**Saint Alban Roe (SAR)**

**Parish Council Meeting**

**23 January 2024, Written 25 January 2024**

**7:40-9:15 pm**

**In Person Members (Mikesch Hall):** Fr. Clark Philipp, Fr. John Seper, Gary Lombardo (President), Joe Braeckel (Vice President), John Gleich (Secretary), Dan Tarpey, Mark Rethorn, Tammy Lawrence, Christy Brotherton, Sue Garrett, Pam Schnell, Megan Ruder

**Members Absent:** Deacon Keith Mallon, John Stieferman, Anne Marie Christopher, Mark Pilkenton

We met in church first at ~7:15pm, prayed quietly first, then together, then moved downstairs to Mikesch Hall for our meeting.

**Gary Lombardo** asked for any prayers and special intentions.

**Gary Lombardo** asked to approve the minutes for the last 2 meetings. **John Gleich** pointed out that he slightly revised the minutes from our last meeting, replacing that the sewer leak smell was fixed in the school to that it was actually fixed in Mikesch Hall. Our Parish Council school members said that there is still a smell of natural gas in the school that has persisted for a while now, in more than one area. **John Gleich** suggested calling Spire immediately to check it out. The meeting minutes were approved and sent to Sally Tschopp to post on our SAR web site.

**Note:** Susan Noonan has resigned from the Parish Council since it often conflicts with her job meetings. **Fr. Clark Philipp** asked that we don’t replace her right now, and wanted to review our Parish Council bylaws.

**Fr. Clark Philipp** opened with a discussion on the status of Christmas activities including:

1. Christmas masses went well. Fire alarm was set off (false alarm) at the midnight mass. Two mass attendees related to the fire department turned it off and avoided a call.
2. Considerable discussion held about how many masses to have and at what times and locations at Christmas.

**Fr. Clark Philipp** led a long discussion about the book “From Christendom to Apostolic Mission”. Parish Council members were to have read through Chapter 3 prior to our meeting. Our assignment for the meeting on 2/27/24 is to read Chapters 4, 5 and the conclusion.

Some of the discussion centered around answering the question “What functions in our parish as a Christendom model?” An example would be going to church/mass because of how you were raised. Most of our parish organizations function as a Christendom model. Not a lot of evangelization going on in our parish.

Take PSR for example. Many parents just send their children to PSR to check the box so that their children can get confirmed and go to communion. Many of those parents don’t go to mass themselves, so their children don’t go to mass either. Sr. Christian Price tried to get accountability of PSR with the sacraments. RCIA is another example. Although it’s a good ministry for evangelization, some do it just to get married in the Catholic faith.

There are 3 or 4 generational gaps in our church organizations and everywhere in parishes. We are disconnected from each other. How do we begin to look at the events that the parish puts on in our parish to become more Apostolic? We need to think practically about what we do in the parish.

**Fr. Clark Philipp** talked about a few additional parish activities, including:

1. Held several Listening Sessions with School Parents. Need to do the same for the teachers. 6 key questions asked in these Listening Sessions included: (1) **Word of Mouth:** How did you first hear about our school, and what influenced your decision to enroll your child here? (2) **Positive Aspects:** What do you appreciate most about our school? Can you share specific experiences that have been positive for your child here? How has our school positively impacted your family? (3) **Concerns and Challenges:** (every community - part of the human condition) Are there any concerns or challenges you feel the school is currently facing? Do you have any suggestions for improving certain aspects of our school? Are there specific areas where you believe our school could enhance its offerings or support? (4) **Communication:** How would you rate the communication between our school and parents? Is there a specific method of communication you find most effective or lacking? (5) **Parental Involvement:** What opportunities or initiatives would encourage greater parental involvement? (6) **Suggestions for Improvement:** If you could make one improvement to the school, what would it be?
2. Open Parish staff positions, especially actively working on filling the Communications position and coordinator of Evangelization.
3. Casino Night on 2/10/24
4. The School Board is being reinstituted with some new members and had a meeting.
5. Open House for the school is 1/28/24
6. School budget and tuition increase for next school year
7. The need to do something different to impact growth

**Gary Lombardo** said that our Donut Sunday event on 1/21/24 went well. Plan to continue Family Fun Nights. Consider having more parish wide community events. **Fr. Clark Philipp** suggested maybe start them after mass.

**Our next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for February 27th at 7:30pm, with the Council meeting in the church first at 7:15, then Mikesch Hall at 7:30pm.**

**Fr. Clark Philipp** asked that we all consider doing a sacrifice before Lent such as fasting and saying a rosary. Father closed the meeting with a prayer ~9:15pm.