

**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 26, 2021**  
**APPROVED Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Father Walter, Chad Rottier, Joe Hinshaw, Carl Peterson, Terri Romitti, Chris Murphy, Jean Peterson, Gary Vanness, Nikki VanHandel, and Jen Otto

**Opening Prayer** – 6:56 p.m. Father Walter shared with us a letter written by the 4<sup>th</sup> graders. It was very well written and meaning full☺

WELCOME to Carl Peterson for joining Pastoral Council! Also, welcome to Joe Hinshaw, who is our new Youth Minister! Congratulations and good luck in your new roles.

As a council we would like to see the visions, ideas, and suggestions of the community and the councils. To achieve this, we would like to redefine the roles of members and committees. Father shared a story of the New Orleans man's funeral held at St. Nicholas. A family member said, "Thank you, I forgot how beautiful church is" after the mass was held for her loved one. Thank you for showing what a church family means!

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve 1) Chad Rottier 2) Chris Murphy; unanimous – Carl abstained from vote

**Approval of Agenda** – Motion to approve 1) Jean Peterson 2) Chad Rottier; unanimous – Carl abstained from vote

**Pastor's Report:**

Father ~~reported how the compensation for clergy was effectively reduced when having the clergy compensations distributed differently.~~ Father Ric went back to the Philippians. ~~so~~ Deacon Gary and Deacon Jeff have done a wonderful job stepping up. Father would also like to fine tune the meetings of committees to help alleviate some time for him. The time for Parish Council to meet was revisited to allow more time for Finance Council to complete their meetings. It was decided to keep the 6:45pm time frame and ensure more efficient and effective meetings going forward. Congratulations to Randy Conrad, winner of the Trustee election! He will begin end of June. Thank you Chris Murphy for a job well done! An calendar of meetings for the 2021-2022 Pastoral Council meetings was handed out as well.

**Committee Reports –**

**1) Finance Council – Chad Rottier (Secondary: Chris Murphy)**

Discussed new approach for effective meetings. Everything is currently on par for finances.

**2) School Advisory Committee –Jen VanDenEng (Secondary: Jen Otto)**

Father stated that Scott VanderLoop reviewed the performance testing. Would like to increase language and reading levels. New material has been ordered. The Buildings and Ground Committee will meet with Paul for school updates on what needs to be done. Paul Mattek made a list of projects that have either been started or need immediate attention. RJ Jaques is currently working on clock tower. Will be done in June. A Boiler pump went out end of season. New one has been ordered and repairs will be done sometime in June. Will be review all radiators and repairing and maintaining as needed. Would like a budget started to update remaining pumps before winter. Will be deep cleaning entire school, painting, replacing some floors, countertops and carpet throughout school and church offices. Remaining carpet will be cleaned in school and church offices. Would like to see the gym floor redone this year. Should be done every 3 years with good maintenance. Rough estimate is \$2387.60 from Baseman. Also need a dehumidifier for the gym! Enrollment is up for next school year. Nick Baumgart would like to ease into retirement and be the gym teacher only. Lena Cook will be the new Project Lead the Way teacher. Mrs. Groh will be returning to teach music in the fall. Foreign Language was inquired to bring back to school. Jen Otto will discuss with Mr. VanderLoop. Possibly have virtual with public school. At least have for middle schoolers.

**3) New Evangelization – Deacon Gary Vanness**

Classes ended the end of April. Feedback from families who choice of home-based option was very positive. Great suggestions to help make this option friendlier. We had 3 weekends of 1<sup>st</sup> Communion.

Confirmation will be June 8<sup>th</sup>. Marny Clark resigned from youth minister. Thank you for your dedication to this position. We wish you well in your new direction in life😊 Joe Hinshaw has been hired to fill Marny's shoes. We look forward to seeing what you bring to our youth! Karissa Wurster will be leading a youth Bible Study this summer. The NE team provided Easter gifts throughout the season; seeds, bubbles, chalk, flowers, seeds, holy water, windsock kit and birthday cake. Very well received! Registration for NE is underway. St. Nicholas and St. Edwards is joining forces for a mix of vacation bible school fun at both parishes! New servers will begin training for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th graders. They will begin serving in June.

**4) Worship Committee – Father Walter (Secondary: Brad Manteuffel)**

Would like to increase the interest in music ministry. Possibly have school students lead mass during school year. There have been zero new musicians since Father began at St. Nicholas. Father would like to send out a survey of young people to see if they prefer singing in the choir loft or in front where they currently are. The grand piano needs some TLC. Pedals need to be brought to Camera Corner for adjustments. Organ needs some work also. The Worship committee has all the information to continue with repairs.

**5) Living Justice – Jean Peterson (Secondary: )**

Currently running the May Diaper Drive. The May 4<sup>th</sup> burial was a beautiful service with a nice turn out. Denis did a wonderful job singing! Mother's Day Rose Sale was sold out. Need to order more next year. \$485 was donated to ~~Vida~~VEDA! Would like to have the school supply drive in July but need a new leader. Will have Jill put in the bulletin to help fill the position.

**6) Stewardship – Chad Rottier (Secondary: )**

We hired a new stewardship coordinator- Joe Hinshaw- Good luck with your dual role here at St. Nicholas!

