**Parish Council Minutes**

**March 11, 2025**

Attendees: Corinne Agren-Barnes, Pat Ball, Barbara Bowles, Jim Casey, Fr. Ray Chase, John Gontrum, Ray Heil, Mary Hennigan, Leah Mank, Colleen McCahill, Dan McCarthy, Denny McMullin, Rita McMullin, Catherine Mundy, Mary Lynn Myers, Kevin O’Reilly, Mark Palmer, Graham Yearley

**The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.**

Corinne Agren-Barnes prepared a reflection using excerpts from the poem “Passover Remembered” by Alla Bozarth-Campbell. To read the entire poem follow this link: [Passover Remembered - Intrinsic Heart](https://intrinsicheart.com/passover-remembered/). With our entry into Lent and the current work of the IPC, Corinne chose this poem for the way it speaks to being on a journey. It invites us to be open to the ways in which the journey might change us and to remember that God is with us through all of it’s different phases—beginning and end, cloud (darkness) and fire (light), familiar and unfamiliar.

The minutes for the February 11, 2025 meeting were delayed in their approval until part way into the Parish Report due to our secretary’s somewhat late arrival at the meeting. Upon her arrival the minutes were approved.

The agenda for this evening’s meeting was approved.

**Parishioner Feedback**

Mary heard from some people who would like to a copy of the appeal letter. She told them that they should talk to Dan McCarthy.

**Parish Report from Colleen and Fr. Ray**

Fr. Ray spoke of a foundation problem in the basement of the rectory in the area under his office. The bricks appear to be wet and disintegrating.  They will call in a structural engineer to assess the situation.

Colleen interviewed one JV - but the JV took another offer.  She has two additional interviews scheduled.

Colleen reported that they received an application for the music director, but the person was not suitable for here as the person lives in Oregon.  When she asked the AoB about hiring someone she was told to hire on a contractual basis.  This will enable her to go out of the AoB HR hiring procedures and advertise in different settings. A contractual employee does not require the AoB hiring process to be observed.

Matt Smith, our new Communications Coordinator, is now taking on the responsibilities of the job. He is learning the flavor of the parish. Expect an updated website in the near future.

The most recent issue of the Catholic Review has a wonderful article on the TRE and Peggy and Joe Cronyn. Ray Heil initiated the contact with the Catholic Review with the idea for this article and said contact brought the article with photos to fruition.

**Finance Committee**

Mark Palmer gave a summary of the financial status of the parish from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. The average weekly attendance is 176 people, which is 12% higher than the same period last year. Allowing for Christmas day falling on a Sunday this becomes 20% higher. The average per capita offertory donation is $23.64 which is 18% lower for the average of the previous time period. This seeming decrease can be explained by the fact that much of our growth in new parishioners has come from families with young children. Total cash on hand is $425,000. Invested total in ILF is $726,000. The total amount invested is $1 million. That along with cash totals a million and a half total. Christiona Brothers is a riskier investment so $100,000 in cash was transferred to the ILF. The Historic Trust Fund reimbursed the parish $100,000 for repairs to the roof. There is a budget surplus of $38,000. The AoB requires 3 – 4 months of parish operating expenses be invested in ILF. We are well within this requirement. As a side note, the repair to the basement wall has the possibility of reimbursement from the Historic Trust. For this 6 month period there was no spending specifically labeled evangelization.

**Church Reform Committee**

Jim Casey said their March meeting was postponed since it was scheduled for the same date, February 25, as the Emergency meeting of the Parish Council, With no meeting there is nothing new to report.

**Education and Enrichment Committee**

Rita McMullin reported that the next session of Wait, Wait Do Tell Me will be scheduled for September. The choir will be the spotlighted group. They are hoping to gain some new members to begin preparing for the Christmas season.

The only evening during Lent to have Soup and Salad will be the evening with Stations of the Cross, March 26. For the Evening of Reflection on April2 sponsored by ALIVE, members of E&E will contribute refreshments.

A half-day Lenten retreat will be held on Saturday, March 29, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The topic is Fear and Faith, the Next Steps. It is based on the last half of the book, Fear and Faith by Daniel P. Horan, OFM. Colleen McCahill and Gerry Fialkowski will be our presenters.

Dinner for 8 has 4 new groups on this round. One previous group is continuing to meet although 2 of those members are also part of 2 of the new groups.

The spring retreat will be May 30 – June 1. Online registration is now open with paper registration beginning soon.

