

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**ST. MARY CHURCH – CARLYLE**  
**Tuesday, March 14th**  
**7:30pm**

1. Gerard Luebbers called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm with prayer with the Hail Mary being recited by all.
2. Nominations were accepted for council secretary with Larry Peppenhorst nominating Kevin Frank. Ed Kleber seconded his nomination. All were in favor.
3. Gerard Luebbers was then nominated as council president by Larry Peppenhorst and the nomination was seconded by Kevin Frank. All were in favor.
4. Jane Beckmann then nominated Ed Kleber for council Vice President with a second by Gerard Luebbers. All were in favor.
5. In attendance at silent roll call were: Jane Beckmann, Kevin Frank, Chad Holthaus, Ed Kleber, Brenda Knolhoff, Gerard Luebbers, Macie Osborn, Larry Peppenhorst, John Zieren (Trustee), and Ellen Knolhoff (DRE). Fr. George arrived after Mass and Barb Cardwell arrived late.
6. President Luebbers welcomed new council members Chad Holthaus, Brenda Knolhoff and Macie Osborn.
7. Appreciation was then expressed for outgoing members Elaine Horstmann, Troy Hempen & Bridget Winter for their service on the parish council.
8. Minutes from January 10, 2023 were approved as written with a motion by Kevin Frank and seconded by Jane Beckmann. All were in favor.
9. Committee reports:

**Administration:** Report given by Larry Peppenhorst

Larry indicated the drainage by the door of the pantry for Matthew 25 is a continued problem. Randy Foster, Scott Kauling and Ken Voegeli recently met about options to remedy the situation. The suggestion was made to possibly raise the doors of the pantry on the north side of the building and then install a ramp for entry. ADA compliance was discussed concerning the possible ramp. This may be a more costly option than previously discussed, but with the drain by the door being the same height as the curb, options are limited. Also, the clay tile for the drain is broken. Grades would need to be shot to determine if this option is feasible. They discussed the possibility of one door instead of the two current doors. Larry will continue to look into options and the possibility of raising the door and adding a ramp for the Matthew 25 pantry entrance.

**Cemetery report:** Report given by Gerard Luebbers

Gerard reported he will be meeting with Joe Isaak of the Carlyle Cemetery concerning the oiling and chipping of the roads in the cemeteries. Gerard has contacted Anderson Oil and said the oil and chipping will not be done until at least May.

**Social Outreach:** Report given by Jane Beckmann

Jane mentioned there is an upcoming clothing drive to benefit St. Vincent DePaul. She indicated dress clothing including belts and purses are being accepted. Carlyle High School National Honor Society members will assist the Social Outreach Committee with packing up the items on April 4 and Skeets Dumstorff will deliver the donated items to East St. Louis. Jane mentioned the Social Outreach Committee would welcome new

members to join the group. Possibly a note in the bulletin concerning this would be helpful. Current Social Outreach Committee members are Skeets Dumstorff, Paulette Evans, GERALYN Hodapp, and Marlene Hoffman. Bringing back Cosgrove's Casseroles was discussed with the possibility of asking for donations for casseroles to be made in the parish center.

**Liturgy** – Report given by Father George

Father indicated he is again able to hold mass at the Carlyle Healthcare center on Thursdays. He mentioned there are currently quite a few Catholic residents there and at the Villa Catherine Assisted Living Home.

**Faith Formation** – report given by Ellen Knolhoff (DRE)

- ❖ Monday February 20, the Confirmation class had their retreat and celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation. We had 12 St. Mary participants; 8 from St. Rose; 5 from St. Felicitas, Beaver Prairie; 3 from Holy Childhood, Mascoutah; 3 from St. Cecilia, Bartelso; and 1 from St. Boniface, Germantown. Total participants: 32! Thanks to Jackie Toennies and her team!
- ❖ On Sunday February 26, the Rite of Sending was celebrated at the 10:00 am Mass for candidates Dora Diekemper and Nikolas Stein. They later traveled to the Cathedral in Belleville for the Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion joined by others from the Belleville Diocese. Dora and Nikolas will be welcomed into the Church on the Easter Vigil, Sat April 8.
- ❖ On Tues March 7, I attended the Catechetical Leaders Meeting lead by Bishop McGovern. Tiffany was also in attendance. I will defer to her notes on the meeting in the Youth Ministry Report.
- ❖ On Wednesday March 8, we had Stations of the Cross for the Faith Formation students in church.
- ❖ On Wednesday March 15, Grades 2 through 7 will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. After the children confess their sins and make an Act of Contrition, their sins (on slips of paper) are burned (weather permitting).
- ❖ We will again have the Second Grade class stand in for the apostles on Holy Thursday (April 6) and have their feet washed. The Eighth Grade Confirmation class will also participate.
- ❖ Eighth Grade Confirmation Class will take part in the Triduum liturgy.
- ❖ Triduum – April 6, 7, 8; Easter Sunday – April 9
- ❖ Confirmation – Tue May 2, 7:00 pm at St. Cecilia, Bartelso
- ❖ First Communion – Sun May 7 at 10:00 am
- ❖ High School Graduate Recognition Mass – Sun May 21 at 10:00 am

Ellen asked about the status of the white boards for the classrooms and Jane indicated Randy is checking to see if the proposed material they plan to use is erasable.

