

**Parish Council Meeting Minutes**  
**6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

1. **Chair, Deb Ehrecke**, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
2. **Present** – Bob Brus, Barb Reiland, Deb Ehrecke, Dcn.. Steve, Ray Harre, Kathy Elliot, Brenda Todd, Ed Kocal and Shirley Schmidt.
3. **Absent** – Chris Rubley and Mary Nelson
4. **Deacon Steve** opened the meeting with a prayer
5. **Minutes-Approval of April Minutes-Shirley Schmidt** –Barb Reiland moved to approve the April minutes, Kathy Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. **Reports from Committees:**

A. Building & Grounds, Ed Kocal:

- Clean-up of May 6 went well with 7 volunteers that cleaned the church and parish center gutters and downspouts; planted and mulched 4 trees to replace previously died trees; lawn repair; hedge trimming; picked up branches; pulled weeds out of the mulch and rocks. Will need to purchase more mulch for parish center entrance.
- IOSSI will be starting on the water damage repair & prevention soon.
- Concrete slab in front of church entrance mud-jacked to eliminate trip hazard.
- Getting a bid on the repair of 15 large windows as some leak.
- Ed would like to get a bid on adding padding to pews.
- Music component in sound system for play back no longer works. Can use the one for the organ instead.

B. Faith Formation, Brenda Todd:

- Working on budgets for Religious Ed, RCIA and Faith Formation.
- Six children celebrated first Holy Communion April 16.
- Confirmation was May 6.
- Darin and Kelly expressed thanks to Mary's Angels and all who helped, and gave cards and gifts in support of the new Catholics. They plan to have a survey for input for future sessions.
- Vacation Bible School runs from June 26 – 30, 2023 from 9:00 am to noon; Most of the cost is covered by other churches; need volunteers. Call Phyllis Avesing to sign up.
- Still need second grade catechists and more back-up 2<sup>nd</sup> person volunteers.
- Still looking at survey and have not met with SAU/Diocese on the resulting information.

C. Christian Service: Brenda Todd reported for Mary Nelson.

- May 12 is Churches United meal. Need more for serving.
- May 12 is Food Pantry.

D. Justice and Peace, Ray Harre:

- We have a new member from the volunteer weekend, Larry Ewers.

- Following discussion, funds were given as follows: Café on Vine, COAR Peace Mission and Buffalo Food Pantry \$700.00 each. Blessing Box \$500.00, Gilda's Club, \$200.00.
- Humility of Mary submitted a new application and will be considered in the next quarter.
- Ray also shared that we do not pay salaries for non-profits.

E. Mary's Angels, Deb Ehrecke:

- Held a sign painting class with 15 parishioners attending. Plan to do it again.
- Bake sale during the city wide garage sale was a success. Made \$720.00. Thanks to Bonnie Strong for the use of her front yard, and for selling the remaining goods the following day.
- No meetings during June or July. Will meet August 7.
- Parish Picnic will be August 27 following Mass.
- Knights will grill brats and burgers; Potluck for everyone; Phyllis Avesing and Mary's Angels will take care of games and prizes. Paige Lansing will do face painting. Deb will contact Kona Ice. Lemonade, Tea and Coffee will be provided.
- Invite Father Tom Hennen, our Priest Moderator.
- Looking into Abby Box's cousin to play guitar.

F. Parish at Large: Deb Ehrecke reported for Chris Rubley:

- Why are the weekly offerings not reported in the bulletin? Barb shared that it is most likely because many parishioners are using Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) through Blue Grass Bank and bank statements that reflect the EFT amounts are sent monthly. In the past it was changed to a monthly report in the Bulletin. We need to resume the practice.

G. Parish at Large, Bob Brus, no report.

H. Welcome, Kathy Elliot, no report.

I. Worship and Prayer, Shirley Schmidt:

- Music was planned for the rest of the Easter Season, including Confirmation.
- Holy Week was great, with about 40 attending on Holy Thursday, 60 for Good Friday and 100 at the Easter Vigil with about 60 of those being the RCIA Elect and families.
- Adoration will be Thursday, May 11 at 5:30 pm, Tuesday, June 20 at 6:30 pm and Tuesday, July 18 at 6:30 pm.
- Mother's Day – Dcn. Steve will ask Father Bud to offer a blessing for Mothers.
- Will ask for a family to bring up flowers for Crowning of Mary on Mother's Day.
- No meeting in June or July.
- Blue Mass in September will not be offered as attendance has been very low in the past.

