new young people. They hope to set a more regular schedule like 1st Friday night of the month. They thought BINGO would be fun for the group.
- 11) Outreach to St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.
 - a. OLM Parish provided 370 lbs. of food to the amazing Grace food pantry
 - b. Grant was received and the money received by Amazing Grace will be used to provide a walk-in cooler accessible from inside the building.
 - c. About 100 shoppers / day use the Food Pantry.
 - d. Volunteers make 376 backpack lunches each week for children grades K-5 which contain fruit, drinks, milk, juice, chewy granola bars
 - e. Middletown looking to fund some of the cost
 - f. Fund Raising Gala planned for May 23rd- \$95/pp

12) Fund Raisers & Social Events:

- a. **Tag Sale-** Garage is open for donations. May 1st is first Tag Sale. Carol said she would write up a piece for “Feature of the Month” insertion into the Parish Bulletin. Volunteers are needed.
 - b. **Durham Fair:** application is being filled out for submission
 - c. **Pancake Breakfasts:** Free will offerings and donations have made it financially possible to continue to present these each month. Faith formation children help in volunteering.
 - d. **Ladies Guild Tea** – propose to erect tent in the SC Hall to improve the ambiance of the event. Plan 5 tables seating 8 guests at each.
 - e. **Parish Picnic:** Mark your calendars for June 9th at Peckham Park. We will honor the 30th anniversary of Fr. Jan’s ordination to the Priesthood and the 50th anniversary of Ordination for Father Bill.
 - f. **Lenten Soup Suppers** were well received and held every Friday evening before Stations of the Cross. Ray Arrigoni did 1st week supper of Pizza.
- 13) **Parish Booklet review:** Eleanor Landers, after having reviewed the booklet, had several good suggestions. She & Diana will mark up a sample copy with suggestions. There should links to get more information and who to contact. This should be on the Parish website. Updates would the not require re-printing whenever change is appropriate.
- 14) **New Business:** Planning reception for Alex Pandolfi who will be ordained to the Priesthood on June 29th. He will do his first Mass on Sunday, June 30th. A reception will be planned for that day.
- 15) **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbie Sicignano, Co-Chair Parish Council