

Parish Council Minutes 1/14/2025

Voting Members	Present/Absent	Non Voting Members	Present/Absent
Stacy Celli	A	Julie Brown	P
Tiann Colwell	P	Terri Calvert	P
Mike Esselstein	P	Ethan Gion	A
Jerry Fitzgerald	P	Mary Skiles	P
Terry Fox	A		
Father Konka	A		
Nick Marez	A		
David Nash	P		
Casey Seymour	A		
Brooke Talkington	P		
Shelley Thomas	P		

Additional representatives attending: Larry Gion, Finance Committee

Meeting called to order 6:31 pm

Mike Esselstein opening prayer

Approval of Minutes from December meeting: Request for any corrections/additions was made. There were a couple of suggestions and corrections which were noted and made. Shelly Thomas moved approval of the amended minutes, Tiann Colwell seconded motion, minutes approved by unanimous vote.

Old Business:

Mike Esselstein

Mike informed the group that he and Fr. Konka had gotten together to discuss concerns about snow removal. No actions of any kind were suggested so we will continue to monitor the removal processes.

New Business

Mike Esselstein- None

Terri Calvert Parish Representative

- a. Terri explained that St. Agnes has been designated as the Pilgrimage Church of the Alliance Deanery. There are four deaneries in the diocese determined by geographic locations. They are the Alliance Deanery and then North Platte, Kearney and Grand Island. The churches designated as Pilgrimage churches in the other deaneries are Holy Spirit in North Platte, Prince of Peace in Kearney and the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Grand Island. People can come to St. Agnes as if they were traveling to Rome to see the Holy Doors during the Jubilee Year of Hope. Folks would be able to acquire a plenary indulgence by participating in the sacraments as well as going to confession and performing any other requirement for the indulgence. Terri has created a very impressive pamphlet and has acquired prayer cards for distribution to all visitors to St. Agnes during the year. In addition the display of pictures depicting the holy doors will continue to be in the gathering space. There will also be a sign up sheet for all visitors to sign. The closing of the doors will be done when the time comes.

- b. During the first weekend of February the Children's Liturgy of the Word will begin again. It has been missed. Megan Dockery will be leading the group and it will be offered at the 10:00 Sunday Mass.

#### Julie Brown School Representative

- a. Julie made an offer to a gentleman for the custodial position but he declined sending the school back to square one. A search for a permanent custodian will continue. Currently Julie, past and present students as well as her part time employees are helping out.
- b. Work has begun on the new sign out in front of school. There is no timeline for completion at this point.
- c. The school's website is being updated by Digital Marketing and will hopefully reach a greater population. When doing various web searches in the past St. Agnes does not always show up. This update should change that.
- d. Julie reported three new students came to St. Agnes at semester. There are currently lots of eyes on the future of Lake Minatare school. There would be potential to acquire more students if Lake Minatare were to close.

#### Larry Gion Financial Committee Representative

- a. Thanks Larry for all the great work providing the budget info in the bulletin on 1/12!! Well done!!
- b. Larry presented the budget numbers through December, the first half of our fiscal year. As of now we are 22% under budget. The budget goal through December was \$260,000 from collections, at the end of December we had collected \$202,638.45. As was the case with the last report, St. Agnes has received additional funds from anonymous donors which through December have totaled \$90,000 in designated gifts. Added to the \$202K that brings the total revenue for the first half of the year to \$292,638.45, a 13% surplus in the budget. HOWEVER, it was discussed that the amazing donations from our generous benefactors is not sustainable and is not something we can count on from year to year. We must address the shortfall coming through the regular weekly collections.

#### Mary Skiles

No report for Church Foundation

Mary provided a report on the "Outreach Project". In addition to the goals listed by Mary there is one other to consider.

1. The diocese uses the number of parish families/singles to determine our share of the contribution to the Diocesan Appeal. They are currently using 529 as that number, it seems to all that this number is not accurate.

There were ten individuals calling 529 homes.

#### Goals of the Outreach Calls included:

- Reach out to Parishioners to verify address, phone and/or email.
- Verify continued membership on the Registry. (Parishioner has moved, passed away, etc.)
- Inquire about the desire to receive a bulletin via email.
- Inquire about reception and use of tithing envelopes - if doing online contribution, are envelopes being used or thrown away?.
- Let Parishioners know that they are valued and an important part of St. Agnes Church.
- Give Parishioners the opportunity to share comments/suggestions anonymously that will be communicated to the Parish Council.

Statistics:

- Individual or Families: 529
- Deceased: 10 (completely removes family from registry)
- Deceased spouse: 11 (family remains on registry)
- Moved out of town: 26 (completely removes family from registry)
- Moved to another Parish: 15 (asked to be removed from registry)
- Incorrect Phone Number: 73 families (Unable to contact due to phone no longer in service)
- Left message/no return call: 130 families (Some were called multiple times and messages were left on voicemail. Others had working numbers, but no answer and unable to leave messages.

The ten people who volunteered to make calls are: Tiann Colwell, Dan and Julie Marshall, Nancy Kerr, Charissa Gould, JoAnn Nash, Carmen Trevino, Shelley Thomas, Joanne Krieg, and Mary Skiles

Additional discussions took place regarding suggested methods for communicating with individuals they were unable to contact to update demographics:

- Cards in pew for the Month of February for Individuals to complete demographics. These will be cross checked with information we already have gathered.
- Checking with other committees within the Parish that may have updated contact information
- Conduct mailing to individuals that we were unable to contact via other methods.

Due to the confidential manner by which comments were provided to the callers it was decided that the council should move to an executive session to begin processing the comments and determining what actions should be taken in the weeks and months moving forward. Council entered executive session at 7:16 and exited at 8:14.

Mike Esselstein conducted the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned 8:16 pm.

Next meeting Tuesday February 18th at 6:30

Respectfully submitted by David Nash, Council Secretary