J. Knights of Columbus, Shirley reported for Chris Rubley:

- All 16 Programs are complete for this year to be eligible for the Columbian Award. This is given to a council that has completed four programs in the section of Family, Community, Faith and Life.
- The Mississippi Valley Fair volunteer fund raiser, including the safety and security concerns, were discussed. The council decided not to do this fund raiser going forward.
- CPID of Tootsie Roll Drive will be held June 2 & 3 during Blue Grass Homecoming Days.
- The Knights will be giving out Golf Balls or something else to the Dads on Father's Day.

K. Finance, Barb Reiland reported:

- The Finance Council met on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The council approved the funds to complete the repairs due to water damage along the west wall of the parish center. Together the final expense, after insurance payment received, was above the \$5,000 threshold that would require a corporate resolution approved by the Diocese. The diocese has advised that the amount covered two separate repair needs, and didn't require a corporate resolution.
- Dcn. Steve has appointed Wendy Schnack, the parish secretary, to be the head money counter. She will be assisted by Deb Ehrecke and Bonnie Strong on a rotating basis, to be the second money counter as required by the Diocese. Offertory funds collected each weekend will be counted and deposited every Monday morning.
- FYI, beginning in the fall of 2023, parishes without an elementary school will begin subsidizing students who attend All Saints Catholic School (ASCS) in Davenport. The per-student subsidy will be \$2,000 per child. We anticipate six students for the 2023-24 school year. This is in addition to the school subsidies for St. Andrew Parish students attending AHS. This year the subsidy was \$16,000 for eight students. If we do end up with six students at ASCS, that will be an additional \$12,000, making \$28K we have to budget for school subsidies. However, final numbers are as yet unknown.
- April 2023 had five Sundays vs four Sundays in April 2022. Easter fell in April for both years. These factors would explain the higher Offertory (cash) amounts this year over last year, but doesn't explain why the Envelopes & EFT donations were slightly lower than last year. The net income figures show a \$38,887 improvement over last fiscal year. This was due to the \$16,654 higher income this year from all sources, and \$22K less in expenses showing a net income through April significantly better than last year. However, this is largely due to our unrealized gain in stock investments showing \$16,147 vs a loss of \$2,356 in those investments last year. Neither the gain or loss in stock assets is actual cash in the bank. Given that, our overall position is actually pretty static compared to this time last year.

**Profit & Loss (P&L) Comparison Year to Date (YTD):**

	YTD <u>July 2022 thru April 2023</u>	YTD <u>July 2021 thru April 2022</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
Envelopes & EFT	\$ 154,062	\$ 156,881	<b>\$ 2,819</b>
Offertory (cash in basket)	4,539	2,642	\$ 1,897
Total Income All Sources	197,681	181,027	\$ 16,654
Less Total Expenses	<u>- 139,453</u>	<u>- 161,685</u>	<b>\$ 22,232</b>
Net Income	<b>\$ 58,228</b>	<b>\$ 19,341</b>	<b>\$ 38,887</b>

**P&L Comparison – Current Month: April**

NO REPORT AVAILABLE TO COMPARE APRIL 2023 TO APRIL 2022

**7. Old Business:** Cleanup day – Ed Kocal reported in Buildings & Grounds.

**8. New Business**

A. Budget Preparation – Barb reported that her request for read-only access to Quick Books has been denied. Without being able to see the detail memos identifying what the expenses were and the costs, the Finance Council cannot do its job, and committee chairs cannot prepare their budgets. Shirley shared that she was told, along with other committee chairs, that a budget was to be prepared and given to Abby by the end of May. How can she or others prepare a budget when they do not have a copy of the previous budget, or the detail information, to know what should be included in the budget. Dcn. Steve will talk to Abby about it.

B. Parish Picnic: A date for the next parish picnic was selected. It will be August 27, 2023. Details were reported and discussed in the Mary's Angels report.

C. Update on Parish Directory – Kathy shared that she and Gina are working on it.

D. Volunteerism – how to get more parish members and their children involved was discussed.

E. Questions on the priorities of the 20% of the Capital Campaign that will come back to the parish was discussed. Ideas for other options were offered. Brenda asked if it is too late to change the project that was decided by the Parish Council, and has been published to all parishioners. Dcn. Steve will ask Bob McDonald about it.

F. Deacon Steve said that he will be appointing a new Lay Director to replace Barbara Reiland.

**9. Next Meeting will be August 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

**10.** Ray Harre moved to adjourn the meeting, Barb Reiland seconded. Motion carried. Ray Harre led us in the closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Shirley Schmidt, Secretary.