SCL Parish Council Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2026

Attended by: Maggie Murphy, Vanessa Lewis, Gabby Vitale, Mary Lee Burlemann, Chris Vaughan, Lori Flauter, Erin Hooper, Laura Wehnes, Sue Spaeth, and Steve Twele
Excused: Fr. Dominic, Fr. Ajay, Kari Bass, Maria Mattingly, and Jason Gray

Opening Prayer- Maggie led the opening prayer.

General- Maggie thanked everyone for helping with "Pastries with Parish Council". The event was a big success! There was great conversation and fellowship! A few parishioners asked specific questions about the Parish Council. Nearly all of the food was eaten so the appropriate amount was ordered. Also, children who stayed enjoyed the activities. There was consensus to continue hosting events after 9:00 a.m. mass to bridge the gap. Sue suggested different groups take turns throughout the year so that many are highlighted.

Maggie updated members on Big Rock #1. Kari is unable to host a home mass so Laura is willing to fill in. The hope is to schedule a mass before year end. Laura is coordinating with Father.

Maggie reminded the group that in lieu of December's meeting, we will enjoy a holiday gathering at Mary Lee's home. This will include a mass led by Father Dominic.

Next Steps on Project Connection- Steve provided some background information on the organizations operating within the parish, how they are categorized into the commissions, and the difference between Parish and Affiliated organizations.

There was initial discussion on whether "Stewardship and Development" should be added as a separate commission based on the recommendation from the Archdiocese. The Stewardship Committee was paused a few years ago in order for the Parish Council to solidify its place in the advisory role of the pastor. We will discuss this in the future.

Also, time was taken to consider how we would approach various organizations for this project. Steve proposed sending a questionnaire with a cover letter from Father Dominic to an initial group. Steve and Maggie had prepared a draft questionnaire with ten questions for the Council to review. Members suggested using a "test case" approach of reaching out to a few organizations with leadership who have established close connections with Council members. Gabby and Chris offered to start with Faith Forward and the Men's Association. They plan to leverage their personal relationships and discuss our questions (versus calling). At this time, the Council believes that taking a less "formal" approach will allow us to be more successful with this initiative.

Additionally, members suggested some additional questions and revisions to current ones. Maggie and Steve agreed to incorporate everyone's feedback and distribute an updated questionnaire within a week. This will offer Gabby and Chris time to meet with their contacts and provide an update at November's meeting.

Year End Action Item- Maggie noted that Jason had shared semiannual updates in the Sunday bulletin. The group agreed that this frequency is appropriate. Maggie requested that anyone who is interested in helping draft the year end submission contact her.

Big Rock #2 (Hospitality) Revisited- Maggie started walking through her Hospitality Initiative handout that was distributed last month. She explained that SCL can further create a culture of hospitality in its different settings (Classroom, Church and Community).

Based on Jason's article and previous discussion, the importance of making individuals feel part of the community was reiterated. This can be achieved through simple gestures like a handshake or eye contact.

The initial thought was to start in the Church by reintroducing the handshake of peace. Since the pandemic, not as many individuals participate in this practice. Lori envisioned Father Dominic offering the handshake of peace to those in the congregation and altar servers. Maggie met with Father Dominic to discuss next steps. Unfortunately, it was determined that the priests cannot leave the altar based upon the General Instructions of the Roman Missal. Therefore, Parish Council members will plan to intentionally model the sign of peace as well as practice other welcoming behaviors. Based on time constraints, further discussion will be scheduled for this topic at future meetings.

Announcements- Gabby announced that Faith Forward is hosting a Men's event- Faith & Fraternity: Sunday Night Lights. This will feature a recorded message from John O'Leary along with food and viewing of a NFL game. The event is scheduled for November 15th. More information will be in the bulletin.

Closing Prayer- Steve led the closing prayer.

Next Meeting- November 19th

November Closing Prayer- Chris Vaughan