

Approved

St Francis of Assisi  
Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
February 20, 2014

Approved

Attendees: Father Anthony Francis Spilka, Jack Rovani, Mary Frances King, Cindy Shorto  
Cecilia Neiderer, Ryan Woodruff, Bill Oleksak, Jeff Konieczny, Dolores Fatula, Joe Fatula,  
Mike Grandinetti, Olivia Murphy

Excused:

Correspondence: None

Roll Call: Roll was called; a quorum was present.

Courtesy of the Floor:

Review of Meeting Minutes:

Committee members reviewed the January 16th meeting minutes. Noting a spelling change on a name, motion to accept the minutes was made by Jeff Konieczny: seconded by Fran King.

Standard Committee Reports:

*Men's Club* Jack reported the bulk of the Men's Club meeting dealt with apportioning donations for the different parish activities which included; \$200 for the children's Easter party; \$300 for a Tribune Democrat advertisement of the Mardi Gras - \$300; \$100 to the Gabriel Project, and \$100 to the Proclaim Ministry which sponsors the televising of Sunday Mass from St John Gaulbert Cathedral. Also, thanks to members of the Men's Club in supplying the "muscle" when setting up/tearing down of many of the events in the activity center.

*CCD/Education* CCD attendance numbers have slipped some due to the bad winter weather, Mass time changes and children out due to flu and colds.

*Cemetery* With the heavy snows where constant snowplowing has created heavy snow piles narrowing access on the roadway, Father Anthony Francis is considering making a driveway/pathway for easier access to the cemetery.

*Building/Maintenance*

Father Anthony Francis reported he received a diocesan memo citing the heavy winter snows and ice accumulation buildup could result in damages to church property. The memo requested all pastors routinely check church property roofs along with gutters, downspouts and drains making sure they are clear of debris and leak-free.

Mention was made to check the eaves on the alley side of the back of the rectory as materials there appear loose and torn.

Many thanks to the anonymous benefactor who donated a beautifully designed step-up platform in front of the ambo. A figure of St Francis is imprinted in the carpet covering the podium.

*Liturgy* Eucharistic ministers attended an afternoon holy hour and workshop on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Father Anthony Francis asked for help with visiting the shut-ins and homebound in the parish; attendees received a list of local nursing home facilities where parishioners live. Eucharistic ministers living near these facilities could contact these parishioners and set up times when the ministers could visit and bring them the Eucharist. For those who would request confession or anointing, the volunteer can alert Father Anthony and he would make arrangements to provide these services. Those interested in helping with this ministry can contact the office detailing which home/homes they can visit.

Father Anthony also distributed printed instructions on holding a Communion Prayer Service. Should he be unable to have daily Mass, a Eucharistic Minister would be able to hold a prayer service which would include reception of the Eucharist.

*Finance* Father Anthony Francis reported he received three (3) bids for the new church doors; a meeting is scheduled on Friday, February 21, to review them.

*Gabriel Project*

*Generations for Life*

No meeting held; no report.

*Fundraising*

Since the monthly BINGOs have been discontinued, no decision has been made as to what to do with the equipment. Unused supplies can go into the general inventory for use at parish events.

Plans to hold “Cash Bash” events are in the works for June.

Ticket sales for the March 1<sup>st</sup> Mardi Gras event are very strong. Committee members are asking for able-bodied volunteers to set up the hall. Thursday evening (Feb 27<sup>th</sup>) the committee will decorate the hall; Friday (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>), committee members will begin food prep. The morning of the event is reserved for final preparations and tying up any loose ends. Additional help will be needed when the event is over to prepare the hall for the Ash Wednesday fish fry.

Fran King stated gob sales are still strong. At the Valentine’s Day fish fry, over 1700 gobs were sold.

*Activity Center*

Meeting to be scheduled.

*Youth Activity*

After making inquiries, Olivia reported the young adults in the parish feel there are too few of them to try to get any type of activity group together. For now, the issue is tabled.

Old Business

Pastoral Council reviewed the tabulated results of the parish survey which covered the areas of Worship, Education, Finance and Evangelization (Catholic Witness). Although only 20 completed surveys were received, the responses gave a “snap shot” of what they felt was best and what needs improved in the parish. Some of the feedback respondents provided included:

- What they liked best were the priests, location of the church, good parking, AC in the summer, Mass times, and spirituality of the friars.
- What they want improved was better communication in the parish among all committees, shorter sermons, more adult education programs, loud talking in church and vestibule, ministries for the youth, bereaved and widowed, and outreach for new parishioners.
- Respondents replied they were unaware or knew little about some ministries i.e prayer shawl, prayer chain, the rosary society.

After reviewing all the survey responses, council members want to address the suggestions made. Interested parishioners can get a copy of the survey results from the parish office.

New Business

Discussion on changes to liturgical services for both parishes.

Pastor’s Comments

Given throughout the course of the meeting.

With nothing further to discuss, motion to adjourn was made by Dolores Fatula; seconded by Joe Fatula  
The next council meeting will be **Thursday, March 20, 2014. Refreshments:**

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecilia Neiderer

## Upcoming liturgical events:

- Bishop Mark will celebrant a special Mass on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at St John Gaulbert Cathedral solemnly closing the Year of Faith; check the Catholic Register for more details.
- The annual Thanksgiving Day Mass with the blessing/distribution of fresh fruit will be celebrated at 9:00am Thanksgiving Day; all are welcome.
- The Seasons of
  - *Advent*
  - Anointing of the Sick will be extended to all parishioners during Mass; date and time will be listed in the bulletin.
  - Because the Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls on the second Sunday of Advent, this Marion feast will be moved to Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, but not as a holy day of obligation.
  - The annual West End Penance service will be held; check the bulletin for the date, parish and time.
  - Annual children's St Nicholas Party will be held December 9th in the activity center
  - Lesson and Carols Program observing the season of Advent will be presented by the St Francis of Assisi choir Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - *Christmas*
    - The 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass will feature the children's program.
    - Christmas Eve Mass at midnight; Mass at 9:30am Christmas Day
    - New Year's Eve vigil Mass and New Year's Day Mass.
    - Epiphany celebration of the three (3) Magi
    - Baptism of Jesus ending the Christmas season