

St. Gianna Parish Council Meeting Minutes

September 24th, 2019

Meeting called to order 6:35 at St. Mark Pastoral Center

Opening Prayer

New Parish Constitution in effect

Mary Berstene – Chair

Glen Baldi – Vice Chair

Norma Spadola – Secretary

May minutes approved, changes suggested page 5 replace St Brigid with St. Mark as meeting place.

Meeting minutes will be posted on the website once amendments are made. Carla will add the amended minutes to the website.

Open forum

- Mary began by sharing that the forum would be 15 minutes in duration with the new constitution, so members of the parish council can work together to address the meeting agenda. Any issues parish members have after the 15 minutes can be emailed to Carla or call the rectory between parish council meetings.
- Can another railing be added to the sacristy for safety?
 - Fr. Devine will meet with Sister Barbara at the church to go over.
- Can we have a full page in the bulletin for the craft fair at St. Mark Pastoral Center?
 - Fr. Devine advised Ann Bach to contact Carla for approval.
- What is the status of the Syro Malabar purchase of St. Helena Church?
 - Fr. Devine advised that at the end of November Father Joe, Karen Casey and the Archdiocese Council will meet. They are on track for a purchase and are paying as scheduled.
- What is the status of the Quasi Vietnamese Parish and growing into full parish status, as well as what is a Quasi Parish?
 - Fr. Devine advised there are no plans for the Quasi Vietnamese Parish to take over St. Mark. They are continuing to grow and are still on track. Fr. Devine does have to address police issues as a result of Saturday night activities. Fr. Andy is aware of the issues.
 - Fr. Devine explained that a Quasi Parish pays rent and it will go up with usage. When the lease is up the rent will be renegotiated.
- Fr. Devine said any questions can be sent to him by email or calling him at 860-236-5965 to get an immediate answer.

End of Open forum

Introduce and meet CRE Sandy Everett

- Sandy advised we will have a more traditional CCD program for grades K-8 that will meet Sunday mornings from 9 to 10:15 am ending right before the 10:30 am mass so the children can attend mass. At mass a class will be featured at church where Father will address them. The 6th grade class will receive bibles that will be blessed during mass. Enrollment went from 40 to 57 students 47% increase.
- Confirmation classes will start soon. VickieAnne Palma will teach 9th grade and Angela and Glen Baldi will teach 10th grade.
- Working on three GOF events which include advent wreath making, GOF Reunion in February, and Lenten Project still being worked on.
- Once the CCD program is rolled out on October 6th for the 9th and 10th graders Sandy will start to work on adult enrichment classes.
- Scheduling the St. Mark Pastoral Center with the Vietnamese community for the 9 to 10:15am time slot for St. Mark CCD needs to be discussed with Fr. Andy.
- CCD classes are twice a month Sandy will make a calendar and place it at the back of the church on the table with church events.
- Issues with food left in the class room will need to be address with Fr. Andy due to food allergies. Create a couple of rooms that are set up to handle these children some who have very severe allergies will be discussed. With the cleaning company change in October currently \$1,450 a month the new company will be \$800 a month and will address cleaning including the church basement. Sandy advised she will need all of the rooms but two.
- Outreach programs including baskets delivered to Immaculate Conception, South Park and House of Bread thrift shop are opportunities for donations and help from the CCD program.

Parish Ministry Survey Update

- Mary Berstene updated all on the work completed over the summer please see separate document.
- Fr. Devine asked that events be staggered. Glen Baldi advised that the events for the Knights of Columbus are set for this calendar year. Next year they will work toward the goal to stagger events so all can attend. Fr. Devine asked why we don't have one St. Patrick event for both Knights councils. Glen advised that this event is a major fund raiser for both of the councils and brings in funds used within the church. Betty agreed as well for St Brigid and that they should be on a different day. Combined event could be the tootsie roll drive. Collections of various outreach items should be staggered as well between the churches. Fr. Devine advised there is a master calendar on the website for events to check for dates or folks can call the administrative center if in doubt. This calendar includes the Vietnamese community as well.
- The ministry fair will be held the weekend of October 5/6th at St. Brigid and October 12/13th at St Mark after each mass.
- Fr. Devine asked for the purpose of the fair and Mary advised to distribute information about the ministries and recruit members.
- Donna suggested twice a year to hold the fair (fall & spring). Mary said we will start with this one first and re-evaluate the spring fair. Fr. Devine suggested food should be served. The Ladies Guild and members of St. Mark could assist. Suggestions cheese, crackers and wine for the afternoon masses and donuts and coffee for the morning masses. Location of the fair was discussed downstairs hall at St. Brigid and the St. Mark Pastoral Center. Mary will check with Fr. Andy on availability.

- Each ministry will bring information to distribute.
- Fr. Devine advised that Orlando can set up St. Brigid for the fair.
- Mary and Betty will meet before Oct 5/6th to see who is attending.
- Mary asked if we have supplies at St. Mark. Sandy said she will look at what the parish has from GOF. The Knights also has supplies as well. Mary, Barbara, and Donna will pick up donuts, cheese, crackers, wine and Barbara will do the coffee.
- Any member of the ministry can run the table. Mary will email the ministry contacts and Fr. Devine will have the fair placed in the bulletin.

Greeters at Mass

- Fr. Devine mentioned that St. Brigid should have greeters similar to St. Mark at all masses and distribute the bulletin at the end of the mass. The greeter encourages a chance to interact and talk to other church members. This will hopefully keep folks from reading the bulletin during mass leaving it behind in the pews and leaving after communion. Glen advised that the bulletins are put out at the time of the collection. Rick will check to see if individuals are available to hand out the bulletins after mass.
- Fr. Devine also wants to share the “greet your neighbor” script used at St. Brigid with St. Mark.

Parish Project Updates – Fr. Devine

- St. Mark new roof in the approval process.
- St. Mark organ repair completed.
- St. Mark front steps repair will be started soon.
- St Brigid lift approved by the Archdiocese should start soon.
- Annual collection mailer will happen next week for this year’s collection.
- October 9th 40 Days of Life Campaign at St Gianna contact Susie Okamoto for details.
- Hour of Holy Adoration first Sunday of month.
- November 24th appreciation party for volunteers at St. Mark Pastoral Center from 3 to 4:30pm.
- November 6th Catholic cemeteries will sponsor end of life issues held at St. Mark afternoon and evening sessions will be held.
- First Sunday in November at St. Brigid a memorial mass and reception will be held.
- During October at all masses attendance will be taken for the Archdiocese.

Next Meeting Monday 25 November at 6:30 at St Brigid

Meeting closed with prayer and adjourned at 8:05pm.