

Mission statement: *Encounter Jesus, Serve Others.*

***Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church
1003 North Tyler Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
Sept. 22, 2015***

The Parish Council meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mary Hightower, president. The meeting with opened with a prayer for our evangelical mission.

Members present: LuAnne Seay, Barbare Grafe, Joan Swenson, Jeff Byers, Chris Schaffhauser, Celeste Barker, Mary Hightower.

Members absent: Nick Ferrara, Chad Sievers, Ben France.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes of the August 25, 2015 meeting were approved with one amendment. Under Social Concerns Commission, LuAnne requested that the phrase “CYM to be responsible for helping,” be changed to “CYM to assistant in helping.”

Finance and Administration

Shelley Tienken reported that weekly collections were a little up. Made up about \$11,000 in the month of August after being behind about \$30K in July. She said that in September, the parish was on track to meet or exceed our budget. Salaries trending behind budget; just based on how the year is divided out. For the year, we’re behind \$4,500. The parish is trend up again for second collections.

Buildings and Grounds

Susie Williams, the new Facilities and Events Coordinator was present and introduced herself. Williams is a mother of four, raised in North Little Rock and a former member of Immaculate Conception and came to Souls four or five years ago. Her youngest was baptized at HS. Her last job was as a controller and bookkeeper.

Williams said re-keying of the parish hall to card swipes was just completed. She said that both main parish hall doors were on a timer, allowing the doors to lock automatically. The timers could run a maximum of two hours. However, if you are trying to leave before the timer goes off and try to push the timer off, the doors won’t lock. She’s investigating.

Williams also reported on steps toward adding to the columbarium and taking inventory of which lights need to be changed out before Entergy’s incentives end or change.

Another project under way is replacement of the Stations of the Cross.

Education and Formation Commission

Jeff Byers reported that the commission held its education fair a week-and-a-half ago when Samantha Deneffe gave her talk. The E&F commission has three book studies going on with a handful of participants. The commission is talking about what to do next spring and reminded the group that Cackie Upchurch was to do a presentation in October, which was promoted in the previous Sunday's bulletin.

Evangelism Commission

Barbara Grafe reported that the commission did not meet.

Parish Life

Celeste Barker reported on All Souls Fest/Trunk or Treat. This year, school classes are being asked to sponsor a car; decorate it and pass out candy. Father suggested passing out flyers to gain interest around the neighborhood. White elephant bingo, movie are all part of the mix. There will be Mass and a prayer service.

Social Concerns

LuAnne Seay reported that the commission was working with the school to collect used Halloween costumes for Our House. The commission is also working with the school on a Thanksgiving Food Drive. Paul Mammarelli is engaging the Catholic High wrestling team to make and deliver food baskets for this and the Christmas food drive. Commission is still working out details on Angel Tree. Discussed possibility of adding Jericho Way's needs to the angel trees.

Father Erik noted that a study group that had been volunteering at Jericho Way is now evolving into an advisory group, a part of our parish's strong involvement there physically and monetarily.

The Habitat for Humanity House is completed ahead of schedule and a prayer service, blessing and ribbon cutting were set for Saturday, Sept. 26.

Old Business

Father Erik brought up the Newcomers Reception and its low attendance. Parish Life Commission reported that it had not yet addressed this, Father Erik said there's no time frame on when to reshape or cancel event. Suggestions were made to hold it after Mass rather than midweek. To be revisited after All Souls events.

New Business –

Father Erik discussed concepts related to encouraging parishioners to have a personal connection to Christ and how people see and feel it differently. Drawing from an exercise Cackie Upchurch did with RCIA, giving participants a list of hundreds of titles given to Christ. She asked them to reflect and choose names to which they feel a connection.

Discussion ensued on how to use these concepts during the upcoming Year of Mercy and Father Erik suggested that 12 titles be selected and during each month of the coming year, one of those titles be displayed on a light pole outside – part of this personal/parishwide reflection. The other banner space would say "Jesus," and that one would remain unchanged all year. The selected titles would also be visible elsewhere on campus and be reinforced in preaching, music at Mass, at PRE, adult groups, and the school.

An idea for continued growth would be to choose one of the titles that one doesn't feel connected to; and offer correlating scripture passages with the hope there will be additional reflection and growth. Father Erik suggests the next joint meeting of education and evangelization discuss this.

Pastoral Comments

Father Erik noted that Pastoral Secretary Edna De Noble is home and doing well.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on a **Monday -- Oct. 19, 6 p.m.**