

ST. LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
June 27, 2017 (Approved October 24, 2017)

STAFF/COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Pastor – Fr. Tony Smith
Pastoral Assoc. – Bill Unruh
Deacon Wayne Thieneman (excused)
Chairperson – Joe Rickert
Vice Chair – Matt Rasche

Formation – Vicki Neuner (excused)
Worship – Dave Dalton
Finance Council – Joyce Nelson
Seniors – Paul Graf (excused)
Personnel Committee – Gena Rasche
NDA Representative – Dee Dee Nauert
Stewardship – Charlotte McClamroch

AT LARGE MEMBERS

George Morse
Kenny Nauert, Sr.
Marian Hendricks
Denise Ruffra
Marilyn McNeill (excused)
Danny Atzinger (excused)
Julianne Davis
Josh Riley (excused)

Alternates:
Mary Doris McCubbins
Phyllis Ritchie

The meeting was opened with a prayer, offered by Fr. Tony. April meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Denise Ruffra, with second by Julianne Davis.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Stewardship 2017 – Fr. Tony thought the print-out by Ministry, from Stewardship forms, had been distributed to all chairpersons, but after discussion with Council, determined that only the Picnic volunteers were given to Picnic chair.
- Financial Strategic Plan – Grant from Lilly Foundation will be used to pay for resources to help parish set up a 5-year Plan for Finances. Three phases possible (Fall 2017/Spring 2018/Fall 2018).
- Parish Council Retreat – Father advised that Sharan Benton offered to help Council complete the Strategic Plan at Council Retreat. Fr. Tony will be gone from July 17 to mid-August, so after discussion, all agreed to plan Retreat for August 19, with August 26 as backup date. Fr. Tony will check with Sharan as to her availability, so firm plan can be made. Joe Rickert advised Matt Rasche regarding responsibility of Vice-Chair to plan the annual Retreat.
- Attendance at weekend Masses – Fr. Tony and Council discussed concern as to low attendance at Mass, especially during Summer. Possibility of dropping a weekend Mass, due to low attendance. Fr. will compose a letter to send to NDA families. George Morse suggested to remind NDA parents that 15% of tithing goes to supplement NDA tuition cost. Discussion followed regarding upcoming mandatory meetings for NDA parents (August 7-9-14), with agreement that would be a good opportunity to address parents. Suggestion also that Fr. Peter Bucalo (new Mary Queen of Peace pastor) attend these meetings along with Fr. Tony, to show support for NDA. Fr. Tony advised he, Fr. Peter, Joyce Nelson, and Helen Hayes will meet soon regarding NDA.
- Parish Council Membership – 3 members (Matt Rasche, Marian Hendricks, Kenny Nauert) whose terms were to end June 2017, agreed to continue to serve for another 3 year term. Fr. Tony proposed to plan a Sunday in September to introduce the Parish Council to parish at Sunday Mass.
- Picnic – Preliminary results in Joyce Nelson's report below. Picnic Committee worked very well this year. There were more volunteers to set up and clean up than previous years. Need to find new leadership, since Randy England turned in his keys. Discussion followed regarding how best to find a new leader/coordinator. Suggestions included put need out on social media, follow-up survey for suggestions/evaluation of 2017 picnic, term limit, shadow current leadership for future. Council discussed possible uses for Flaget property/building.
- Summer Facilities Updates – Fr. Tony advised following projects in works: painting in Church, including gathering space and sacristy chair rails, washing windows, painting the large cross on top of church entrance, running electricity out to the St. Lawrence Catholic Church sign for spot lights. Mention made that the plants need to be trimmed/moved so not to block the sign.

