

Minutes of St. Casimir Parish Council Meeting September 13, 2016 (prepared by Dyann Klemann)

Members Present: Fr. Mike Powell, Deb Blees, Kathy Domeier, Ray Gorski (absent), Julie Morales, Cindy Pasiuk, Cathy Rajtar, Sandy Conroy (Trustee). Visitors: Brother James and Dah Poe

Father Mike opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with a prayer.

Minutes of the August 9, 2016, meeting were approved with correction of the member name from "Julie" to "Cathy" Rajtar.

Brother James and Dah Poe attended the meeting to discuss some behavior concerns involving Karen parishioners at St. Casimir's. During the teen presentation at 9 a.m. Sunday Mass, some young Karen children were in the church vestibule without supervision. The inside church doors were closed but outside church doors were open. A child could wander out to the street jeopardizing their safety. Brother James prefers that when a child needs to leave church to use the restroom, etc., they not go alone but be accompanied by an older child or adult. They should return to their seat in church afterward. To keep children safe when dropping them off for services, families should drop off the children in the parking lot. Ushers have asked Karen members to bring up the gifts at offertory time, but they usually decline – why? Is there something in the Karen culture to explain why shoes are removed in church? Yes – cultural basis. The Karen tend to sit together on one side of the church rather than sitting among other parishioners. Is this to feel more secure because they are newer members? They miss the older parish members they knew while at Blessed Sacrament parish, they need more time to become comfortable here. The council asked that the Karen be reminded to clean up the kitchen in the old school hall when they use it. Sticky surfaces and food crumbs have been left for the next users. Dah Poe has been assisting with the Karen for a long time even while they were at Blessed Sacrament. She is familiar with their culture and helps communicate and explain differences between our expectations and theirs. They are close to their catechist. Some larger feasts they celebrate at St. Bernard's.

Committee Reports: Maintenance – meeting is set for 9/27. The air conditioner installation will be done by another company. Before the work is begun, our gardeners should relocate the perennials and shrubs that would be damaged during this work on the alley side of the old school hall. The boiler work will be done in mid-October. Refer to finance meeting notes of 9/7/16.

Alert: Cars were ticketed on Saturday evening because they were parked too close to the intersection crosswalk on Forest Street. Parishioners need to be alerted to park the appropriate distance back to avoid tickets.

Liturgy: Memorial Mass is scheduled for the last weekend in October. Saturday evening Oct. 15 will be the anointing Mass. It is suggested that one Sunday a month Father Mike have a visiting priest do the Mass at St. Patrick's so that Father Mike can stay and interact with parishioners at St. Casimir's after 9 a.m. Mass. This would involve a cost of \$50 for the assisting priest, but that is reasonable. Kim Kroll will step down when the new music director is found. A candidate, Mary, will be interviewed on Friday. Father and Cindy purchased new oils and containers for use at Baptisms. The items are in the cabinet hanging near the Baptistery. Kim intended to acknowledge those who contributed toward the purchase of our new hymnals, and this needs to be done. Suzanne re-covered the wedding kneelers in white leather – beautiful improvement. Father Mike has ordered a new chasuble.

Hospitality event to thank Father Greg and Father Bob was attended by the Karen and they sang. Our welcome for Father Mike will be a pot luck supper following Saturday evening Mass on Sept. 17. Set up will be at 2 pm; help is welcome.

Old Business: Immigration project involving Emily from Macalester College, Sandy, Father Mike, Cindy, and Christina covers 60 years of history of the churches in the area. Tour of our church and photographs reveal how beautiful the church is. The project involved the school and Freedom Library. The final report will be shared when completed. Next month we will resume discussion of survey topics.

New Business: The new parish constitution is now on the web site – dated May. Names of parish council members and their term expiration would be good to have on our parish web site. Regarding our sharing of information from parish council meetings: clarify that our approved minutes will be shared with parishioners on a table in back of church. A brief synopsis in the bulletin could also be done. The agenda for the next meeting could be put on the site. Cathy asked about offering automated option for making our weekly church contributions. This will be investigated to see how many users would be necessary and what level of interest there is in the parish. This would make it easier for parishioners who are away to send their contribution here while they are gone. Laura Rose has brought an outline for a Communion Service so that we have something to follow should we need it. On Oct. 24 our blood drive is scheduled from 1 to 7 p.m. in the old school hall. A volunteer to help prepare for Baptism has come forward. Someone to help with wedding preparation is still needed. Married couples with children would be a good fit. Our church bulletin is now in color at no additional cost. Due to voting on the second Tuesday of November, 11/8/16, the third Tuesday will be the meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.