**Social Action Committee**

Ray Heil reported that the transition of TRE leadership from Peggy and Joe Cronyn is proceeding well. Dennis Flynn oversees furniture pick up & move ins. The pickup days have changed to be one Tuesday and 1 Saturday per month. The committee is discussing how to reach out to St. Leo’s to gain some more volunteers. Peggy Meyer and Kathy Younkin along with Dennis Flynn oversee the move ins.

Other ministries are running well. As usual, all of the ministries could use more volunteers. A suggestion was made to have each ministry write something brief to invite people to volunteer. Send the invitation to Fr. Ray, Collen and [communications@stvchurch.org](mailto:communications@stvchurch.org).

**Liturgy Committee**

Pat Ball said there has been no new meeting, thus nothing new to report.

**Facilities Committee**

Denny McMullin said there has been no meeting. Someone asked about the week floor along the side where a traffic cone is set. Tony had 2 contractors in for estimates for work and costs. A contract has been signed but no firm start date for repairs has been set. The two weakened spots will be repaired in such a way that the floor will be preserved.

**Seek the City Internal Task Force**

Corinne Agren-Barnes and Kevin O’Reilly co-reported on the progress so far. Every ministry returned answers to the inclusivity rubric. There were lots of commonalities. These replies will help the task force to think through the next steps. Ted Miles summarized the results in a report to the Parish Council. An important point is that there is a need for a clearing house type of group that for lack of a better title they called the “Parish Engagement Committee”. This would be distinct from the Parish Council’s Parish Engagement Committee. This clearinghouse would consist of 3 or 4 parishioners. They would meet once per month to focus on a particular committee and the ways it can become even more involved as a part of our parish community. This could include a form of outreach and a way to involve more volunteers on a short-term or long-term basis. There are many action steps, both immediate and long term, in Ted’s summary documents. Challenges: Aging ministries, aging volunteers. There is a need for prioritization & capacity. Things to do fast. Networking. The park is so big, so many pieces. Perhaps hire a social worker to coordinate activities long range. Focus of a social worker would be to meet criteria for outreach, identify constituency, how they relate to our ministry of encounter, coordination. We need to define our sense of ministry to the homeless. E.g. Deacon Ed interacted with the Friday night dinner guests by listening and talking with them. He addressed their spiritual needs. There have also been some others who addressed the guests’ spiritual needs. Some parishioners have commented that why should we bother to do anything we will be getting a new priest. The more organized we are the better it will be for our future. We need evangelization within the parish to affect retention and recruitment of new parishioners. We will coordinate with our new communications coordinator to have higher visibility, engagement with the wider community, and within the church. There was much discussion of the use of the terms evangelize and engage and what they mean. A simple, direct understanding for evangelize is that it is a spiritual encounter with Jesus in which Jesus has something to say to each of us. Engagement follows from this. Some pointed out that engagement with a church community leads to a spiritual encounter with Jesus. It’s a both/and sacred experience. There are a wide variety of approaches to evangelization. Freedom to explore spirituality is key. Another idea on inclusivity is to update our music to be more culturally diverse. A “Parish Engagement Committee”? We need more time to consider those questions. An observation of AoB is that St. V’s can be off-putting. Coordinate all the ministries in a clearing house. Realistically, how far forward will we be going? Send questions to Ted Miles. When the Interparish Committee meets they can consider these questions and ideas.

**Seek the City Interparish Task Force**

There are 5 meetings coming up between the 2 parishes. In May the committee will synthesize and make plans for the structure of the new parish. Together St. Leo’s and St. V’s will shape the structure. It will be presented to the new pastor. St. Leo’s is just now advertising the March 18 meeting. There will be childcare available on March 18 at St. Leo’s. According to the IPC both parishes will change. Mike Jacko has devised an email address for all joint communication between St. V’s and St. Leo’s. This email account is based on St. V’s second Mail Chimp account but will be accessible to parishioners from both parishes. Our understanding is that St. V’s will continue to be a worship site after July 1, 2025. Our Mass time will most likely need to change. The name of the new pastor will be announced about one month ahead of time. The AoB is taking time to ensure that the new pastor will be able to work with both parishes. Pray for the new pastor right now and for us. The new pastor will, we expect, take time to get a feel for the life of our communities.

**Action Items**

1. Go to the 5 IPC events.
2. Send any questions to the IPC
3. Recognize how important and powerful we are in this community. Our creativity and commitment to see possibilities and to be excited about it is a strength.

The next Parish Council meeting will be in person at the rectory on April 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

With the saying of the Lord’s Prayer the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.