

Minutes of the Parish Council

March 23, 2015

Present: Fr Drea, Fr Mark Murphy and Fr. Salzmann, Chris Cassani, Angela Jones, Martin Etcheverry, Margarita Fenn, Leslie McCarthy, Bill Sullivan, James Lee, Patty Lee, Jim Perrine, Dick Peisch, Jill Fallon, Claire Riley, Jim McGlone

Pastor's report

Holy Week

A record number of 15 Catechumens from RCIA will enter the Church at the *Easter Vigil* – 12 will be baptized and 3 will join with them to receive Confirmation and receive First Communion. Bill Sullivan was so impressed with the increase over last year, he urged that the news be announced from the pulpit on Palm Sunday and memorialized in a poster in the vestibule. He will work with Patty Lee to see that it gets done. With so many, the Easter Vigil will be long and end late so there will be no general reception afterwards, instead it will be held next Sunday for the new Catholics and their families.

On *Good Friday*, a three hour devotion will be held from 12-3 pm with Scripture and Music based on the Last Seven Words of Christ. Six priests, four from St Paul and two visiting priests, Fr Peter Stravinskis and his associate will participate. (Fr. Stravinskis is a noted scholar, author and apologist. He is the founder of the Priestly Society of the Venerable John Henry Cardinal Newman, the Newman House Press, and *The Catholic Response*.)

Nazarene buttons. Before and after the Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies, the Daughters of Isabella will be selling Nazarene buttons for a \$1 a piece in the vestibule in support of and in solidarity with the persecuted Christians in the Middle East. All proceeds will go the Knights of Columbus Christian Refugee Fund.

Please invite your friends to any of the Holy Week services.

Easter Thursday, April 9 at 7 pm , Jeff Cavins will speak on “Keys to Becoming a Modern Day Disciple.” After 12 years as a Protestant pastor, Cavins returned to the Catholic Church and the story of his conversion, *My Life on the Rock* became a best-seller. Since then he has dedicated his life to developing *The Great Adventure: A Journey through the Bible*, a practical, interactive program that helps people read the “big picture” of God’s plan in Sacred Scripture and understand its meaning for their lives. Also known as the Bible Timeline, this 24 session course was presented at St. Paul’s during the 2013-2013 academic year by the adult bible study and faith formation). Cavins is recognized both nationally and internationally as one of the most effective and engaging speakers In the Church today.

Please invite your friends.

June social event

On June 6th after the 5 pm Mass, the Parish will hold a barbecue in the courtyard for all parishioners and families. Chris Cassani (chris.cassani85@gmail.com) is overseeing the plans and volunteers for another lively parish get-together and a transformed courtyard with music and tables and chairs under string lights.

Increased giving campaign

The attempt to increase the offertory donations has not been very successful. Suggestion for improvements included:

- Supplying cards to parishioners (I gave at the kiosk, I give through automatic debits) to drop into the offertory baskets so that more people can be seen giving, thus inspiring those who do not give to drop some money in.
- A more personal approach, perhaps with phone calls.
- Margarita Fenn suggested videos that could be placed on the website and sent along by email such as those St Peter's Parish has used to encourage donations to their school. The videos would highlight all that is being done at St Paul's from liturgy to education to feeding the poor.
- Some very good videos are made on iPhones.
- "We give not for what we are getting, but to Christ."
- The discussion concluded with talk about the creation of a Marketing and Technology Commission where parishioners and students with marketing and digital experience can help create inexpensive videos for the website and members can advise inform the Council and the pastor on how technology can be used for the new evangelization. This will be explored further at the next Council meeting on May 11, 2015.
- A belated personal suggestion: Video all speakers, beginning with Jeff Cavins, that can be posted on the website.

Parish Elections

Council members Chris Cassani, Margarita Fenn and Claire Riley expire at the end of this year. There will be 3 open slots to be filled by the Parish Council election on May 9 and 10 of this year. The slate for the elections will be overseen by Leslie McCarthy (leslie.c.mccarthy@gmail.com). Send suggestions for nominees to Nancy Nicolaou (nnicol@stpaulparish.org).

Training and Spiritual Retreat for Liturgical Ministers

Father Mark Murphy (Harvardpriest@gmail.com) will hold trainings for new as well as experienced liturgical ministers (Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers) on Saturday, April 18 from 3-5 pm. In early September, most likely Saturday the 13th, there will be a mini-spiritual retreat for all liturgical ministers. Look in upcoming bulletins for details. The need for greeters in the vestibule was discussed and Fr Drea will speak with a certain person to head up a corps of greeters.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Fallon, Recording Secretary

