

St. Francis Xavier  
Parish Council Meeting  
June 13, 2023

**Members Present:** Father Dale Cieslik, Louis Leppert, Nancy Collett, Jim Ernspiker, Joey Followay, Keith Meyer, Matt O'Connor, Paula Silliman, Chris Williams

**Members Absent:** Alexandra Rogers, Ed Scott

**Others Present:** Helen Hagan

Meeting opened with prayer.

**Approval of 2023-24 Parish Budget**

Helen Hagan and Chris Williams asked for questions, concerns, or comments regarding the draft of the budget that was distributed at last month's meeting. There were no concerns.

Lou Leppert moved that the budget be approved as written. All were in favor. The budget was approved as written for 2023-24.

Father Dale thanked Chris and Helen for their hard work with the parish finances.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Lou Leppert directed a review of the May, 2023 minutes. Chris Williams moved the minutes to be approved as written; Matt O'Connor seconded; all in favor. Minutes were approved as written.

**Pastor's Report**

The Parish Office will be closed on June 19 in observance of Juneteenth and July 4 in observance of Independence Day, and September 4 for Labor Day. The office will be open on Monday July 3.

June 21 is Priests' Moving Day. Priests in the Archdiocese will be moving to their new placements on that day.

Upcoming Nursing Home Masses:  
June 29 at 1:30 pm at Sanders Ridge  
July 27 at 1:30 pm at Green Meadows  
August 31 at 1:30 pm at Sanders Ridge  
September 14 at 1:30 pm at Green Meadows

The Lay Ecclesial Ministry Assembly is July 10-13 at St. Meinrad Seminary. Paula Silliman will attend.

The next Parish Staff Meeting is August 10 at 3:00 pm.

Upcoming Staff Birthdays:

June 22 - Deacon Earl

July 8 - Lauren Battcher

July 13 - Deacon Gerry

September 8 - Paula Silliman

Deacon Jubilees are in August. Deacon Gerry Mattingly will celebrate 17 years on August 26 and Deacon Early Baker will celebrate 3 years on August 29.

Father Dale's other duties include:

Priests' Annual Assembly at St. Meinrad on June 5-8

June 20 - 21 and June 29 - July 1 - away

St. Meinrad Annual Reunion July 20 - Aug. 1

Trip to Ireland and England September 20 - October 7. (Fr. Bob Stuempel and Fr. Bob Ray will substitute during that time.)

Father Dale reported that the parish is looking for a full-time Facilities person as Bobby Grace will step down to part-time. There are three interviews scheduled for that position this week.

### **Old Business**

The Pat French Scholarship was awarded in May. Because of the investment of the original funds for the scholarship, its amount continues to increase.

The 2023 SummerFest was a success this past week. Over 400 meals were sold. The committee will meet in the upcoming week to assess the overall profit and decide how to move forward in planning for 2024.

### **New Business**

Lou Leppert reported on the results of our parish council new member selection. Those chosen for a 3-year term, which will expire in 2026, are:

James Underwood and Gerry Gonzalez

In addition, Sandy Clark was selected to fill the vacancy for a 2-year term, which will expire in 2025. Lisa Reed was selected as alternate, which expires in 2024.

Lou thanked Jim Ernspeker and Alexandra Rogers, coming off the council, who served an extra year due to Covid in 2020.

Father Dale reported on the national program, "I Give Catholic," which calls on people to give back to their parishes beyond regular stewardship. Archbishop Shelton has participated in this program in the past and feels that it bolstered participating parishes. Parish staff members are

signed up to learn more about it and discern whether we will join that program in the future. Father Dale will report more at the September Parish Council Meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Administration**

Chris Williams reiterated that Bobby Grace is stepping down to a part-time position in Facilities, so there is a new opening for a full-time position, for which three applicants have applied.

Helen and Marda went to a training for new accounting software, to which the Archdiocese will transition in July.

We are still taking bids and making decisions on the signage for our campus.

The Finance Committee voted to approve upgrades to the Parish Hall, including upgrades to the counter/cabinets and the electrical system. Repair/activity will begin soon.

Fire Alarm integration work will begin in July. This will give us one monitoring bill as opposed to multiple, which will save some money.

HVAC system replacements are coming soon. Bids are coming in now for that.

The Religious Education Building is being upgraded to LED lighting when the new full-time position is hired.

Due to the hard freeze in the early part of the year, some landscaping will need to be replaced this fall.

James Underwood and Pat Mattingly have offered to do some cemetery rehab work to seed for grass this fall.

Window tinting work in the Xavier Center and the Parish Hall has been completed, which will also save money on the electric bill.

### **Formation**

Paula Silliman reported the following:

Last month, there were 4 babies baptized, and one is scheduled for baptism this week.

30 people attended the EME training to give reminders about presenting the chalice at mass.

We have two new daily Sacristans and one new weekend Sacristan.

There are 76 children registered for Vacation Bible School next week.

We have one person still working on Christian initiation, which will likely happen in September.

We have four people about to start in the upcoming RCIA program.

### **Parish Life**

Lou Leppert stated that the Blanket Ministry made a profit of over \$1,000 off the raffle of their three quilts at SummerFest.

### **Stewardship**

Father Dale reported that the committee is working through the Census right now and reducing the number of members in our Parish significantly.,

### **Worship**

Joey Followay reported that May 23 was the committee's last meeting of the year. Next year, they will meet every other month in hopes of bolstering their attendance.

Joey announced that we have one new Acolyte, Matt O'Connor.

### **Other Discussion**

Father Dale reflected on the reception of the chalice last weekend. He was pleasantly surprised at people's desire and is considering increasing it to four chalices, but that will require more Eucharistic ministers. At this time, we need more Eucharistic ministers and more Acolytes in the parish.

The meeting closed in prayer.

**The next Parish Council Meeting is September 12, 2023 at 6:45 pm.**

Minutes submitted by Dana Steinmetz, Pastoral Council Secretary