

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 9/25/2023 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Council: Lynne, Louise, Barry, Mike, Jim, Lisa, Deb, Dan-VP, Bob-President; and minutes by Leslie

Staff: Fr. Fred, Fr. Simon

Fr. Fred led the group in prayer and then he spoke about what he values in life. He shared his family life, his childhood, early adult years leading to his obtaining his nursing degree, answering the call to the priesthood and his work in the Diocese. Fr. Fred shared his appreciation for the heart filled welcoming he has received from the parishioners as he has begun to assume his role as Pastor. Council members in turn shared their backgrounds and experiences serving in various ministries or activities in the church.

Fr. Fred asked council members for their feedback regarding things to address that could benefit parish life. Some suggestions were: seeing if ministry leaders need any help with the ministries to strengthen them; increasing financial transparency; develop programs/events that attract young people; bring back vacation bible school to increase youth/parishioner involvement; continue having a Christmas Play and identifying new residents in our parish boundaries whose children have not received all their sacraments due to families relocating/moving. It was suggested that we increase communication of our services through the Clairvaux Community Life magazine.

Update committees working on Surveys, Evangelization and Fundraising: Dan reported Survey 2 is underway on the website and a paper version is available in the Narthex. Outreach/Evangelization team members have been meeting weekly to develop the surveys. Data from Survey 1 and the initial partial data from Survey 2 demonstrated some areas of interest or need for increased education and/or formation.

Fr. Fred shared an upcoming synod from the Diocese for 2024, which will be a nationwide synod. Fr. Fred expects our parish will have some involvement in the New Year. Some areas covered in the synod will be on the Spirit of Evangelization and Catechesis.

Deb shared the enthusiastic responses of parents for catechization now being put forth with the direction of Kathie Stine. The children are demonstrating positive responses to the content of the program and the enjoyment of the program's activities. Ten new enrollments occurred last week. We have approximately 100 students enrolled in the various levels of instruction. It was suggested that the word get out to the parishioners from the pulpit. It was also suggested that a potential educational/sharing time regarding the catechization of the children be made available for the parents at the same time their children are receiving instruction.

FR SIMON: Fr. Simon shared his background and family life before becoming a priest. His testimony to his becoming a priest was beautiful to hear.

There will be a good-bye gathering for Fr. Simon after Oct. 22, 2023 Masses.

The NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: October 16, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Submitted by: Leslie Arnison (recording secretary)

