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

**MARCH 28, 2023 (APPROVED APRIL 25, 2023)**

STAFF/COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE MEMBERS

Pastor – Fr. Bill Burks George Morse (excused)

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

Director Youth Ministry – Mike Raymer Denise Ruffra

Josh Riley

Chairperson – Matt Rasche Sarah Burke (excused)

Vice Chair – Aimee Burton Angela Taylor

Danielle Wiegandt

Finance Council – Emily Rickert (excused) Amy Wilson

Worship – Karen Kuenzig

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

Matt Rasche welcomed everyone. Opening prayer was offered by Fr. Bill. February meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Kenny Nauert, second by Josh Riley.

PASTOR’S REPORT – REV. BILL BURKS

* The CLOUT meeting was held at Male High School on Monday, March 27, and was well attended. It is good for St. Lawrence Parish to be connected with other people of Faith. Dr. Polio wasn’t there, so no discussion regarding the reading standards for JCPS students.
* NDA Confirmation was March 12 at Mary Queen of Peace – Half to 2/3 of 8th grade were confirmed. Students have asked, and we may do a shortened version of the Passion Play in May, with 8th graders.
* Staff/Personnel changes: Bill Unruh’s last day at St. Lawrence is Easter Sunday. Bill will complete the preparation for RCIA candidates. Friday, March 31, is Larry Schum’s last day. Larry’s service is shared with NDA, as an employee of St. Lawrence Parish. Thursday’s NDA Mass will celebrate Larry’s retirement, and the staff will take him to lunch. Larry’s replacement is Nestor Merlos –(husband of former NDA Spanish teacher) he has skill set and credentials to perform the job. Both departures will be featured in bulletin.
* Hiring a part time bookkeeper, without benefits. Mike Raymer’s new position will be full time as Director of Youth Ministry and Formation. Mike will continue bookkeeping until new bookkeeper is hired, & serve as a backup as needed. Susan Goebel is other half of bookkeeping, with payables and facilities rentals, etc. & will continue in that. New position is possible to share with another parish. New position will include reporting/budgeting/balances/gaming report. Need 28 hours part-time. Hours can be flexible. No candidate yet. Salary is on the Archdiocese scale.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**NDA** – Dee Dee Nauert reported a new PA system will be installed over Spring Break. Fire system, new door systems upgraded, with new security. 8th grade day trip to Nashville on May 1; they will be off school the day after. Last Mass with 8th graders is May 11. Graduation is May 16. MAP testing is scheduled for 2nd week after Spring Break. May 26 is last day of school. Recent meeting with police officers – LMPD 3rd District police + Parish police officers regarding security. Suggestions were made, and all walked the campus. NDA has a contact person within the 3rd Division.

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

Tithing February 2023 received $41,299.08 vs budgeted $44,681.33. YTD $325,852.21 vs Budgeted $402,132.00. The only loan payment currently is for gym floor, balance $20,569.67. Mike explained items on his report. Discussion followed regarding possibility of investing money currently in bank accounts.

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**Finance Report - continued**

Fr. Bill reported that there have been several new families joining St. Lawrence, but tithing is not making budget. The current budget is based on pledges made with previous stewardship signups. New budget is based on actuals through June of this year. Discussion followed regarding needing to update the stewardship form and tithing pledges. Suggestion to do Stewardship in March.

Mike distributed a proposed 2023/2024 church budget, for review. Mike is meeting with CEC on Friday to discuss their budget for upcoming fiscal year. Noted the NDA rent hasn’t changed last 5 years; NDA rent doesn’t cover NDA expenses. Staff is reviewing NDA utility/insurance bills. Discussion followed regarding options for energy efficiency; possible grants available for solar panels. Fr. Bill advised Council the updated proposed budget will be distributed before the May meeting for approval. Mary Doris McCubbins suggested asking for parishioners to “loan/donate” $1000 to parish as was done in the past. Matt asked about what is the process to approve funds for improvements. Fr. advised approval is through Finance Committee. Need to streamline the process. Discussion followed regarding all Fish Fry proceeds going to Booster Club, not to St. Lawrence Parish. May need to realign proceeds for such large parish events. The approved, balanced budget will be published to Parish in bulletin. Suggestion/discussion to create a Parish Blast, similar to the NDA Blast to inform parishioners of any news/updates.

**Grounds & Maintenance** – Matt Rasche reported the stolen equipment has been replaced. Cutting grass. Estimate electric signage would run ~ $12,000-$15,000 – no funds for this at present. Discussed possible movement of sign on Rockford Lane lot to Fr. Meder Road, and new sign on Dixie Hwy & Lewiston Drive.

**Boosters –** Need new gutters and doors.

**Formation** – The recent Lenten Mission went well, with estimated 45-50 in attendance both nights. Suggestion made for future events, to move small group discussions to tables for better discussion, instead of in pews. Danielle Wiegandt advised she is hoping to lead a young women’s retreat in January 2024.

**Worship** – Karen Kuenzig sent report via email prior to meeting. Karen discussed new sign-ups for Stewardship roles, and need for training.

**Youth Ministry** - Mike Raymer sent report via email prior to meeting.

**Discussion on NDA Tuition** – Matt reported 145 have responded to the Google form. If form wasn’t completed, the family will pay non-parishioner rate. Discussion regarding responses to Google form. Discussion regarding how parishioners know Parish obligations. Need to determine tuition rate to establish NDA budget. A committee will be established to review. Discussion followed regarding NDA obligations vs St. Lawrence Stewardship. Need to be more explicit in NDA handbook, as to responsibility to Parish. How to monitor Mass attendance & hold people accountable? Stewardship activity also needs to be monitored by committee. Fr. Bill stressed the importance of Catholic Identity and ties to the Eucharist.

Fr. Bill will meet with Helen Hayes on Thursday, with copy of the printout of Google form. People that claim on form to be active parishioners will be given tuition discount rate. After Easter, Fr. Bill will speak in homily about importance of attending weekend Mass, and fiscal responsibility to parish. Will have a system in place to show Mass attendance (suggestion QR code). February 2024 will have new stewardship campaign.

Discussed also to announce to parish the amount needed to support the parish budget. Committee needs to be diverse and come up with ideas to bring people to weekend Mass. Need to establish criteria for Mass attendance.

Motion to adjourn made by Kenny Nauert, with second by Josh Riley. Deacon David closed the meeting with prayer.

**Next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25 , 2023.**

Respectively submitted,

Dee Gossman