Finance Council – Joyce Nelson reported the Finance Council is going to quarterly reports. Tithing is down 9%, according to budget for the month and year. Actual tithing \$401,559.70 / budget \$411,693.33. Currently 35 donors are using the EFT system. Mass stipends, candle tributes, funeral stipends and wedding stipends are down. Overall payroll and payroll related expense is down by \$21,470. Fr. Tony's expenses are under budget by \$500. Church loan balance owed to the Archdiocese as of May 1, 2017 is \$42,206.00. Balance of cash in our church loan payments to Archdiocese \$20,477.64 (blue envelopes). Monthly loan payment paid to Archdiocese is \$1,229.84. As of May 1, \$93,360.00 is owed to parishioners for \$1000 loans. Fieldhouse loan of \$2,233.10 should be paid off in August. Loan balance on Rockford Lane house is \$63,252.34. Budget is complete, including Parish Hall, Seniors, Boosters, CEC.

PICNIC REPORT – Julianne Davis distributed handouts from Paul Davis, and assisted Joyce in summary of picnic results. Preliminary report shows estimated net of \$38,000 to \$43,000 – no final net number, since there are still several expenses not yet paid. Beer sales did very well, with craft and canned beer. Discussion followed regarding gift cards. Much appreciation to Boy Scouts, who helped setup and cleanup. Fr. Tony advised he has received a list of what the Scouts are doing in parish.

Grounds & Maintenance – Matt Rasche reported on possibility of combining teams with Boosters. He'll discuss further with Joe Rickert.

Booster Club – Joe Rickert reported finances doing well. Fieldhouse will be paid off in August. Boosters are proposing a new entrance to football field; 8' pillars with stone arch, to identify field, and also redo gates. Hope to complete before football starts. May add playground, with cooperation with CEC. Fr. Tony advised insurance will increase if playground added. Getting quotes to replace floor in Parish Hall. Expect fees to be the same for football signups, which are electronic. NDA goal is to pay on line, with non-refundable fees. May do something different for littles and intramural sports. Joyce asked Joe for firm date for Monte Carlo, since she needs to apply for license. Joe advised Monte Carlo is scheduled for Saturday, February 10, 2018.

Stewardship – Charlotte McClamroch advised she is attempting to plan the St. Lawrence Feast Day celebration, scheduled for August 13. Fr. Tony will check with Joan Mertz and Jesse Schuler regarding availability for that date. Discussion followed with suggestion to recognize anniversaries, birthdays, visitors, youth that do service work, at weekend Masses.

Personnel – Gena Rasche advised this committee expects to meet in September.

FORMATION – Bill Unruh reported he purchased a 40" TV with a CEF grant. Women's Retreat is being planned for weekend of October 6-8, at Flaget Center. Sharon Schuhmann, Pastoral Associate at St. Bernadette Catholic Church, will facilitate the retreat. Registration forms will be inserted in bulletins the weekend of August 5-6. In regard to Confirmation, Bill has prepared initial letters to 8th grade parents with info on service aspect, with list of opportunities to serve.

DiCaFF – Will begin on September 13, with parent meeting and class with students.

Bill discussed his recent visit to the New Albany Deanery, Aquinas Resource Center, which will be closed soon. He was able to obtain several books and DVD's that can be used for Bible Study and other Formation occasions. More than \$600 in resources were obtained for a \$75 donation.

Notre Dame Academy – Dee Dee Nauert advised the new Principal, Elaine Bachman, has scheduled mandatory meetings in August, to go over the new plan of action. Hoping for a smooth transition. Grades 6, 7, 8, have gone from iPads to Chromebooks. 5th grade and down will continue using iPads. NDA is switching to Google classroom.

Worship – Deacon Dave Dalton reported we are in Ordinary Time. Discussion followed regarding training of servers. Gena Rasche asked if there could be a survey taken in parish regarding the music offered at Mass. Discussion followed with agreement of Council that they would like to have more upbeat music, with guitar and/or other instruments accompanying the piano. Dave advised he would take these requests to the Worship Committee.

Seniors – No report.

St. Vincent de Paul –Denise Ruffra reported next dinner will be in August.

Meeting was adjourned with motion by Kenny Nauert, with second by Bill Unruh. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

NO PARISH COUNCIL MEETING IN JULY. Council will be advised as to firm date for the annual Retreat Day.

Respectively submitted,
Dee Gossman