**ST. LAWRENCE PARISH COUNCIL / FINANCE COUNCIL**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2023 - APPROVED MARCH 28, 2023**

STAFF/COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE MEMBERS

Pastor – Fr. Bill Burks George Morse

Pastoral Assoc. – Bill Unruh (excused) Kenny Nauert, Sr.

Denise Ruffra

Chairperson – Matt Rasche Josh Riley

Vice Chair – Aimee Burton Sarah Burke

Angela Taylor

Finance Council – Emily Rickert (excused) Danielle Wiegandt

Worship – Karen Kuenzig (excused) Amy Wilson

Planning & Maintenance – Matt Rasche

Stewardship – Deacon David Maxwell Alternate:

Formation – Vicki Neuner Mary Doris McCubbins

Personnel Committee – Gena Rasche Joe Rickert (excused)

NDA – Dee Dee Nauert

Booster Club – Joe Rickert (excused)

Matt Rasche welcomed everyone. Opening prayer was offered by Fr. Bill. January meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Mary Doris McCubbins, second by Vicki Neuner.

PASTOR’S REPORT – REV. BILL BURKS

Fr. Bill advised the Council that there won’t be a Passion Play this year, due to scheduling conflicts. 8th graders have been informed of this. Looking forward to Confirmation at Mary Queen of Peace, on March 12. Will have rehearsals next week.

CEC Renovation – Matt met with the Kirchgessners and Suzanne Stewart, to discuss major items and estimated cost (est. cost shown on sheet distributed to Council), ~ $100,000.00. Applying for grants. Hope to start as soon as school is out, and 7th graders will be asked to help pack up to prepare for renovation (apply to service hours). Matt reported we need a General Contractor to work with parish volunteers – a committee is needed to plan how this will work. Suzanne has advised she’ll be available all Summer. Summer care will be in the NDA building while renovation is ongoing. Before work begins, we need to be confident it can be completed in time to open CEC for next semester. Have uncovered a space in garage that CEC can use for storage.

Fr. Bill advised they hope to hire another teacher. If Kentucky approves public PreK, that will affect enrollment for CEC. Renovation & modernization of the building is important for future. Will advise further as plans come together, and ask Parish Council for approval to proceed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance** – Mike Raymer sent Financial Report via email prior to meeting. Highlights include:

Tithing is down for YTD and month of January – YTD July 2022-January 2023, Budget $312,769.33 vs Received $284,553.13, resulting in ~$28,000 less than budget. Fr. Bill advised he will discuss Stewardship and tithing with the Parish during Lent.

Fr. Bill advised since July, 40 new families have joined Parish. Fr. Bill noted that the Gaming Savings on deposit with Archdiocese, is from year’s past, and needs to be transferred to General Savings or Operating Budget. Regarding KY State Sales Tax – Non-profits now required to collect 6% sales tax on certain activities such as Rentals (Community Room, Gym), Concessions, Sports Fees.

**Grounds & Maintenance** – Matt Rasche reported the garage was recently broken into, with theft of 4 trimers, 2 blowers, tools, gas cans. Nothing was captured on cameras. Also someone did “donuts” in the front parking lot. New cameras are now installed (2 on gym – 1 is directed toward playground), and other cameras to be updated.

Prior to meeting, following reports were sent via email: Karen Kuenzig sent Worship/Music Ministry report, and Mike Raymer sent Youth Ministry.

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**Formation** – Fr. Bill reported Rite of Election was held last Sunday, February 26, at St. Michael Parish. 2 married couples and 1 lady participated. Planning a Lenten Mission the 4th week of Lent, with Theme of Desert. Will meet with Formation Committee on Thursday, March 2 to plan further. Expect time will be 6:30-8:00 PM. Possible child care – Sarah Burke will check on that. Will extend invitation to NDA Parents. Discussion followed regarding Parish activities that may conflict with Mission schedule. Sarah Burke will advise Fr. Bill by Thursday morning, if any conflicts on schedule. Can change the days if needed. Will be a guided, meditative discussion, instead of a presentation.

**St. Lawrence Active Parishioner/NDA Discounted Rate**

Matt led lengthy discussion regarding how to get people involved and be accountable to Parish.

Some ideas were submitted on a sheet that was distributed. Some suggestions discussed:

Reward parents of NDA students that are involved in Parish, instead of penalizing those not involved.

Orientation meeting for new Parishioners, with Stewardship opportunities.

Need stewardship form completed and submitted every year (available on line). The form shows pledge amount as well as service opportunities.

Discussion regarding the curriculum for “Children’s Church” at 10:30 AM Sunday Mass, & need to make more interesting, challenging for the children. Suggest music/song that relates to the gospel of that day. Noted that time limit is a consideration.

Discussed need to stress Stewardship and involvement with Parish with NDA parents. Discussed that the NDA handbook specifically states the rules to follow in order to receive the tuition discount.

Suggested the parents should show on NDA registration form how they are involved with Parish. Further suggestion that a committee should review the forms and validate. Shouldn’t be up to Helen Hayes or Father Bill. There hasn’t been a review of the requirements since before Fr. Bill became pastor. Discussion regarding children of active members in good standing are accepted at NDA first – noted there have been waiting lists for admission.

How can parents “check-in” when attending Mass, **and** fulfilling their service to Parish? Discussion followed regarding possibility of incentives.

Fr. Bill is reviewing a list from Helen, showing families currently receiving the tuition discount.

Regarding proposed letter to NDA families – Council agreed letter should show approval from Parish Council, and not just from Fr. Bill. Letter will come from Helen, as NDA Business Manager. Letter should ask parents to list how they are fulfilling their stewardship obligation, since July 2022. Will show effective now for next school year, and will be reviewed every 6 months. Suggestion made to send letter via Google form. The tuition discount is a reward for fulfilling parents’ obligation to St. Lawrence Parish. Fr. Bill noted the first allegiance is to attend weekend Mass. Will explain at weekend Masses about the upcoming letter, and announce in bulletin, Facebook, and NDA Blast.

The NDA registration form that parents sign states:

*Each year, the pastor of each parish will evaluate the active member status of each school family, within their respective parish. If a family is determined to be an active registered member in good standing at one of the two founding parishes, they will then receive a discounted tuition rate. This status is re-evaluated on an annual basis by the pastor; therefore, the tuition rate may subsequently be adjusted*

*- An active member is defined as one who:*

1. *Is formally registered at one of the founding parishes.*
2. *Is a weekend worshiper who celebrates Mass with their children every weekend. (Exceptions allowed…).*
3. *Is a participant in parish stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. (Must sign up to serve the parish on the parish intention card and honor the commitment.)*

Reviewed discussions and reiterated there needs to be committee to review the responses to letter, to determine families that will be receive tuition discount for next school year.

Motion to adjourn made by Kenny Nauert, with second by Aimee Burton. Deacon David closed the meeting with everyone praying the Lord’s Prayer.

**Next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 , 2023.**

Respectively submitted,

Dee Gossman