

St. Catherine Laboure Parish Council

November 21, 2024

Attended by: Fr. Dominic, Fr. Ajay, Sue Spaeth, Dave Baranowski, Jason Gray, Claire Laurentius, Kim Ojile, Maggie Murphy, Julie Prior, Mary Rose Kramer, Bill Hopfinger, Sue Baumgartner, Mary Lee Burlemann. Joey Hornberg and Bill Holland were excused.

Opening Prayer- Jason opened the meeting with a prayer

October Minutes- Members approved the October minutes with one addendum concerning the SCL day school's Mission statement. Bill Holland asked that spirituality/faith formation be included in it. The minutes will be posted on the Parish website. We were reminded to get our biographies to Jason as soon as possible as several are still missing.

A Farewell to Dave-Fr. Dominic and Jason gave our thanks to Dave for his expertise in guiding the fledgling Parish Council and getting us up on our feet as this is his last meeting with us. Dave will not retire until next May and said that he would be available should we have questions or need further assistance.

A question-Maggie questioned whether the purpose of the Parish Council should be published on the parish website. Everyone thought that it was a great suggestion and Dave said that he had given Fr. Dominic a handout on a parish council's purpose that that we could use as a model for our use.

2025 Big Rocks-

1-Where is the Lord already at work making disciples? (Establish a Parish Staff/School Advocacy Role)

We ranked this as being the least feasible action item and least critical for the time being. This question may be put off until 2026. We need to identify the right people to work in cooperation with the parish and school staff.

2-What do you want to say to us as a group? (Domestic Church Initiative)

This question was ranked as highest but not the most feasible. Jason has proposed selecting 4 SCL families to "host" a teaching mass in their homes to get families praying together. Fr. Dominic is going to see whether this is permitted in

the archdiocese. This affords families and neighbors the opportunity to pray together as a small community of faith but does not absolve anyone of his/her Sunday obligation. We talked about possibly identifying other groups within SCL who might be interested in having a teaching mass

3-Where should we start building? (Evaluate Mass Schedule)

This is a feasible goal but we may not be able to implement it until late 2025 or 2026 due to events that have already been scheduled on the church/school calendars. Data could be easily gathered. We know that about 120 people watch mass via livestream. We would like to make it easier to get to mass. We may look at reducing the number of masses or keeping the schedule the same. Having fewer masses would unite the parish and bring more people together. We need to look at how decreasing the number of masses would affect music and other ministries. If it is decided to decrease or change mass times, we would give parishioners an opportunity to digest the information.

4-What pitfalls should we avoid? (Retreat Ministry)

We agreed that this is the most feasible and easiest area to focus on. Many options could be offered, such as retreats and parish missions but many people will be required to launch it. This could bring many back to help make the change.

5- Enhance our Communication and Social Media Strategy for the Parish

Doing this would have a huge impact on SCL but it is a huge thing to manage, so we see little feasibility in trying to do this now. Our social media presence could be improved but we would need someone with great expertise to manage it. It could have a huge impact without lots of expenditure. This item has been taken off the PC "plate" for the time being.

6- Hospitality at SCL - how to better welcome people to SCL both during Mass and beyond

This ranked second to item 4 in feasibility and ease of doing. We have wonderful hospitality ministers at SCL but hospitality goes beyond just welcoming people to mass. We have an aging population and many are now homebound or live in

nursing homes in the area. We are not reaching those new to the parish and perhaps we should consider extending a personal invitation to those just joining.

Closing Prayer- Jason gave the closing prayer.

Next Meeting-Thursday, December 19, 6:30 PM at Mary Lee's house to celebrate Christmas.