Parish Council Minutes, St. Michael’s, Newark, NY Meeting of January 3, 2023

In Attendance: Fr. Felicjan, Henry Banker, Dan Doyle, Jonathan Umadhay, Judy Bouwens, Peg Hartman, Gayle Addyman, June Sherman & Sue Joslyn.

Absent: Isabella Humphrey, Braydan Sherman & Carmella Owen

Opening Prayer: Judy Bouwens

Henry moved to approve/accept December minutes. Dan seconded. Passed and carried.

Old Business:

Volunteer Reception on January 20, 2023

Boiler status quo. Take off agenda

CMA – We are at 50% of our goal. Mary’s email discussed. If we are going to send message, it must be directed to all parishioners. We can’t single out anyone because the consensus was that we would lose them. Henry inquired if 57% was “normal” for this time of year. Both June and Fr. Felicjan that it was good. A lot of people have passed away, and we can’t judge what people’s finances are. Consensus was no letter, because of the increased expense for postage, paper, ink, etc. It will have to be addressed at masses. This should include Lyons because many Newark parishioners attend the Saturday mass.

Planning Group – Surveys seem to be coming back in. When we did collection, there was a good stack of them. As far as churches to close, some people listed “Lyons, Clyde and Savannah parish. Some people are still nod understanding “cluster”. Many said Clyde, Lyons, and some Savannah. Some said Clyde and Newark. Diocese has to be part of the planning. They won’t leave it up to us. There is a priest shortage, so we know this is coming. We’ll just have to do the best we can.

Flowers – When Carmella did arrangements for Christ the King, those arrangements were $25.00 each. Don’t know if we are going to be able to get anything in the way of the way of memory flowers for $10.00. If we co, who is going to pick them up. You can get arrangements from Wegmans for $7.99, but who is going to do that? Judy asked if we could contact the florist. Perhaps if we give them vases, they can do a little $10.00 arrangement. It would be worth it just to check it out. One vase a week under Mary statue and/or in stand in front of the altar. They should be where people can see them. The memorial flowers shouldn’t necessarily be for who the mass is being said. But if someone comes in and requests a mass for a time/day when it is already being said for someone else, we could offer them memorial flowers instead for that week.

Candles – the candles in memorial were a very big success. This is the first year we have done this. We had 89 candles (35 of which were left from All Souls). This will be the last Sunday they are lit.

Poinsettias – Who is to be watering them, because at 8:15 mass 5 or 6 of them were drooping. As far as June knows, Monica has been watering them. Jude doesn’t know if it is the cold in the church or the flowers themselves. Fr. Felicjan believed it was the cold in the church.

Judy noticed one Sunday that there was mass intention for two people at one mass. It is believed that Carmella and Patty Mason agreed on it. It is common practice that if you have more than one intention for the same mass, it has to be OKd with the Bishop – need Bishop’s permission.

Parish involvement – All thought traveling chalice was a good idea. A good time to start would be Lent.

Faith Formation – Want to create a Bible Study for teenagers. June stated that the big issue would be when to schedule it. We are looking at volunteers to facilitate it, not Carlo. With the few teens we have, you have to know when to hold it. Have to make it a time when kids are available. Carlo thought of opening it up not only to teens, but to adults as well. Someone in Clyde started one there, but it didn’t work out. Carlo wants to base the Bible Study on the readings for the week. Good ideas, but we need participation.

New Business:

June wanted thoughts for adult servers for 8:15 mass or both masses actually. We technically have 5 servers, and one is not very hopeful that she is going to stick with it. Don’t thing it is something she wants to do. Think parents are forcing her. Gayle feels always a good idea to reach out. Adults were doing it for funerals. Women are also welcome. Something should be announced and put in the bulletin. Let’s do this.

Do we know if TIC is going to have Lenten Luncheons? Fr. Felicjan hasn’t heard anything.

Long Range:

Ministry Faire – We should do it after 8:15 and 10:30 masse. We need to work on finding a Sunday in May that will work. Not the 14th as that is Mother’s Day. We are looking at the 7th or the 21st. Sue will check when First Communion is planned.

Keep Spring rummage sale on agenda so we don’t lose track.

Peg has been asked by about 4 people if we were having a chicken BBQ again.

Euchre – Noted in minutes it would be this Friday, but nothing was announced at masses or in bulletin. We have to announce and put in bulletin because people don’t remember. Perhaps it would be better to have it once a quarter instead of once a month. People bring things for food cupboard and prizes. Perhaps every month is too much. This Friday won’t work, because no one was notified. We should get it announced for first Friday in February. Judy asked if it should be held during Lent. Fridays in Lent are Stations of the Cross, so that won’t work. Fr. Felicjan believes 4 times a year is enough.

June – We haven’t had anything after Stations for a while. Recalls that the youth used do something during Lent, but not every Friday. Would like to do something again this year. We all know about the Fairville fish fry. Perhaps we could do something for those who can’t afford the fish fry or can’t get out there. Perhaps soup and bread. It would be worth a try. Not every Friday, but maybe every other week. Could have it after Stations. We would have to get people to volunteer to make the soup, and preparation and man the evening. This would not be a fundraiser – just a community event. Lyons did this and at one point had about 20 crockpots of soup. We could do it first and third Fridays of Lent of first and last. Not Good Friday. Ash Wednesday if February 15th (actually February 22nd). Could do it first Friday in March and last Friday in March. First Friday is the Newark High School musical, so that isn’t good. Could do March 10 and March 31st. Easter is April 9th. We have to get it announced and get sign up sheets for volunteers and also people who will attend so we know how much soup we will need. Obviously, meatless soup.

Closing prayer

Nex meeting is February 7th. Henry has opening prayer and Sue has closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Joslyn, Secretary