

Parish Council Meeting 9/12/26

Agenda:

1. Fill Out Forms
2. Opening Prayer
3. Welcome & Introductions
4. Where have you seen Jesus today?
5. Youth Reports
6. Father Bill's Discussion Time
7. Open Forum for Discussion
8. Closing Prayer

Notes:

Council Expectations:

- Conversations and feedback are encouraged
- Not a board of directors → a group of advisors to the pastor
- Helping Father Bill become aware of the needs, providing valuable input after talking to church community
- "What do you think I should do?"

Youth Reports:

- Things have slowed down over the summer
- Youth leaders meeting with Cindy tomorrow to discuss new youth ideas
- Numbers have been climbing for the past 4 years, up in the 20s
- Projected to be a big year
- Youth group has been a great chance to unite everyone, excited to expand
- Bible studies together over the summer
- First youth group is on Friday 9/18 at Mother of Sorrows (combined with HC)
- Youth group at HC is less, younger girls in attendance
- Plans to go to last weekend in September mass at HC and then youth group afterwards (10:00 AM mass)

Father Bill Reports:

- School is doing very well, only school in the diocese who has a sister as principal
- Blue Ribbon community with emphasis on promoting the school
 - New lawn signs and digital presence on social media
 - Constructing a database of alumni who can help with fundraising or through serving the school
- No longer offering 6th grade due to competition
 - Enrollment has dropped to 150 students
 - Aiming to get higher than that

- Convent and rectory have been improved to welcome St Vincent DePaul Society to host a mission helping those in need (furniture)
 - Community very deep in their faith
 - Spiritual director, praying together, encouraging people back to faith
 - Welcomed due to many requests
 - More outreach and mission vs for profit, would like them to help cover expenses
 - Moving in during January
 - Giovanni to put out flyers at different properties looking for furniture
 - "When we take care of our community, our community takes care of us."
 - **Need help clearing out the convent**
 - "Saturday cleanout day"
 - Day of Caring
 - Knights of Columbus could help (idea from Frank)
 - Starting to work on lease agreement now
 - Looking to list the society in the bulletin to share the investment in the community
 - Those members to come to the parishes and share
 - Father Bill is meeting with Jack on Wednesday
- Father Tomasso moved into the OMOS rectory as Vicar General
- Dress code update for liturgy ministers
 - No shorts, flip flops
 - Concern that ministers have been lowering the bar for the dress code
 - Remove focus from us and focus on God
- Active shooter training generated feedback and preparation
 - Security cameras at both churches
 - HC issue of people leaving cars in the parking lot
 - Adding notices, signs and car towing signage
- Training for CPR and first aid done by Latta Road Firefighters
- **If the priest blows out a candle during mass: Call 911** (he's noticed danger)
 - Not planning to lock church doors right now because the goal is to get more people to come
 - Collectors keep an eye out for anything weird going on in the parking lot
- Anonymous donor giving \$8k a month has passed
 - If everyone gives a little more, they can meet the number
 - We're in good financial shape due to generosity
- Starting the Catholic Ministries Appeal: Father Bill meeting with higher donors to help financially
 - \$10k from OMOS and \$4k from HC
 - Launching in October
 - Census did not lower budgets
 - HC at \$104k and OMOS just below \$100k
 - Father Bill asked for a reduction for HC (they didn't give it)
 - Sending out flyers to encourage people to join Easter and Christmas
 - 500+ attendance at HC weekend masses
 - 600 attendance at OMOS weekend masses

- Shore Winds nursing home relocating patients (160 residents) under leadership of the NYS department of health
 - Gather volunteers to ask for help at nursing home, encouraging a senior group
 - Continuing with services until definite closing date (est. 9/24)
 - Prayer support has been strong
- Doing well financially, mission of the church is advancing
- Need to fix giving online issue: not receiving emails on autopay
- New envelopes are working with a few glitches but good for the most parts
- Importance of Pastoral Council members to come to events
 - Rosary coast to coast event upcoming
- Parish Picnic fed 450 people

To Do:

- Mary-Ellen to circulate list of who will be qualified to serve as new Vice Chair at next meeting
- Day of Caring: clearing out the convent (series of days)
 - Saturday and Weeknight in October
 - Send to the schools: Mary-Ellen, Cindy and Giovanni to help organize
 - Get youth involved who need community service hours
- Social Event to benefit school: Pasta dinner idea in parish hall in January at OMOS
 - Bring school families and parishes together
 - Friday evening (January 22nd)
 - Official welcome of the St. Vincent DePaul society (invite them and introduce them)
 - Knights of Columbus talking about a Valentine's day dinner at HC
 - St. Joseph's table on March 14th
 - Remains a potluck-style tradition (no admission charge) at both Mother of Sorrows and Holy Cross
 - Mary-Ellen to lead, with help from Michelle
- Consider hardwood floors during picnic to replace old carpeting
- Purchase large bulletin board for HC for flyers

Next Meeting:

November 21st, Conference Room #2 at OMOS

Send out full year schedule with meeting minutes and new dates