

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
February 15, 2017**

The Parish Council meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. by Jeff Byers, President. The meeting opened with prayer.

Members present: Ben Baldwin, Shannon Callahan, Chris Schaffhauser, Ben France, Cindy Odom, Tamara Ketter, Brooke White, Jane Bregy, Russell Hoerman, Clark Wilkinson

Members absent: All members were present

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made to accept the January 10, 2017 Parish Council minutes as written. The motion was seconded, voted upon and approved.

Finance & Administration:

Shelley said that for the period ending 1/31/2017, Holy Souls is approximately \$15,000 ahead of budgeted collections. Expenses remain just slightly under budget. Parish savings at the Diocese are \$197,159 and parish maintenance savings are \$130,452.

Building and Grounds Committee:

Susie mentioned the following:

- 1) Painted new fire and no parking zones in church parking lot;
- 2) Repaired church stairs;
- 3) Landscape areas that have had erosion problems were re-landscaped by Bell Tower and PreK playground;
- 4) Planned timing of fire suppression completion summer of 2017;
- 5) Need to address future HVAC issues for large church units;
- 6) Updated part of church sound and received speaker and sound board donates and installation;
- 7) Chicken coop being built by the 4th graders which will be located at the empty lot at the corner of Tyler and J Street.

Education and Formation Commission:

Ben reported that PRE "keeps moving along." Classes are getting ready for Lent. Cackie Upchurch is presenting the history on the Catholic Church last week and this Thursday, February 16th. Two bible study classes have started on the book of Exodus. Monday nights class is being taught by Clark Wilkinson and Friday class is being taught by Lilly Hess. There was a meeting after Sunday's 5:30pm mass on this coming year's Confirmation class. The deadline to register is Friday, February 17th. CYM had a dance this past Friday night. The 3rd Mission completed on Monday night, February 6th. Everyone was encouraged to join a small group.

Evangelization Commission:

The Evangelization Commission did not meet.

Parish Life Commission:

Tamara reported that Father John's reception was discussed. The upcoming events that were discussed include the Lenten lunch on March 17th, a reception for John Michael Talbot, and receptions for Altar Servers and Holy Souls seniors on March 23rd.

Social Concerns Commission:

Chris said that the invitation grant letters will go out in mid-March. The budgeted amount will be reviewed with Shelley.

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Old Business:

No old business to discuss.

New Business:

No new business to discuss.

Pastoral Comments:

Father John reiterated that the major purpose of the Parish Council members is to serve as an advisory board to the Pastor. Minutes will be taken from each Commission when they meet. The chairperson of each Commission will record minutes. That person will report to the Parish Council a summary of the Commission minutes and then submit to the recording secretary. Father John would like to review the Mission Statement for new ideas. He continues to restructure the Stewardship Committee. Father John mentioned that St. Francis Church in Wichita, Kansas is entirely a "stewardship church" and been very successful. Holy Souls is seeking an organist as well as a church secretary. Father John continues to work on his survey to distribute to parishioners focusing primarily on mass times and confession time. John Michael Talbot is coming to Holy Souls for two special evenings of Healing and Hope through Spoken Word and Sacred Song March 27 and 28, 2017. Tickets are not required. Father John explained to members that attached to their present parish council minutes is a guideline from the Diocese entitled Parish, Pastoral and Finance Councils Guidelines. He encouraged all to read.

Please come and celebrate Father John Marconi's 30th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood beginning at 10am mass followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

In closing, Father John said that some concerns have been brought forward referencing First Holy Communion and Confirmation. After discussion the members agreed that "communication" is the key! The issues are being reviewed and addressed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23pm..

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2017, 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Edna de Noble
Recording Secretary