**7) Hospitality – Terri Romitti (Secondary: Jen VanDenEng)**

No report

**8) Buildings and Ground –**

Will be reporting to Finance Council

**Old Business**

1. Masks are required in school and gym until June 7<sup>th</sup> after that will then be optional. Presentation of gifts in church if families of mass intention are there to bring them up. Would like to have Dani Hasely contact families the week prior to mass to remind them of the intention. Father jokingly thought of having families wear wooden clogs so he knows the family is there to bring up gifts.😊 We currently will not be offering the most precious blood. However, Eucharistic ministers and servers are welcome back!
2. The corridor between the parish office and church need to have the roof inspected along with some plaster work. Would like to remove all graduates photos in hallway to accurately analyze repairs needed. Would like to include Buildings and Grounds Committee to discussions. Will determine how to move forward with hallway after reviews are made.
3. The new parking lot scope has the same number of stalls as the current parking lot. The handicap access will have one location going into the school/parish office doors. Would like to have the main handicap access to church located at the Fellowship Hall entrance. Possibly add signage to help direct guests to the correct location. There was a question as to why we are grinding mill and overlay vs base. Project will include update of curb and sidewalks. We will have a bulletin stuffer and an easel with a larger picture to notify the parish of the upcoming project. They can contact us with any questions, concerns or suggestions they may have. Due to the nature of the project being outdoors, we do not need approval from the Diocese.
4. Father would like to add at least two more bells for sound appeal. Bells are a call to prayer, can be exercised, and are wonderful reminder to the community that the Church is here for them. A rough estimate to add the bells is about \$42,000. We used to have Christmas music played from the tower as a reminder during the Christmas season.
5. Hands free Holy Water dispensers are available and have been ordered. However, we will not have holy water in the font at the back of church yet.

**New Business**

1. Any thoughts of renaming the Fellowship Hall. Suggestion of naming it the St. Therese of Lisieux Room. The statue pedestal needs to be removed from church.
2. Father's proposal to add pew frontals, kneelers, altar setback, organ keyboard up in the loft and the organ repair was discussed. Nothing was finalized; however, father said another meeting with the musicians is needed as the original thought was 50/50.
3. The garage between the rectory and playground is currently named the "man cave" Maybe rename to something else. There were no new suggestions. Thoughts will come to table next time. Also, thought about a warming shelter is an ice rink is put in.
4. Many were in favor of a recreational community ice rink. Liability is ok as long as we have signage saying use at own risk. Thoughts of location included in front of the "man cave" garage or back near behind the playground as electricity is already installed to add lights.
5. Currently, roughly \$9k is spend each year for the semi-trailer stage used at St. Nicholas Country Fest. A proposal to build our own band shell to save money in the long run and use for community concerts throughout the summer. Would be a good investment for the community.
6. Changes with the facilities use policy include eliminating the proof of insurance for renters, changing the fee schedule. Possible having a tier level based on usage and which group is involved. The committee is approved to change the amounts as needed to cover costs. If an event will be over 4hrs, would like to include a \$50 cleaning fee. Schedule needs to be put online so it is easier to see availability. Include an online submission form and cut down to one master calendar. There was a pilot schedule calendar being produced by Josh Delforge and Derek Schuh but was not finished. ? Nikki will contact David for suggestions. Maybe have a Google Dox to handle calendar going forward. St. Nicholas Athletics would like use of the gym on Wednesday nights for games. The committee group in charge of the Facilities Use Policy and Fees are empowered to upgrade clubs as seen fit.
7. Revision of committee lists and liaisons will be visited in August when new members are present and can be determined how many more members are needed.
8. Would like to see new involvement with time and talent stewardship to increase new committee members. Joe, our new Stewardship leader, will advise us at the next meeting on some ideas to help flourish our parish community.
9. Country Fest is right on cue with ticket sales. Reserved seats are sold out! Currently, we are at about 50% for volunteer sign up. The new entrance will be off Liberty Lane. All surrounding residence have been notified. Radio ads have started and signage has been up! Donations are coming in wonderfully – THANK YOU! Church picnic, which is normally held on the Sunday after the concert is not happening this year. Possibly having a church picnic post Labor Day. Current, Country Fest Committee will discuss at their next meeting.
10. The parish has been doing a directory every 5 years. The last one was 2015. Due to COVID we did not do one in 2020. Looking to start setting up a schedule for 2022. Feedback to continue from committee was positive.
11. To promote community would like to see an annual church picnic continue. Other opportunities include continuing men's basketball night. Adding a volleyball night, open gyms parish wide, and game nights.

**Front Desk Highlights: Jill Carey – Secretary**

Jill has been busy with Gabriel Software webinars for the Diocese. She has been creating signs and promotions for other church bulletins and selling tickets for the upcoming concert. Hands free Holy Water dispensers, hymnal books carts, Sunday Missals and calendars have been ordered for the upcoming year. We have wonderful group of young people to help with cleaning our church and school this summer. Great job Jill!

**Moment of Positivity: CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Wyman on her retirement coming up in August!**

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Murphy on his completion as Parish Trustee! Also, CONGRATULATIONS to Father for selling his tractor. Now onto a big tractor to use to clear the ice for the ice rink, wagon rides for the picnics, and just for the fun of having a tractor ☺

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 6:45pm

**Motion to Adjourn** at 9:26 p.m. 1) Chris Murphy 2) Chad Rottier; Unanimous, Carl abstained from vote

**Closing prayer** – Father Walter led the Hail Mary