Parish Council Meeting, May 13

Fr. Thomas, Alan Harsin, Jeff Fremin, Jim O’Neill and Kristin Beck

Jeanne Shepherd arrived late.

Fr. Thomas said there were only three councilmembers and himself at the prayer service held in place of the last council meeting. Just because there was not a meeting, it was not an excuse not to attend, he said. There were also no councilmembers at the Stations of the Cross that parish council was expected to lead. Fr. Thomas said he was not sure if there was a miscommunication, but in the future, he expects council to be at events they agree to attend.

Fr. Thomas said assignments have not yet been announced, so there is still a possibility he will be transferred.

Fr. Thomas said one of the Hispanic parishioners who owns a landscaping business is taking over the church’s lawn service. He is offering the church a discounted rate.

Fr. Thomas said the Hispanics want to make repairs in the parish center basement, and Fr. Thomas asked council for some suggestions. Some of the things he would like to do are replace the ceiling fans and fix the old ceiling tiles. Council discussed the possibility of purchasing accordion walls so that the space could be divided in half for two CCD classes and to hide the storage area and bookcase. Kristin said she would talk to her husband about any possible fire code issues with installing the partitions.

Council discussed possible uses for the convent and other repairs that needed to be made around the church property, including repainting the rectory and addressing the carport.

Fr. Thomas said the fish fry made about $430. Council discussed growing the fish fry into a true fund raising event and the importance of promoting it early.

Council discussed the jobs that need to be addressed with volunteers, and council agreed that Fr. Thomas needs to ask people directly to take on the jobs, like Sr. Paula used to do. Council agreed to help Fr. Thomas identify parishioners that have the skill sets that would match the jobs Father wants to fill most immediately. Alan asked Father to rank the 31 ministries from most to least important and then draw a line indicating which ministries he wanted to tackle first.

Regarding the future of parish council, Fr. Thomas said he is not in favor of randomly picking people to serve on council. He wants to make sure the people nominated have good heads on their shoulders. The current councilmembers set to roll off agreed to extend their terms to late August/early September.

Submitted by Kristin Beck