

**GOOD SHEPHERD-ST. THERESA CATHOLIC CHURCHES**  
**Evansville, Indiana**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 29, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Good Shepherd-St. Theresa Parish Council was held on Tuesday, March 29, at 6: 00 p.m. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

**ROLL CALL:**

Father Zach Etienne	Sara Brown	Judy Miller	Kay Tornatta
Deacon Dan DeCastr	Tammi Dant	Bill Noll	Mel Vinson
Judy VanHoosier	Dan Deeg	Mary Payne	Brad Will
Sarah Gahagen	Jennifer Fehrenbacher	Ken Schenk	Steve Witting
Ruth Becker	Larry Grant	Tom Schuler	
Sue Ballard	Carolyn Holland		

ABSENT: Diane Csukas, Mary Beth Davis, Tony Fehrenbacher, Denise Lamberton, Maggie Niemeier, Steve Piper and Pat Wahl.

Bill Noll made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on Feb. 23rd. Ken Schenk voiced a second, a vote was taken and the minutes were approved. It was noted some of the decisions made during the 2/23 meeting are affected by additional information and clarification received from the Diocese Tribunal, so a change of direction in processes is necessary.

**COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**FINANCE—Ruth Becker--ST**

- Collection amounts decreased during Feb. so ST is not meeting monthly projections, but is in a favorable position year- to-date.
- Income was received from rental of facilities. Expenses are in line with expectations.
- ST is in a positive financial position, with about \$34,000 favorable. The projected budget was \$35,000 unfavorable.

**FINANCE--- Sarah Gahagen--GS**

- Sarah distributed a Statement of Income for Feb. 2016.
- The year-to-date is in an unfavorable position in the amount of \$159,428. This amount is not alarming as GS has a reserve at the Diocese.
- Collection amounts have decreased, but the dollar amount should improve after the Easter Mass collections are included in the total.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL—e-mailed report from Judy VanHoosier is attached.**

- Sara Brown reported GS school has been approved for the Choice Scholarship program. Parents will be sending in applications.
- Part 1 of ISTEP and the IREAD for grade 3 have been completed.
- "Donuts with Dad" will be held on Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The "Daddy-Daughter" Dance was a success and earned \$500.
- The spring PTO flower sale is being held—orders must be turned in to the school by Friday, Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**HOSPITALITY/FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY--e-mailed report from Mary Payne is attached.**

- Mary reported the RICA reception after the Easter Vigil had large number of attendees.
- A reception for the ordination of Jerry Pratt as a transitional Deacon is being planned for April 10<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Jerry will be assisting Father Zach at the Mass.
- A reception for Judy VanHoosier to celebrate her retirement is being planned for May 15<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

#### **BINGO—Sarah Gahagen and Tom Schuler**

- Sarah distributed graphs indicting Bingo revenue. The numbers are comparable to the previous month.
- Sarah asked the Hospitality/Fellowship Commission to help with ideas to try to get more workers. Sarah is hoping after the Merger is completed a Ministry Fair will be held to enable people to get more information on volunteer opportunities.
- Tom said retiring Bingo workers should be thanked for their years of service. Father Zach asked the Bingo Commission to advise him when someone retires so he can acknowledge with a thank-you card. Barbara Bone and Phyllis Bredenkamp have recently retired.
- Tom mentioned the Heavenly Dusters (the Church cleaning volunteers) may have some workers retiring and will need to be replaced.
- A member asked if there is a plan in place for continuity of the Bingo. If the Bingo is discontinued in the future, how will the lost revenue be replaced? Sarah said Bingo proceeds are used for tuition costs, and staff has looked at the budget without Bingo income. The question was asked if the voucher program covers all tuition costs, and if not, has the deficit been explained to parents. Sarah explained she has made presentations at meetings. A member said she understands parents can't be required to work Bingo, but said they should be strongly encouraged to do so. School parents need to understand the Bingo supports the school. It was mentioned that some other non-public schools require service hours. Ruth said ST school parents had to work events as needed and would be charged an extra fee if they did not volunteer on some level. Father Zach is looking at ways of getting more parents involved. One possibility could be a two-tier payment scale enabling active Parishioners to pay the lesser amount.

