

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on February 9, 2015

Members of the Parish Council and Pastoral Team met at the Sacred Heart Parish Center at 7:00PM

Missing John Lehner

- I. Opening Prayer offered by Tom Nowak
- II. Approved the minutes from the December 2014 meeting.
- III. Pastor's report: Two questions about Lent; ask a parishioner that you do not know:

*What can Sacred Heart Parish provide to enhance or strengthen your spiritual journey during the Lenten Season?*

*What one thing can we encourage one another to do as a "corporate parish community penance" to enter more deeply into the Lenten Season?*

Question 1 feedback:

RCIA for adults (Adult formation), lack of formal religious study, weekly supper with speakers "similar to Theology on Tap". Lenten reflection books for use at home. Stations of the Cross during the day on the Fridays of Lent. Ash Wednesday Mass and simple soup lunch. A suggestion about presentations on the lives of the Saints.

It was suggested that the Parish have educational programs for adults to study history of church and the content of the faith. Father Tom pointed out that Michelle Kriss has been doing two such adults programs in the fall and in the spring at SHP for the past three years. We have announced these programs at Mass, put inserts in the parish bulletin, put up posters in the crypt and Parish Center, and put the information on our parish website. One program is during the day and the other on a weekday evening. Michelle does not simply do programs for children. ***Her job description embraces all of Christian formation, including Adult Christian Formation.*** This information was "new" to some on the Council. Perhaps there are others in the Parish who are not aware of these adult faith formation offerings.

In addition, the WHY CATHOLIC small faith sharing experience to begin in the fall of 2016 will also examine important topics in the Catholic Catechism. This, too, is an **adult Christian formation experience.**

Adult daily Lent reflection books will again be available this year in the crypt and at the Ash Wednesday Parish Center Mass.

Other suggestions included celebrating Taize prayer and making daily reflection/meditation opportunities available on the Parish website. As of February 10, 2015, SHP makes available on the parish website ([sacredheartparish.nd.edu](http://sacredheartparish.nd.edu)) three links to sign up for daily Lenten meditations delivered to your individual email: Notre Dame, Loyola Press, and Father Robert Barron.

Question 2 feedback:

Adopt Popes message of *being an island of mercy* and Lenten reflection. Encourage rice bowl for Lent. Become involve in one of the many opportunities for service sponsored by SHP Social Justice Ministry. Anne Coglianesse suggested using *Eric's Promise*, with boxes at back of the crypt to collect clothes for the poor.

Father Tom suggested that since we are focusing on the 6 Lenten second collections as requested by our parish Social Justice Ministry, this would replace Rice Bowl this year. No one saw a problem with this.

Fr. Tom mentioned that Stations will be on the Fridays of Lent, at 12:10 PM each Friday of Lent in the crypt. We already have non-perishable food collection each weekend. Michelle has been doing adult formation work, to cover the catechism of the Catholic Church – needs to be marketed again. Small faith discussions will be offered in the *Why Catholic* small faith-sharing groups in the fall of 2015.

Father Tom mentioned the names of parishioners who will be part of the Why Catholic Parish Planning Team: Michelle Kriss (Coordinator), Jim Kapsa, Suzanne Cahill, Dave and Patti Olive, Kim Spence and Joe Mulligan. There may be one more member to be announced. Training for all parish planning teams will take place in April, 2015 here in South Bend.

Approximately four (4) "ARISE" faith sharing groups will continue this Lent with a weekly Sunday scripture reflection faith sharing experience. Some on the Council expressed a desire that more publicity about this Lenten experience would have been done in the bulletin.

There will be a big push in the fall of 2015 to form more small faith sharing groups when the *Why Catholic* Program begins.

Seder Meal on March 25 is getting organized. Tickets (80 spots available) will go on sale soon in early March..

IV. Report from Paul Thornton on our parish Epiphany celebration  
Fantastic event, 116 adult and 16 children came to the Brunch. North Dining Hall venue worked out very well. Family tables a big success! Balloons and face painter well received,

V. Plans for Spring programs

Cedar meal planned, First Communion Sunday at the 11 AM Mass on May 3rd.

VI. Around the Table reports from members

***Eric's Promise*** something Anne encourages for future participation.

Deacon Bill – Hope Ministry dinner and prayer service, Saint Augustin's had story on freedom march in Southern Alabama, presence of priests and nuns. Movie is available and Deacon Bill will set up a time to show the movie at the Parish Center. The movie shows the impact of priests and religious in the civil rights movement in the early 1960s..

Diane – Ash Wednesday contemplative prayer, Mass and soup luncheon on Ash Wednesday at 11:30 at Parish center. Blood pressure screenings this Sunday.

Tom Nowak- Social justice – 2 new members of parish at last meeting, healthy treasurers report balance. Dismas House Christmas gifts a success. Our Lady of the Road breakfast February 20th at 9am. Refugees – Catholic Charities getting started to focus on helping refugees. Adopt a family Christmas program went very well. Collected over \$1900 that was used for various charities and for refugees. Deacon Bill mentioned that over \$5k was spent by parishioners who became involved in the Adopt-A-Family program for Christmas. It was a great success.

Michelle Kriss – Religious Education Program Christmas pageant a success --- best ever! Pictures on the SHP Facebook page. The Second Pillar on sacraments from the Catechism for adults is finished. Next adult faith formation program ***Biblical Walk With Mary*** has begun.

Next Pastoral Council meeting Monday, March 16, 2015, 7 PM Parish Center Community Room.

VII. Close the meeting with a prayer offered by Father Brad Metz

Thank you to Michelle Kriss for providing the "mid meeting" snack

Opening prayer for our March 16 meeting is Kim Spence

Closing prayer for our March 16 meeting is John Lehner

Snack will be provided by Tom Nowak

Respectfully submitted,

Jack O'Brien