

St. Margaret of Cortona – Parish Council Mtg. Minutes – 9/12/2022

Opening: James Duckro called the meeting to order at 6:30Pm and Fr. Jeff led the prayer.

Roll Call: Fr. Jeff Rimelspach, Jan Childres, James Duckro, Elaine Prochak, Rosa Jankowski, Joe Lucas. Mark Nolan, Jennifer Wright and Joe Wickham (Excused /absent: Larry Pishitelli, Paul Goodberlet)

Review and Discussion of May 16, 2022 Council Minutes:

Minutes accepted and approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report:

The annual financial report was published in late August. The parish's financial situation continues to be sound.

The July 2022 Parish Festival was generally successful; great weather, food, entertainment and participation. Earnings from the festival were in line with expectations. Looking ahead to next year, there will need to develop an alternative to the amusement rides that we've had in past years. Due to changes in the Ohio law regarding these rides, many companies that operated them can no longer afford the greatly increased insurance premiums and have closed. Despite contacts with eight different companies still in operation, no replacement is available for the dates of net year's festival. (Changing the festival date was discussed but considered impractical for multiple reasons.) A few suggestions were made to fill the void: more children's games, a petting zoo, bounce houses and entertainments like the "balloon guy". This will require further discussion and planning.

Fr. Jeff also provided a brief recap of the current status of the "Real Presence / Real Future" initiative that has been outlined in recent weeks and that is available on-line.

Fr. Jeff also asked for input regarding the replacement of the Church's sign at the front of the property. The sign is old and in very poor shape. The suggestion that he investigate the purchase of a new, digital capable sign was unanimously approved by the council. Such a sign could do much for the efforts to attract new parishioners and publicize activities at the church.

New Business:

The Stewardship Fair went well with fourteen groups providing information about their respective activities. Many groups have reported receiving new members as a result.

Facilities: With the successful completion of the resealing and re-painting of the parking lots, the next major project will be the painting of the trim surfaces on the Rectory / parish office and the Borrelli Center / Kulp Hall. The funds to pay for this project come from your surplus donations to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Thank you!

The Church Safety committee has been discontinued with any safety related concerns being assigned under this facilities committee.

Men's Club Report

While the Men's Club suspends its meetings during the summer, we were busy with a number of activities/events.

We finished off the spring with our annual Festival Sausage sale. It, as it has been, was a huge success and is slowly taking over as our major fundraiser. Thanks to our club member, Ed Gabel who is the festival sausage chairman, we use the same recipe and process that is used for the parish festival. Also, thanks to Larry Pishitelli who allows us to set up during the Lenten fish fries to presale to the fish fry patrons.

We also had our sub sale in May, which is a parish favorite. The next sub sale will be announced soon. (An aside; due to a drop in sales volume, the number of sandwiches produced will be reduced.)

The Men's Club also takes a very active and visible role at the Parish Festival. Our members take a leadership role as chair people for a number of the functions, including but not limited to Festival Set Up and Tear Down and Sausage Making. Members are also all around the festival as volunteers in many, many areas. Our members could also be found carrying statues in the procession on Sunday after the festival.

The Men's Club also provided the donuts and refreshments at the Stewardship Fair.

Spiritual Life Committee:

The Spiritual Life Committee will resume monthly meetings beginning on September 21, 2022. The September meeting agenda will include discussion for the October Collection for Birthright of Columbus. This will be a cash collection as this allows the charity to put it towards their greatest area of need. Additionally discussion and review of Advent booklets will take place for this year's Advent Season. The committee will again be sponsoring the annual "Giving Tree" Christmas campaign.

Welcome Committee:

The Welcome Committee hosted a welcome table at this year's festival. We featured many committee's and ministries of St. Margaret's. The turnout was very good.

St. Vincent De Paul Conference:

We continue to support the poor in our area. After discussions with St. Brendan's conference, it was agreed that we will primarily continue to serve only clients within zip code 43204 in western Columbus. Generally, this client aid comes in the form of rent and utilities assistance. Currently funds available are getting low, but we hope to see them improve with October's fifth Sunday collections on October 29th & 30th. We are tentatively planning a fall / winter clothing drive in late October. Details to follow.

Worship Committee:

The Blessing of Animals will be Saturday, Oct. 1 @ 2:00 pm this year. This is the closest Saturday to Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis.

Fr. Jeff will be doing a Bible Study this Fall here on the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Bible. It will be on Thursdays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 3 & 10 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm those evenings. We will be setting up/providing light refreshments after the first one on Oct. 6 and the last one on Nov. 10. Everyone is invited to attend the Bible Study.

Christmas is on a Sunday this year. We will have Mass on Dec. 19, 20, 22, & 23. The committee will be working around these daily Masses for decorating. The date and time will be determined at the next meeting. The last day of the Christmas season is Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord that day. The decorations will come down sometime after 10:00am that day.

We now have our biannual Parish Mission scheduled with Msgr. Frank Lane. He will preach all Masses the Weekend of March 25/26, 2023. Then he will give the Mission talks that Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday from 7:00pm till 8:30pm. On Sunday and Tuesday, the committee will be setting up/providing refreshments in Kulp Hall immediately following his talks. Monday will be our Lenten Penance Service as part of the mission and we will not need any refreshments that evening. He will be speaking on the theme of the next three years from the U. S. Bishops on Eucharistic Revival. He was very excited to be asked again to do our Mission. We will be providing refreshments.

Easter is on April 9, 2023. We will have the Easter Vigil on April 8 @ 8:30pm. Decorations/set up will be discussed at a future meeting.

The Parish Festival is on July 28/29, 2023 this next year. All went so well this year as we concluded our 100th Anniversary celebration here.

The Stewardship Fair went well. The committee had three sign ups and I will be reaching out to them via e-mail to see when I can discuss the committee with them today (9/12)

Knights of Columbus: There will be a pancake breakfast on Sunday, September 25th after the 8:30 and 10:30 Masses. All are invited to attend.

The Knights are sponsoring the annual Red Cross Blood drive on September 26th from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm. There is an urgent need for donors so please consider participating.

A fall / Halloween event for children will be scheduled for late October and the annual "Breakfast with Santa" will be held on Sunday, December 11th.

Education reports: For the latest detailed information on Trinity School, Bishop Ready and St. Charles High Schools, please check their respective on-line websites.

Youth Group: There is strong interest in the group with 20 children signed up to participate. Further activities are being planned.

Adjournment / Closing Prayer: Meeting adjourned. James Duckro led our closing prayer. The next Parish Council meeting will be November 7, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Joe Wickham, Secretary