#### **YOUTH MINISTRY—e-mailed report from Cindy Shoulders is attached.**

#### **SPIRITUAL LIFE—Bill Noll**

- Bill discussed the rummage sale for Haiti to be held on 4/2 from 7:00 a.m. to noon. The ST gym is full with donated items. Ruth is handling the sale project, and many people from both ST and GS are helping.
- The Commission has a table for 10 for the "Right to Life" banquet on 4/21. There are still 2 seats available.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Progress of the CPC was discussed: to date 454 CPC cards have been returned along with 281 survey cards. The goal is \$268,309. Pledges have been received totaling \$130,601, which is \$137,708 short. It is estimated approximately another \$56,000 will be pledged, leaving a shortfall in the amount of about \$83,000. Father Zach advised Joe Castrale reviewed the responses on the survey cards and calculated the results:
  - 67% of respondents are GS
  - Total – 73% Agree or Strongly Agree to keep name the same, 9% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
  - StT – 38% Agree or Strongly Agree to keep the same name, 24% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
  - GS – 91% Agree or Strongly Agree to keep same name, 2% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
- There was a discussion regarding following up with Parishioners who stated they disagree with keeping the Parish name as Good Shepherd. A member stated moving all Masses to GS have made things complicated. Another member said people in disagreement should be contacted. A member stated Parishioners in the minority may have a viewpoint that needs to be considered and issues that should be addressed. Bill said he is glad people were given an opportunity to express their opinion. Father Zach said the comments will be shared with the Merger Committee, and the members can follow up as needed.
- Father Zach announced the new school principal will be Kristen Girten. Ms. Girten formerly taught at GS, and the teachers are pleased to have her return as principal.
- Father Zach discussed the Diocesan Capital Campaign—the campaign will go forward, but has been changed to be implemented in phases. There will be a pilot group this summer. Parishes not affected by Mergers will be first, the second group will be Parishes merged in 2014 and the third will be the Parishes merging in 2016. For GS/ST preparation will start in the fall of 2017, and the campaign will begin in the spring of 2018. If a Parish is in need of a capital campaign, the dates may be revisited and moved up. It will be a 3 year pledge—once the campaign has started, the goal amount is firm and cannot be changed. The goal amount will be at least 2/3 of annual collection amounts. The professional group assisting with the campaign will provide pamphlets.

- Father Zach said the new Parish Council will have to look at needs of the Parish to determine if an early start should be done. The goal amount will have to be decided.
- Repair of the parking lot is one of the Parish priorities. Sarah reported a suggestion has been received to research having concrete instead of asphalt for the parking lot. A member said the needs of the Parish would have to be emphasized to achieve support from Parishioners.
- Father Zach said GS Church is in need of some work. The Finance Commission has approved updating the PA system—the cost is about \$40,000. The improvements will help people be able to hear the service--this is currently a problem for some attendees. Sarah advised as of the end of Feb. there is \$149,000 available in endowments that can be used. The current speaker system has been inspected and updates are needed. Mark is working with Bill Peter.
- Father Zach is still working on the project of selecting new Parish Council members. A brochure to explain requirements will be prepared—the candidate must be willing to collaborate with others members and not have an agenda. Father Zach will select 3 candidates from the present Council.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- The use of Parish property for holding fundraisers was discussed. Parishioners from ST want to have a soup dinner on 4/15 at ST as a fundraiser to help a family with medical expenses. The dinner will provide moral and financial support. ST has done this many times in the past. Father Zach suggested having quarterly fundraising dinners to help families in need, but not having dinners for individual families. A member stated a fundraiser should not be done for one individual family as there are other families wanting help. A suggestion was made to start a program to help families in need. A proposal was made to allow one last dinner at ST for this particular family as fundraisers have been done in the past at ST, and the Merger is not final until July 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no advertising in the bulletin or The Message. Volunteers will do all the work, provide the food and supplies and prepare the food. Some members stated they are only asking for use of the kitchen facilities. Father Zach asked for a vote from only the ST Parish Council members on this one time dinner. Larry Grant made a motion to have the dinner, Carolyn Holland voiced a 2<sup>nd</sup>, a vote was done and motion was approved. This is with the understanding new procedures will be in effect after July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Father Zach stated traditional fundraisers for groups will continue. Facilities can still be rented for private events other than fundraisers.

#### **PASTOR REMARKS:**

- Father Zach stated Catholic Charities will host a Respect for Life event at GS on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Maria Sermersheim is trying to get more participants in the Pen Pal program. There will be an article in The Message regarding this project.
- GS will have an Evening of Adoration for the ordination to the Diaconate of Jerry Pratt and John Pfister on Fri., 4/8 at 7:00 p.m. The ordinations will be on Sat., 4/9 and on Sun, 4/10 Jerry will assist at the 10:30 Mass. A reception will follow.
- Tyler Tenbarge and Ambrose Wanyani are being ordained as Priests. Homero Rodriguez will be ordained as a Deacon later this year.
- Joe Paul Hayden is a new Seminarian being added to the prayer list. Joe Paul is from the Dale area.
- GS/ST will not have Jerry Pratt for the summer as he has been assigned to Christ the King.
- First Communion will be on Apr. 24<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be an overnight function for Priests at St. Meinard on Apr. 25th and 26<sup>th</sup>.
- There may be a one time collection for the Solidarity for Africa.
- Father Zach is looking for married couples to sponsor engaged couples. There have been some additional married couples added to the list of sponsors. Any married couple wanting to assist with this program should submit their names.
- Father Zach asked if he should do a “school reach call” on the phone system for school families. A member stated she thinks having Father Zach call would be effective in encouraging parental involvement in the Parish. The Parish Council agreed. Father Zach will have the calls go out on Friday. Non-Catholics will be encouraged to attend their own Church or will be welcomed to attend GS if they choose to do so.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Parish Council members need to provide suggestions for classifications for new Parish Council members.**

The meeting ended with a prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING** – April 26th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Ballard