**Church of St Patrick**

**Parish Council**

**MINUTES: June 8, 2023**

**Members Present:** Fr Kuss, Liz Gerlach, Terry Kapsen, Roseanne Strand, Lisa Romain, Grace Hansen, Mike Weibel, Allison Schmidt, Andy Piazza,Bernadette Daly, Liesel Gutierrez

**Member Present via Zoom:** Bill Schnobrich, Zach Neuman

**Member Absent:** Jim Swanke

**7:00 pm Call to Order, with prayer:** Fr Kuss

**Parish Council Appointees**

* Bernadette Daly is the new Pastoral Appointee.
* Roseanne Strand will move to the Liturgical position.
* We are encouraged to reach out to new Parish Council members.
* Mike Weibel and Liesel Gutierrez will be transitioning out as the At-large members.

**Updates from Fr Kuss**

* He is looking for a carpenter to make frames for photos of Icons, which he will use as gifts to parishioners.
* He has a great need for Mentoring Couples for those who are preparing for marriage.
* We hired a Youth Minister. She will move here from Denver in mid-August. The interviews have gone very well. Cinthia will be of great help with much of the background work. Fr Kuss would like to make changes to the timing of some of the events. He also would like to have the Confirmation ceremony at this location.
* He is discouraged by the high prices quoted for furnishing the Celtic Center. For now, he made some changes to the furniture, intending to make the space more welcoming. He’s looking into window treatment that would shield some of the ultraviolet rays, which would be hard on new furniture.
* He has had other priests officiate the Sunday evening Mass at times so that he may have a break.
* Four carpets were replaced in four classrooms for the ABC Preschool.
* The Hitchville Outdoor Concert will take place on June 21.

**3 Year Strategic Plan**

* Fr Kuss suggested getting quotes for hiring a professional researcher to work on this project.
* At the previous Council meeting, we broke out into small groups to discuss the priorities of these strategies. Terry presented a chart breaking down Objectives (Goal), Strategy (How?) and Tactics (What?). Tonight we will cover what we want our Objectives to be with a goal.
* A potential research question could be, “What are we doing well, and how can we do it better?”
* We should report levels of progress every quarter.
* Fr Kuss would like help exploring why young families sign up with the Parish but don’t participate. How can we help them? This question could be posed in our upcoming parishioner/research survey.
* Getting a headcount of people attending Mass is a measure of participation. We will resume doing that in the Fall.
* Another good metric is the enrollment in Faith Formation classes.
* We can track the number of volunteers. That number has gone up a lot recently.
* Monitoring financial donations is another way.
  + Fr Kuss doesn’t like how people have the mindset of raising money for various needs at the church. It is backward thinking. It is a “business sense,” not scriptural. Biblically, we are responsible for giving back.
  + Stewardship and the sense of belonging are one.
* Mike pointed out that the Objectives “Increase and Retain Membership” and “Grow Engagement of Parishioners” are essentially the same.
* Roseanne thought that “Increase and Retain Membership” is something not so much to be taught to do but something we should do every time we walk in the door by actively engaging with people.
* Fr Kuss believes that expanding our Faith Formation is a #1 goal. That is evangelization.
* Increasing and retaining membership and growing engagement is another form of evangelization. He did not hold much hope in reaching out to parishioners who had been inactive for a long time.
* Fr Kuss is also working on clarifying their stewardship responsibility to parishioners.

**8:00 pm Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by Lisa Romain.**