Ellen then reported she has submitted her letter of resignation after 14 years of service as the DRE for St. Mary Parish. She plans to retire this May.

**Youth Ministry:** Tiffany Wesselmann – (report read by Ellen Knolhoff)

Our Youth Ministry has met 2 times since the report I have last given. We met on Saturday, January 21st at 10am. We had donuts and milk that I provided from Oh So Sweet Bakery. We had 6 young adults in attendance. We just had a heart to heart discussion about how they felt about their position in the church and what they would like to see themselves do for our church. They would love to be able to have a few Youth

Ministry Masses each year where they do full participation with the ministries. We also talked about the things they had coming up in school and what they were looking forward to doing in the next month. We then met again February on the 15th where we helped our Reverse Raffle committee to stuff and seal the letter and tickets for the upcoming Reverse Raffle. I had 4 young adults in attendance for this. We were able to get everything prepped for the mailing that evening so these kids did a great job and worked hard to finish that up in a matter of 2 hours. We will be meeting again towards the end of the month to stuff Easter eggs for the parish Easter egg hunt. You will also see these young adults helping and putting on that event. I had the pleasure of going to an informational meeting with Bishop McGovern on Tuesday, March 7th. This was a meeting for DRE's, CRE's, youth ministry leaders, campus ministers, etc. I believe this was a great meeting and there will be more to come. Here are a few things I took away from the meeting:

- What has been the significant change in getting kids involved to church?  
both parents work, children are in activities any given day of the week, grandparents are getting the kids around.
- Some people still haven't come back because of COVID and some of because of the way we implemented our restrictions.
- Youth Ministry: some groups are dealing with competition with sports. Bishop had mentioned that one leader has decided to go head to head with those other things to show that youth ministry and your faith are just as important as those sports.
- What is not being taught at home anymore? You can't assume what the kids are learning at home these days.
- How can we supplement? Bishop encouraged us to create a basic framework for what is important.
- Do you think of yourself being on a mission? What is a missionary disciple? How about we go out and tell people about Jesus! Let me tell you what he did for me! Be a personal witness.
- Be vulnerable to God. He wants to help you "get it all together". Let Him into your "messy" areas of your life.
- How are your relationships? He believes that relationships are very brittle these days. Have Jesus be your best friend. Who is He to you?
- As for Youth Ministry, Bishop would like to have something offered to the youth year round. He fears that after Confirmation, they think it's over. Teach them to pray and do missions/retreats, etc.
- Disaffiliation is becoming the largest group, so those of no religious faith.
- Bishop's vision is that we take a multilayer approach with faith formation. Meet the kids where they are and not just teach out of a text/workbook. Have them be part of something BIGGER.
- Could we bring back World Youth Day or Confirmation Day?
- Maybe offer a family faith formation, mom & tot program, grandparent day at faith formation, greeters at Mass, movie night, texts to our parishioners, etc. Buy into their world so they buy into ours. How do we welcome new parishioners?
- Bishop will start offering bulletin posts for our bulletins.
- Offer links from our website to maybe the Bishop's FB page or YouTube channel. More communication out to our parishioners.
- These are important steps: content ~ delivery system ~ audience. Can't have one without the other.
- The question arose to move Confirmation to maybe October so the kids don't think that their faith ends at the same time as their "grade school" years. Try something to keep the faith going.

**Social Recreation:** Report given by Jane Beckmann

Jane mentioned the Reverse Raffle will be held Saturday, March 25 and Valerie Nolte is actively seeking additional volunteers to assist. She also indicated a reception will be hosted by the Ladies Sodality after Holy Saturday Mass in honor of the RCIA Candidates. Lastly, she mentioned the North Central Vicariate meeting will be held in the parish center on Wednesday, April 26 from 9:30am to 2:00 pm.

**Finance committee:** report given by Fr. George

The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023.

10. Old Business

- It was reported the church roof resolution has been sent to the Diocese and we are awaiting their approval of the bid for the roof replacement. Jane asked if and when the roof is replaced that we request to save some of the slate tiles for possible projects or fundraisers.
- The Parish Council election results were then reported and Gerard again thanked the outgoing council members and welcomed the new members.
- Father reported the Katharina Kasper Statue previously displayed at Carlyle Healthcare Center will be placed on the grounds at Mater Dei Catholic High School soon.
- Discussion took place concerning the dying tree along Jefferson Street. This item was tabled until the next meeting.
- Removal of the water fountains in the hallway of the parish center was then discussed. It was decided to leave them where they are for now for fear of a pipe breaking inside the wall.
- John reported the Trustees have decided to hold off on the installation of the security alarm for the parish until some of the other major projects have been completed.

11. New Business

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm** with St. Teresa, Marydale

The Parish Council meeting was adjourned at 8:51 pm.  
Minutes taken by Brenda Knolhoff