

**Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (BTC) Parish Council Meeting Minutes
September 13th, 2021**

Attendees: Jeanne Baer, Bob Brandon, Bernadette Dalton, Lisa Lonero, Deacon Al Love, Kathy Magrecki, Jane Orlando, Lorenzo Robinson, Christine Stoverink, Margaret Toney, Eileen Weiskopf

Excused Absence: Miriam Gutting, Fr. Tom Haley, and Corrin Thornton

Jane Orlando, 1st Vice Chair, officiated and meeting opened at 7:01 PM

Opening Prayer: Jane Orlando

Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved as written. Eileen Weiskopf motioned to accept minutes and Kathy Magrecki seconded.

New Business

Financials – Shared Accounting just closed July 2021 as of this evening. EANS funding has been submitted three times. The 1st for items paid last year, 2nd for items purchased this year and 3rd for counseling commitment funding. Nothing has been received to date. There are more grant funds than tuition, e.g.: ACA, Alive in Christ, Emerson and Vatterott.

Strategic Planning – Diocese is developing strategic plan process which will take 2 years to complete. Every parish and agency will be participating. An outside entity is facilitating, Catholic Leadership Institute. Everyone is to be involved. For example, Jeff Finnigan attended focus group for Youth Ministers, and Deacon Al attended focus group by Zoom for Business Managers. These groups will focus on various questions with honest feedback. Fr. Haley would like members of the parish council to attend a Strategic Planning day at the Rigali Center on Saturday October 9th from 8:30 AM to 2 PM. Fr. Chris Martin, Director and CLI will facilitate. Kathy Magrecki, Jane Orlando and Bernadette Dalton volunteered to attend.

So, as a parish and parish council, is there something you'd like to do? Engagement and Communications have been and are working on developing activities. What are we able to do to move school and parish forward?

Education Board is concerned about enrollment which is at 159 K-8 and there are still some names floating for possible enrollment. Pre-K hit approximately 30. Make BTC a destination where people want to come, but this will take a lot of work. What is it that would make us a destination? Our key charism is service and school is an outreach, something we get known for. Erin Lee, Advancement Director, is working to get enrollment up next year to 200.

Jeanne Baer works with families who are interested in BTC school and they are advised to first apply for assistance and once they are qualified, they are very excited to be able to send children to a private school.

We do want our school to be a Catholic school versus a private and evangelization is necessary. We are at a 50/50 ratio of Catholic vs. non-Catholic in the school.

Eileen suggested we need to start at home and target the young single adults and/or the young married couples with no children; people without a direct link to the school.

Everyone commented on how beautiful it was to see all the children with their families at the Feast day Mass on Sunday.

STL Review data stated that 47% of BTC participated in the ACA. How do we educate the families who are out there and do not send their children to Catholic school? Around our parish, BTC, that number is very small. Highest percentage of Catholics who live in area come to BTC, but the number of Catholics in the area keeps declining. Ferguson Florissant School District has deteriorated over the years. There is

no solid answer and we have a lot of battles and struggles. What are we doing or not doing? People yearn for community and relationships. The beautiful picture of Mother Teresa in the conference room illuminates her doing what she does. We need to grow as a parish and school community.

Do the funds or grants deplete? Yes they could and we have done great with Jeanne's leadership in that effort. It is a 1st come, 1st serve. There is also the TTF, Today and Tomorrow Foundation.

Archbishop Carlson #1 priority was Education, Alive in Christ.

Archbishop Rozanski #1 priority is Evangelization.

There are no preconceived ideas – envision church with fewer Pastors and newly ordained to spend more time as Associate Pastors. By 2026, there will be more parishes than priests based on demographics and that's why we need to do something. Archbishop's letter stated 1) there is a freeze on all capital spending except for projects related to safety (no new buildings, upgrades, such as new windows or expansion) and 2) there is a freeze on priest transfers for the next 2 years.

This has been a good discussion. Are there other parish leaders attending the Diocese meeting on Saturday, October 9th? Chair of Education Board is Dan Weyrauch.

Our homework is to come back in October with ideas for the Strategic Plan to either a) come back and say we participate in an organized strategy, or b) come back with ideas. "A goal without a plan is just a wish". Also, the 3 attending the October 9th meeting should report back to parish council.

Upcoming Events

- Food Truck Fun – After the 4:30 PM Mass on Saturday, September 18th featuring Mexican food and adult beverages and also sno-cones will be on site.
- BTC Golf Tournament 9/19
- Fall Festival 10/1 – 10/3
- Community Clean-up Day – Saturday, October 23rd from 9 to 11 AM. Teams will be dispatched around the area to make a difference in beautifying our community. A light BBQ lunch will be provided at the conclusion back on the parish campus.

Old Business

Feast Day Celebration – All commented stating it was a very beautiful celebration. It was great to see all the families and school children. The reception was very nice too.

Back to School Fair parish tent was represented by Jane, Lisa and Bernadette distributing bulletins, and various flyers announcing our upcoming events.

Final Thoughts/ Comments/ Concerns – Open Forum is available. Individuals would let us know and then they would come to present at the very beginning of the scheduled meeting before the Business is conducted/discussed.

Closing Prayer: Deacon Al Love

Next Meeting: Monday, October 11th at 7PM

Blessings, love and peace,

Bernadette Dalton

Parish Council Secretary