

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Chair Ed Chopko called the meeting to order on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.. Fr. Furlong was invited to say the opening prayer.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Jackie Loges, reported on behalf of Therese Tuttle, Business Manager.

- Shared 1st Quarter 2023 financial reports with a comparison to 1st Quarter 2022 fiscal year and FY2024 budget. Agreed to continue sharing reports with the Council. Fr. Ryan stated that financial information is available to all parishioners.
- Office desktop printers – Negotiated a cost savings and quality improvement program with new equipment and trade-in offset.
- Vacant rectory usage options are being evaluated.
- Three parishes purchased Trumbull North t-shirts and are seeking fundraising ideas.

Christian Formation and Education (CCD) – Linda Black, Coordinator of Religious Education, reported.

- Updated this year's program enrollment – 85 students. All grades have teachers assigned.
- Sunday, October 22, Youth Ministry (high school) first meeting with Kelsey Quinn, with support from Bernadette Sartor (staff). They are piloting CCD meeting times rather than evenings.
- Sunday, October 29 – Halloween Party – following tradition, Youth Ministry is hosting.
- October 29 – 8:30 am Mass – 7th Graders Mass.
- Parish Council Representatives – One appointed – Jane Bronson. Second to be named.
- Fr. Kish Scholarship Fund – Looking at ways to promote awareness and donations. Youth Ministry will coordinate with Taylor Horn, a former student/parishioner who led the fund's development.

Young Adult and Vocations Council – Fr. Ryan reported.

- Meeting was held with three parishes with Bernadette Sartor and representatives from each parish. St. Robert's is represented by Ray and Jennifer Soloman. A Young Adult Mixer will be held at St. Thomas for those in 20s, 30s, and 40s with children welcome. Another event is being planned for St. Robert's near year end.
- Vocations Council will focus on priests, deacons, religious, and marriage vocations.

Liturgy Committee and Pastoral Ministry – Kathy Lattanzi, Pastoral Minister, excused.

- Noted: Meeting held recently to discuss Advent and Christmas Season.

Marriage Prep – Deacon Bob Green reported.

- Deacon Bob and his wife, Sandy, are marriage prep sponsors. Many couples choose to attend the Diocesan prep program.

Website and Facebook – No report. Chair Chopko said they are seeking a volunteer back-up person to learn the website and social media passwords.

Social Justice and Outreach – Alice Shimek reported.

- Trumbull Mobile Meals – Volunteer drivers are needed for delivery of over 5,000 meals.
- St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen – Our team covers once a month, and the need is growing.
- Lakeview School Pantry – Checking on their student needs.

Buildings and Grounds – Dave Hilditch reported.

- Door closer project with Warren Glass meeting is expected this week.
- Minor drywall repair project will be completed by Dave and VJ Carr.

Communications and Planning Process Review – Kathy Hilditch reported.

- Get well, and sympathy cards continue to be sent to our parish family with notices.
- Updated Council member list and contact information distributed.
- Suggestion made on Event/Activity announcements from the three parishes to specifically note the welcome and invitation for all TC North parishioners rather than just the hosting parish.

Safety Committee – Steve Motika reported.

- A joint meeting with St. Thomas and St. Williams's committees is scheduled for October with Deacon Bill Bancroft as the liaison.
- The keypad issue remains pending due to the lack of Howland Security response. Fire Department building access is an open issue.
- Dick Stahl made a presentation on the Stop-the-Bleed bucket contents and suggested reviews of the online YouTube courses. Noted that AED pads were replaced as required and that Dick conducts monthly inspections.

Deacon's Report – Deacon Bob Green – no report.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Ryan Furlong reported.

- Liturgical ministry training scheduled with Fr. Balash on October 23-24. A make-up session at St. Robert's is to be scheduled.
- Town Hall scheduled at St. William's, and a sufficient number of handicap-accessible parking spaces was discussed.

New Business – Chair Chopko noted.

- Following the resignation of Tom Dickey, the Vice Chair position is open. Steve Motika has served in the interim. Kathy Hilditch motioned that Steve Motika be appointed Vice Chair, seconded by Alice Shimek. The motion was carried, and Steve was congratulated.

Fr. Ryan led the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Warholc, Secretary