

**Mission Statement:** Our Lady of the Holy Souls Parish is a family of believers seeking to know, love and serve God as a faith community. To celebrate the presence of Christ among us, we will enhance the community atmosphere of our parish and develop stewardship of time, talent, and treasure.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church  
1003 North Tyler Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205  
May 19, 2015**

The Parish Council meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mary Hightower, President. The meeting opened with prayer.

Members present: Kevin Ehemann, Diane Scroggins, Barbara Grafe, Joan Swenson, Jeff Byers, Chad Sievers, LuAnne Seay

Members absent: Celeste Barker, Ben France, Nick Ferrara, Chris Schaffhauser

**Approval of the Minutes:** Minutes of the April 28 2015, Parish Council meeting were approved.

**Finance & Administration:**

Shelley Tienken reported for Finance and Administration. Shelley said that through April 2015, we are ahead of budgeted income approximately \$12,000 and under expenses by \$8,000. Second collections continue to be ahead of last year's numbers. The special collections for Nepal and Jericho Way each brought in \$3,200.

The 2015-2016 budget process is underway and will be presented to the Finance Committee on May 22, 2015.

**Building and Grounds Committee:**

Shelley Tienken reported for the Building and Grounds Committee. She said that in the month of April, \$2,014.50 was donated for the Building Fund. The Church Building Fund balance as of May 1<sup>st</sup> was \$159,247.00. Ten projects are scheduled to be completed this summer. Seven of the projects will be funded through the Church's Maintenance Fund with an estimated cost of \$69,000.00. The other three projects will be funded through other sources (School Maintenance Fund, PTO funding and Men's Club funding) which total \$42,000.00.

Father Erik announced that Mary Carman, Facilities and Events Coordinator, will be retiring this year. The posting of the job position is forthcoming with the possibility of splitting responsibilities with accent upon volunteer worker(s).

**Education and Formation Commission:**

Mary Hightower reported for the Education Commission and the Evangelization Commission. Mary mentioned that the Liturgy Commission has disbanded and replaced with the Evangelization Commission. The goals of this Commission are to 1) come up with a vision of what we are trying to accomplish; 2) to look at opportunities that focus on the most basics of our faith; 3) to create a calendar to lend ourselves to evangelize; 4) to focus on the Mass as a point of contact – welcoming people when they come to Mass.

**Evangelization Commission:**

Father Erik informed the members that Evangelical Catholic, a consulting group, will visit the office staff members on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The church office will be closed. The purpose of meeting with this group is to guide the staff in intensifying a more extensive spreading of the Gospel by helping people to become more comfortable in sharing their faith. Multiplying their faith is at the core of evangelism. In the afternoon hours of this meeting, a selected core group will meet with Evangelical Catholic to further discuss the direction that we want to take.

Father Erik also mentioned that the church office will be closed beginning August 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 7<sup>th</sup> to attend a retreat camp in Cedar Lake, Indiana. All Masses are cancelled that week.

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**Parish Life Commission:**

Kevin Ehemann reported for Parish Life Commission. Kevin informed the members that both the altar servers banquet and senior graduation banquet were very successful! Father Erik mentioned that we need to accentuate more functions being held outside (example: courtyard) weather permitting. Coffee and Donuts is one possibility of utilizing the outside and encouraging more people to attend.

**Social Concerns Commission:**

Chad Sievers reported for Social Concerns Commission. All grant applications for monetary requests have been reviewed. The Social Concerns Commission has been given a \$30,000 budget. Chad will summarize the requests using a three tier approach (top tier..most allowance, middle, and then low tier being awarded the least amount). After the tentative summarization is complete members of the Parish Council will be sent via email the summary and asked to review and be prepared to present their opinion of which grants should be awarded. Questions to ponder for categorizing awards would be:

- 1) what are other revenue streams that applicants use;
- 2) the mission of our church as it relates to awarding grants;
- 3) a specific reason for the request. What will the monetary amount be specifically used for?

Corpus Christi Food Drive is scheduled to begin the weekend of May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Food bags will be located in the vestibule of the church.

**Old Business:**

.There was no old business.

**New Business:**

Father Erik told the members that a Retreat Day has been planned for July 18<sup>th</sup> in which Sister Elizabeth Greim, Director of Jericho Way, will lead. Several "target groups" will be contacted to attend.

A discussion followed about different ways to create a connection with the homeless. For example, cooking meals and delivering to various homeless shelters in the city. Those who participate in this endeavor could perhaps meet and reflect on their experiences with encountering the homeless and discuss other ways in which to help them.

**Pastoral Comments:**

There were no pastoral comments.

**Guest Comments:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

***The next Parish Council meeting will be June 23, 2015, 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall.***

Respectfully submitted,

Edna de Noble  
Recording Secretary