



Sacred Heart Church

Troy NY

Pastoral Council

Fr. John Yanas (Pastor): Fr. Robert Powhida (Assoc. Pastor)

Meeting Minutes :

Date: May 23rd, 2017 7pm

Attendees: Father Yanas, Blaise Constantakes, Jeanne Murphy, Marc Giuliano, Antonio Morabito, Bill Kruegler, and special guest Devon Camenga, Asst. Principal of Sacred Heart School.

Opening prayer – We opened with a short prayer for God's blessing on our work.

Prior meeting minutes (4/25/17) were distributed.

Pastor's overview and comments – Father Yanas was not at the beginning of the meeting, so we moved directly into Old Business. Blaise introduced topics noted on a distributed Agenda.

Approval of prior meeting minutes – previous minute draft was distributed, but not reviewed.

Old business

A. Jeanne gave an update on the plans for the Sacred Heart Feast Day.

Everything is on track –

- tent for band in lower parking lot,
- Dinosaur BBQ, Carol's Pizza, and Sausage and Peppers, etc. (prepared by Peter Kehoe).
- Kid's pass for \$5 includes a whole array of attractions/activities, and treats.
- Holy Hour (Erin and Matt are practicing their music for the event)
- Procession arrangements for road closing are/will be in place.
- Jeanne stressed that the main thing is to "socialize it" – getting the word out in as many ways possible.
- We hope to "pump up" the attendance, especially among older children and young adults. Erin and Jeanne and others are spreading the word on social media. We will also remind/invite people at this week's masses.
- T shirts are in.
- Mrs. Merrill's memory book will be ready – Marc Giuliano will make a speech thanking and honoring Susan for her many years of service to our school and parish.

Regarding logistics:

Tony stated that TSL will have to be out of the cafeteria on Friday.

Parking lot will be partly, then completely closed.

Jeanne will share with Tony the list of remaining items needed.

- B. Coffee hour date of June 11th is confirmed. Coffee and bagels hosted by the Music Ministry. We resolved to “keep it simple”, and not include Liturgy Committee and related groups, but have a separate event hosted by Liturgical groups later in the summer.
- C. CaFÉ – Catholic Faith Exploration study/discussion group series will begin meeting on Tuesday nights, in the “Honeycomb Hideout”. Marlene Riley will lead the sessions, which are intended for adult parishioners to deepen their relationship with God and promote bonds of friendship within our Sacred Heart family.

The dates for these 7 sessions are:

6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, and 8/01/17. All sessions will go from 7:30 pm to 9:15 pm.

New business

- A. Devon Camenga, Asst. Principal of Sacred Heart School, on strengthening the cooperation, and mutual support between school and parish:
- Devon described some of the challenges and opportunities for improving communications between school and parish.
 - Currently the school communicates with parents through Twitter, Facebook, e-mail, SHS website, and with paper handouts and mail. Electronic communications have become the preferred methods (we hate paper).
 - Devon likes to think of the entire facility as the “Sacred Heart Campus”, and envisions a more unified, connected set of communication tools for promoting school, church, and parish activities.
 - These tools include improved social media, websites more closely linked, and a comprehensive calendar, especially for coordinating scheduled use of meeting rooms and shared space.
 - We discussed the possibility of hiring a professional vendor (website developer) to help improve and manage our websites and social media pages. This could cost as much as \$20,000 annually, but would pay for itself with increased attendance in both school and church.
 - Currently RPI student volunteers are helping with the SHS Facebook page, but a website developer will take us to another level.
 - We turned our discussion to the proposed 4ft. by 8ft. digital sign for Pawling Avenue. Devon shared catalog pages from sign vendor and discussed the costs and advantages of the sign. Sign is extremely damage-resistant, and comes with a 3 year warranty (?)
 - 2-sided monitor would be easily readable from both directions. School and church information and special events will be effectively presented to the entire community.
 - We discussed possible TSL investment in the sign, grant money available through the Diocese, and the cost of moving a National Grid telephone/power pole to allow best placement of the sign.
 - Father Yanas expressed support for both ideas (web developer and e-sign), and stated he would discuss further with finance committee.
 - Tony stated the many good plans we have for expenditures can’t all be done at once.
 - We decided to postpone discussion of proposed cabling system until next meeting (maybe we can invite Devon to attend to help with that discussion).
- B. Tony asked for feedback/comments after the facility walk-through we did on May 7th.
- Jeanne expressed concern about the large crack in the classroom ceiling. We agreed it is not a safety issue, but should be fixed cosmetically to eliminate the appearance of a problem.
 - Bill stated that small improvements make a huge difference, for example, the Honeycomb Hideout, and the corridor behind the choir loft. All agree we should continue to improve spaces.
 - Thank you to Sam C. for describing the cafeteria rehab to us at the walk-thru. It’s going to be really nice!

- C. We resolved to change the 11:15 Mass time to 10:15 for the summer, starting on Father's Day, 6/18/17. If we (priests and parishioners) like the earlier time, we may keep it going into the school year.

NEXT STEPS/OWNERS AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

- 1 spread the word – socialize the Sacred Heart Feast Day celebration Friday June 2nd
- 2 prepare for June 11th Coffee Hour – Music Ministry
- 3 Consider digital sign proposal and web developer idea

DATE/TIME for NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, June 20th @ 6:00 pm

Opening prayer – Father Yanas closed with a short prayer for a peaceful night's rest.