Parish Council Minutes, St. Michael’s, Newark, NY Meeting of December 6, 2022

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

Absent: Isabella Humphrey, Braydan Sherman & June Sherman

Opening Prayer: Judy Bouwens

Gayle moved to approve/accept November minutes. Dan seconded. Passed and carried.

Old Business:

Boiler fixed. Looking for new one. Will look at budgeting after winter.

Bankruptcy Restructuring – Agreement should have been scheduled for December 7th but adjourned to January 31, 2023. We don’t know what will be done. Discussions and fighting with insurance.

CMA - $14,155 paid. $16,898 committed. 43.32% of our goal.

Planning Group – Met November 17th. Purpose of meeting was plotting density of households. Carmella has next meeting on her schedule. We are not looking at closing this church. Based on finances of the church. Mary is meeting with a couple of people this month. Committee putting together a survey and putting it in the pews at Christmas. Would state here is all the information of your church. Do you have any opinion on if one has to go, which one would you choose. All surveys will be collected, and the committee will meet in January. This is not a vote, just a survey.

Flowers – How are we going to proceed with flowers for altar. Everyone is happy with the peace lilies, and they are uniform. Peg checks them every Sunday for watering. Christmas flowers will be same as last year, and Monica is still involved with that.

Euchre Tournament – No one showed up at the December one, as RPO concert was at the high school that night. Margaret’s intent is to keep trying. The next one will be the first Friday of January.

Parish involvement – Fr. Mike mentioned something he did during his pastoral. Traveling chalice ministry. An actual chalice is used – not the one we use during the mass, but a simple one. We would have any families that are interested sign up and each week a new family would be chosen to take the chalice home with them on Sunday and pray for vocations at dinner during that week. We could do it here and at other parishes as well. Everyone thought it was a good idea. Something we could discuss further after Christmas. Especially a good idea now during the Year of the Eucharist. The families would be given prayer materials.

Dan brought issue of vocations – not talked about enough. It seems several years since we have talked about vocations at masses. He also inquired as to how Faith Formation was going. If we want our kids to think about vocations, we need to discuss it more often with the kids.

Fr Mike stated that Faith Formation is going well. Carlo Stebbings is in charge of it in our cluster. First Sunday of the month, all students meet in Clyde. Carlo takes the parents, and two catechists take the kids. The second Sunday if a family-oriented session in Newark or Clyde. Sue explained how the family session is going here – well.

Fr. Mike agreed that there has to be more discussion on vocations.

Dan – We are starting to see more young people at church. Need to see more altar servers. Unfortunately, this is happening everywhere. The whole church is struggling. We will work on vocations and vocational chalice.

New Business:

Penance Service – Dan mentioned that years ago we did a penance service and received general absolution. Makes it easier for people to come back.

Fr. Mike stated that they are not allowed to de general absolution. People used it too much. Only used in emergencies. Never meant to be used at it was being used.

Long Range:

Volunteer reception is scheduled for January 20th.

Ministry Faire – sometime in May, after Easter. Gayle suggested that perhaps we should invite people who were involved with ministries that are no longer active and perhaps some of them can be revived.

Keep on agenda:

Staff luncheon to find a date that works for most people.

Also, Spring rummage sale so we don’t lose track.

Christmas is all set.

Kneelers are all done, and we have received many compliments.

Judy – we used to have scheduled times for confessions during the week. Wednesday night, but no one comes. Anyone can call the office to schedule. We have a lot of times, just spread throughout the cluster.

Closing prayer – Dan Doyle

Respectfully submitted

Sue Joslyn, Secretary