

St Dominic - Minutes from Parish Pastoral Council meeting of August 16, 2022 6:30pm: Devney-Hughes meeting room

Attendees: Father Gregory Abbott, Jennifer Fischer (School Board Chairperson) and PPC members: Matt Stenzel, Erica Maker, Dave Antonneau

Proceedings

Began with reading of Sunday Gospel and prayer.

New Business:

Jennifer Fischer school update

Jennifer Fischer provided an update of happenings at St Dominic school. The school is working it's way back from significant enrollment dropoff during the pandemic. Enrollment for upcoming school year is at 109, down nearly one-third from 2019-20. The enrollment goal is to reach 200 students within the next three years, admittedly a stretch goal but Jennifer believes it is reachable. A strong school board is in place, as well as skilled teachers and support staff. Of the 15 teachers for grades K-8, 20% will be male teachers this year... a desirable ratio generally unheard of in Elementary school settings. The school is actively updating facilities and the classroom environment; a few examples include new smart boards and other electronic teaching tools, new desks and painting of several classrooms. The board has targeted 3 key focus areas for success:

1. Fundraising - as has been successfully done in the past year, the goal is to continue to exceed the fundraising budgetary goals with the schools primary fundraisers, namely: School Marathon, Annual Fund/Hope Scholarship and Saints Night Out.
2. Marketing - the board recognizes the importance of "getting the word out" about St Dominic school and all that it has to offer. Just one example that Jennifer highlighted is the GROVES reading program that staff is accredited to teach. While reading skills elsewhere have declined, the GROVES program has shown clear, positive results with St Dominic students. The school has been actively advertising on Facebook and other social media outlets, as well as the church bulletin.
3. Students attending weekend Mass - several ways were discussed that this might be addressed to encourage attendance, including participation in parish ministries to foster greater interest and engagement by students and their families. The school is looking to host upcoming Hospitality Sunday's.

Shepherd's Staff & Pastor's Workshop & Welcome Retreat update

Shepherd's Staff is a consulting group that works with parishes and pastors under the auspices of the Archdiocese. Fr. Gregory is consulting with them and is planning to attend a Pastor's Workshop in October to gain further insights in shoring up administrative skillsets. Fr. Gregory reported that the Welcome Retreat planning actively continues. The Oct 8-9 women's retreat is nearly full. The Oct 28-29 men's retreat has a number of openings.

Hail Mary Homilies and daily prayer invitation & Director of Operations update

Fr. Gregory noted that he and Fr. Louie will focus September homilies on the Blessed Mother, and encourage all to pause each day, when possible at Noon, to thank God for 2 things that day, and pray the Hail Mary prayer. The Director of Operations position is still being examined for possibilities, although other staff needs may take precedence.

Damascus Northwood MS (6-9th grade) & Catholic Heart Workcamp

Fr. Gregory noted he is looking at these two programs aimed at ministering to our youth in the summer with greater Catholic focus. Depending on cost, fundraisers may not be needed.

Fr. Denny's insurance money

We discussed ideas as to how Fr. Denny's insurance funds might best be used. No decision on it.

Unfinished business

PPC Constitution and By-Laws (C&B): Completed a draft of the revised C&B document. The discussion included conversation as to how PPC can best stay informed with various committees and happenings at St Dominic. Matt asked that we consider this further and bring ideas to the next PPC meeting. We formalized the current roles on PPC. A motion that Matt Stenzel be Chair, Erica be Vice Chair and Dave Antonneau be Secretary was made, voted on and passed.

Next C&B step is to advance it to the Archdiocese for their review and approval. Parishioners are welcome to review the draft upon request. Contact Matt Stenzel to do so.

Adjournment at 8:30pm

Attachments:

- PPC Agenda 8-16-22

Minutes submitted by Dave Antonneau

Kindly note these dates for upcoming PPC Meeting dates (6:30-8pm). Meetings are held at the Devney-Hughes meeting room. All are welcome.

September 20

October 18

November 15