

St. Petronille Church

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

1. Call to Order: The regular minutes of the St. Petronille Parish Council called to order at 7:08pm
2. Opening Prayer: Fr. Milota
3. Attendance: Present: Joe Dougherty—President, Kimberly Meinhart—Vice President, Molly Hoerster—Secretary, Rich Cullotta, (Christian Service), Eileen Buccola (Religious Education), Joe Dougherty (Worship), Tom Kane (Finance), Bob Solak (at large), Victor Trinkus (at large), Fr. Thomas Milota—Pastor; Absent: Kevin Moffitt (at large), Robert Van Witzenburg (School Board), Klovirt Alnar (Sudanese Community), Fr. Les—Parochial Vicar
4. Parishioner Participation: None
5. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Motion to approve January 16, 2024 minutes, with suggested changes, by Rich, 2nd by Kimberly, and all in favor
6. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve February 20, 2024 agenda by Bob, 2nd by Rich, and all in favor
7. Commission Reports
 - a. **Christian Service** (Rich Cullotta reported). Highlights from January 10 meeting include:
 - **GE Walk-in-Ministry** - a 15% in clients through October 2023 over the same period in 2022; a 39% increase in total services gas, car repairs, Aldi food certificates, and utility assistance
 - **Ministry of Care** - Five new Ministers will be trained in February; the minister that lives in Brookdale is retiring from the Ministry and a replacement is needed.
 - **PADS** - Through generous donations through groups and corporations, PADS has been distributing coats
 - **SVDP** - Several requests for rent; a few individuals asked for food and gas gift cards; one family requested two beds (family graduated from Pads and moved into an apartment)
 - **Bridge Communities** - Bridge received 17 Section 8 vouchers to assist clients with rent. Pads has 65 families on the waiting list with only 16 of those families with

cars. Cars are required for entry into the program. Bridge needs car donations. 76% of clients do not fall back into homelessness. 82% stay with their career. Bridge has 154 apartments in Glen Ellyn.

- **ESSE** - Desire to re-brand the ministry to include individuals with early onset of Alzheimers. Giving days are from May 1 to 3. Glen Ellyn site has about 14 clients, Aurora is growing while Wheaton site lost individuals due to early death or health issues. Looking for 5-gallon buckets to encourage physical activity
 - **MC** - New email now connected to Parish. Change and restructuring of leadership. Creating a Mary's Closet "Procedures/Calendar" binder.
 - **Choose Life** - Sponsoring Mother's Day donut Sunday with proceeds going to Caring Network. Working with the Youth Ministry for the Illinois March for Life on April 17 in Springfield. Considering re-branding with a message of Fairness, Liberty, and Caring. This last point spurred some conversation and concern among council members, and Father Milota urged caution in any sort of re-naming that would stray from the current naming protocol of the UCCSB (and, therefore, the Diocese of Joliet). Father commented that a return to the name of Respect Life would be in keeping
 - **Food Pantry** - Outside flag is drawing in families who drive by. There are new refugee families. Need fresh fruits and vegetables.
 - **New ministries** - Bereavement (Seasons of Hope) and St. Martha's Guild – sew linens for Mass. Seeking leaders for these new Ministries.
- b. **St. Josephine Bakhita Community** (Klovirt Alnar absent). Highlights of recent activity include:
- Klovirt's brother, Fr. Albino, was here from Sudan and offered Masses.
 - Father is here for a month to assist Father Milota with sacraments and catechesis
- c. **Finance** (Tom Kane presented): No meetings since last Parish Council meeting
- Parish is doing pretty well. A little behind budget overall but ahead of last year.
 - Sunday offertory is slightly behind budget but ahead of actuals from last year by \$23K.
 - Within the school, salaries are over budget by about \$100K for bonuses, driven by \$151K of school bonuses.
 - Meeting scheduled on March 7, which marks the beginning of budgeting process
- d. **Worship** (Joseph Dougherty reported): Highlights from February 20 meeting include: .
- Discussion of upcoming liturgical planning for Palm Sunday and Holy Triduum

- Holy Thursday — Rehearsal for Mass of the Lord's Supper will be on Thursday, March 28th at 6pm in the church, followed by Mass at 7pm; Tenebrae at 11:30pm - 12am
- Easter Sunday
 - Masses at 7:30am (church), 9:30am (church and PLC), and 11:30am (church); Sudanese liturgy at 11:30m in Bakhita Hall
- Easter Vigil
 - Blessing of baskets 10-10:30 in church
 - Rehearsal for Easter Vigil & Mass at 11am in church; Easter Vigil & Mass at 7:30-9:30pm in church
- Good Friday —
 - Flower delivery at 8am. If any members of the Worship Commission are available to help unload, unwrap, and water, that would be great. Meet in the hallway of the PLC
 - Rehearsal for Solemn Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross at 10:00am in the church; Solemn Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross at 3pm in the church
 - Stations of the Cross 12-1pm in church
 - Confession 5-6pm in church
 - Stations of the Cross 7-8pm in church
 - Decorating church and PLC for Easter at 8pm following Stations. All welcome!
- Music — (Eric R) choir is hard at work preparing for Holy Week
- Altar servers — (Deacon John) new altar servers are learning and improving with time
- EMHC & lectors — (Deacon John) 11 new ministers had attended training sessions with ten of them training as EMHCs and one as a lector; need to obtain sacramental certificates for EMHCs
- Ushers & greeters — Six collection baskets are used in the center aisle and ushers will help manage the seating of the congregation at Easter Masses
- Art & Environment — (Fr. Milota) school liturgies are more deliberate and being used as teaching Masses with the Mass parts being the same as the Sunday Masses

- Live streaming of Masses — (Keith Nusekabel) emails to be sent requesting volunteers for live streaming the Holy Week services
 - Upcoming significant anniversaries:
 - 2024 is 75th anniversary of Joliet Diocese
 - July 2024 is Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis
 - 2025 is 100th anniversary of St. Petronille Parish
- e. **School Board** (Robert VanWitzenburg absent) Met on February 13. Highlights include:
- Auction is coming on March 9
 - Successfully completed the writing of the endowment trust agreement for school. One of key new and favorable points is that we are allowed to take 4% of the principal each year for payouts, as is standard with most endowment funds.
- f. **Religious Education** (Eileen Buccola presented) Met on February 13 by Zoom.
1. *Young Adult/Youth Ministry* - Gabi
 - Planning high school participation in Joliet Youth Day
 - Inviting middle schoolers and high schoolers to fish fry
 - Hunger Awareness is focus with middle schoolers
 2. *Religious Ed* - Julie
 - First communion approaching - parent meetings have been held, retreat is April 13.
 - Confirmation scheduled with Bishop Kane March 14; There is a new exam this year. Interviews have gone well; Confirmation planning for 2025 already underway
 3. *Adult Ministry* - Tim and Nancy O'Donohue
 - Coordinating with Young Adult/Youth Ministry on March for Life Event in Springfield on March 17
8. Pastor's Report:
- Father took time to thank all council members for their service and to remark about all that has been accomplished in his time here with the help of many hands.
9. Pending Business: None
10. New Business:
- a. 2024-25 PC Membership—discussed openings for 2 at-large members and 3 commission representatives, as well as advertising in bulletin for the 2 new at-large members

11. Executive Session: None

12. Closing Prayer: Offered by Fr. Milota

13. Adjournment: 8:36 pm

Next regular meeting – Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Parishioners are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings and speak during Parishioner Participation