

**SJTW Catholic Church  
Parish Council Meeting  
Minutes  
March 21, 2023**

**Attendance of members present:** Barbara Callan, Mary Jo Ouillette, Dave Olako, Richard Burris, Carole Sumner, Marguerite Lewis, Mary Beavers, Conrad Kemble , and Father Julius Abuh

**Absent:** Jose Aguilera

**Chairperson Barbara Callan** calls meeting to order at 6:00 PM

**Opening Prayer:** Dave Olako

**Minutes of February 13, 2023, meeting by Mary Jo Ouillette-** February meeting minutes were reviewed by members online; approved online by members. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written by Richard Burris and seconded by Dave Olako. Minutes will be archived.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Spiritual Life:** Richard Burris reports that a process is in place to work with the chairpersons of parish groups and committees under the category of Parish Spiritual Life to improve reporting and communication.
- **Spiritual Life Hispanic Community:** J Aguilera is absent. Father Julius reports that the number of Hispanic parishioners is growing. On Good Friday, Hispanic parish members are planning an outdoor procession carrying a large cross for the Stations of the Cross.
- **Education Ministry:** Dave Olako reports that there are fifty-eight students in the R.E. Program. Also, they have a pool of ten instructors and four teacher aides. The aides are teens who have already received their Confirmation and continue the program each Sunday.
  - The R.E. Program also received a grant provided by the Diocese for the purpose of religious education.
  - February 25, twenty-six students received their First Reconciliation.
  - Friday, March 17, fourteen students/instructors facilitated the Stations of the Cross.
  - April 8, four students will be baptized.
  - April 16, twelve students will be confirmed.
  - On April 30, twenty-six students will receive their first communion.

- **Social Action:** Marguerite Lewis reported that the Social Action Committee is coordinating with Mary Beavers and the Knights of Columbus for food supplies for Good Shephard . It was suggested that they touch base with Catholic Charities also.
- **Family Life:** M Ouillette. Our prayer chain group is being revived once again thanks to Cindy Murphy. Her telephone number can be found in the Church bulletin. Please text her.
- **Parish Life:** Carole Sumner reported that the Welcome Committee will meet June 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM, after Spanish Mass.
- **Finance Committee** – Caroline Chase was not at the meeting. Father stated that the audit has been completed for the first and second quarters of the fiscal year. The Finance Committee is pleased with the outcome of the audit. The finance committee also looked at the breakdown of the process and procedures for money counters.
- **Youth group:** Conrad Kemble reported that on March 10, the Stations of the Cross was led by Youth Group with five participants.
  - On April 8, the Youth Group is meeting to finalize all plans for April 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - On April 9, there will be an Easter Event with food and games right after the Hispanic Mass. The group is asking for donations from parishioners. Plastic eggs and candy or money will be helpful.
- **Administration** Barbara Callan
  - **Building and Grounds** Barbara reported that the Committee continues to work on their punch list of projects. There will be an outside cleanup day April 1<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM.
  - **Women's Group** hosted the Smokey Mountain Catholic Women Deanery Mass, meeting, luncheon, and speaker on March 18, 2022.
  - **We need one or two volunteers** to monitor and maintain our (soaker hose) sprinkler system for our Grotto. There is no cost to volunteers, but monitoring is needed to maintain our grotto garden.
  - **The Tour of Italy Dinner** will be Saturday March 25, from 5 to 7 PM. So far almost \$1,300.00 has been raised in sales and donations.

### Old Business:

- **Father Julius reviewed the Holy Week schedule and Lenten Activities schedule.**
  - **Sunday, April 2: Palm Sunday:** Father requests that everyone arrive fifteen minutes early for Mass to allow for the procession.
  - **Tuesday, April 4:** *Chrism Mass* at the Cathedral in Knoxville at 6:30 PM
  - **Wednesday, April 5:** *RCIA* at 7:00 PM
  - **Thursday, April 6:** *Mass of the Lord's Supper* at 7:00 PM (bilingual). Mass will be followed by Adoration.
  - **Friday, April 7:** *Stations of the Cross* at 11 AM, (bilingual, outside). No Mass on this day. *The Veneration of the Cross Service* will take place at 7 PM.

- **Saturday, April 8:** *RCIA Baptism* at 11 AM for candidates.
  - **Saturday, April 8:** *Easter Vigil Mass of the Resurrection* at 8:30 PM.
  - **Sunday, April 9:** *Easter Sunday Masses:* 9:00 AM, English Mass, and 11:30 AM, Spanish Mass.
- **New Sound System.** The parish had an estimated cost of \$3,000. The parishioners were so generous, and we received \$8,000.00 in donations. We hope to add other equipment that was not factored into the first budget. Father Julius is so grateful to our parishioners who donated to this project.
  - **Bishop's Visit on March 19:** Fr. Julius is so grateful to all the parishioners who helped to make this a special anniversary day for the Bishop. It was a momentous success. The Hispanics provided two big cakes for the Bishop's celebration to complement the potluck affair hosted by parishioners.

#### **New Business:**

- **New Secretary/Bookkeeper.** Darla, our bookkeeper/secretary is resigning on March 31, 2023. Her resignation is as a result of the conflict of the many life commitments Darla maintains as well as working for the Church. Darla feels it is in her best interest and that of her family to allow someone else who would have more time to dedicate to the office duties. However, Darla wishes to remain as a volunteer in the parish. Father Julius is most agreeable to that. In the meantime, we are in the process of employing Claudia Brazeau, all things equal, by the first week of April.
- **Pastor's comments.** The church is investigating building a family life center with several practical options available. Most important to consider is what the parish can afford and what we can finance.
- **Any Parishioner Concerns.** Dave Olako expressed concern about the practices and procedures for transporting the church deposit to the bank in Sweetwater. Father explained what they are doing to accomplish transport as safely as possible at this time.
- **Next meeting date-** April 11, 2023

**Closing Prayer:** Father Julius prays in a distinct way for all the sick of the parish. *The Lord's Prayer* is offered with gratitude and love for all.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Mary Jo Russell Ouillette, Secretary**