

SJN Parish Council Meeting
December 2, 2013
Minutes

Present: Larry Lehmann, Walt Hanson, Trish Varga, Larry Moran, David Campbell, Sue Conway (for Tom Perry), Andrew Cieslik, Michelle Johnson, Jeff Knox, Patty Murphy, Msgr. Pat Garrity, Mary Hearnberger, Deacon Mike Gouge
Absent: Tom Perry (vice-rep present)

- I. Opening prayer – Msgr. Garrity
- II. Review of previous minutes – unanimously approved
- III. Possible upcoming campaign and future building
 - a. SJNCS Annual Giving Campaign is becoming more aggressive and a letter was sent to all parishioners. Msgr. Garrity - Goal is that the school generate enough money that as the year goes on, it can set aside enough money in trust to care for the school's growth and needs, so the parish does not need to continue to assume responsibility for the school. If the school does not make enough money, it will become a parish debt. Need to broaden the campaign to keep the school afloat without bringing the parish down.
 - b. Preschool wing (in process)
 1. Should have been completed in October, but we are waiting for the sprinkler system to be installed.
 - c. Capital Campaign
 1. Several priests met with Bishop Stika and decided that there needs to be another diocesan-wide campaign to go towards the building of the new Cathedral, priests retirement fund (\$6.5 million in liabilities already and only \$4 million in funding), education trust fund that benefits the schools and religious education, establish a fund in line with what Pope Francis has been speaking about (multi-million dollar fund for the poor).
 2. We will lock our own parish campaign into this campaign should this campaign go forward. The parish will get to keep a percentage of the goal and hopefully once we reach that goal, the parish will get to keep all of it. If the Capital Campaign does not go forward, then we will set our own campaign timeline.
- IV. New convent and financing thereof
 - a. A gentleman who lives across the street from the school expressed an interest in selling his house (his wife passed away a few years ago and he did not need all the space). Has 6 bedrooms and 3 full baths, will be able to create a chapel and study as well.
 - b. We gave him an offer and he talked it over with his children. He and Msgr. Garrity came to an agreement on \$455,000.
 - c. The attorney said to check with the town of Farragut and the homeowner's association. The HOA is only interested in maintaining single family homes and are afraid of what having a convent in the neighborhood may do. There is a meeting coming up to discuss this situation.
 - d. As far as closing on or before June 1, 2014, the Diocese has agreed and signed all paperwork, just need to iron out the concerns from the HOA.
 - e. Purchasing this convent will ultimately come out cheaper than what we are paying Sacred Heart for use of their convent.
 - f. Furnishings will need to be purchased by St. John Neumann.

- g. There will be a total of 5 sisters living there (4 working here at SJN and 1 at Catholic Charities).
- V. Overview of latest financial statements (several handouts)
- a. End of October 2013 – we are running just a little in the red, but the business manager is going to check that. Everything is almost identical as last year (being in the red is typical around this time of year; usually reach back up to budget by March).
 - b. With over 1,300 families in the parish, we are now the second largest parish in the Diocese of Knoxville. This is by far, the largest that St. John Neumann has ever been.
- VI. Building programs and progress
- a. The town of Farragut is still debating on whether or not we are zoned to have an athletic fieldhouse.
 - b. Msgr. Garrity – if we cannot figure all this out this week, then we'll just put it off until we build the parish life center
- VII. Columbarium report – Larry
- a. Larry had a very successful meeting with another parish who provided several documents about their columbarium.
 - b. Once the parish survey is completed (information will be shared via the bulletin), we can start the committee to build and will hopefully be able to move forward at the start of the year.
 - c. Location will be near the Rosary Garden.
 - d. Michelle asks if we may run into problems with the town of Farragut, Msgr.'s reply – I'm not going to ask! There is no running water, electricity, sewage, or occupancy, it's movable, it's attractive, etc...
- VIII. Pavilion procedures
- a. Completed so far, but will be a work in progress as we start using it.
 - b. Question of whether or not fire extinguishers are required.
 - c. We can get feedback from those who have used it and update it as we go.
 - d. Discussion of lowering the price. The pavilion is only available to parishioners. We charge a little more because we want people who we know will take care of it when they are done.
- IX. Online giving
- a. SJN will start online giving through WeShare starting January 1, 2014.
 - b. Can be used by school and parish to sell tickets for events and donate to specific contributions
 - c. Will have more information about this coming soon.
 - d. Online giving is important because this is how the younger generation pays for things nowadays.
- X. Upcoming events
- a. In January, Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Angela's jubilee. They will renew their vows during a ceremony on January 5 (feast day of St. John Neumann) and there will be a reception in the school gym.
 - b. There will be a travelling icon being passed around the different parishes of the Diocese of Knoxville. It will arrive at our parish on the same week as the Sisters jubilee.
 - c. Benefit of having a Station Church is being able to offer a chance for plenary indulgence.
- XI. Committee Reports
- a. Communications (Walt) – no change; Msgr. Garrity asked about the website-Walt is hoping to update with more information about the sisters working for our parish
 - b. Parish & Family Life (Trish) – no change

- c. Education/Faith Formation (Larry Moran) – will use new program for vacation bible school; checked with other parishes who had a great success with it (difference is that drop-off age is grade 2); will have a separate VBS for the younger ones
 - d. Social Action (David) – handout with existing missions (Appalachian Outreach, Ladies of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul, and Pro-Life Ministries including Crosses for the Unborn and 40 Days for Life)
 - e. Spirituality (Sue standing in for Tom) – 7 additional Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist have been trained; upcoming events – Eucharistic Adoration potluck and 40 Days; new bulletin insert with more information to help promote Adoration; suggestion of having someone give a testimonial from after Mass to let others know what it is all about and why they enjoy it
 - f. Youth and Young Adult (Andrew) – youth group returned from a great youth conference; they are now trying to raise money for a mission trip in spring of 2014; interested in the children possibly having the chance to go to World Youth Day in Poland in 2016 (will need to talk with Al Forsythe)
- XII. Old business
- a. There was a great turnout (about 850) people at the Fall Festival; only negative is that we ran out of side dishes
 - b. Msgr. Garrity - We have tried the Spring Fling and Fall Festival, our goal is to have at least 2 family activities and 2 adults-only activities annually for SJN. Do we want to continue with 2 similar activities like the Spring and Fall ones, or choose just one and which seasons do we want to continue to plan them for? Would like to have them at the same time every year (for example, SJN always hosts the St. Patrick's Day dance)
 - c. We need to develop a calendar for parish activities that parishioners can count on to bring the community together and to bring in/welcome new people. Communicate all idea to Trish and we will discuss at next meeting.
- XIII. New business
- a. Changing of priest assignments – Fr. Manning now our part-time associate pastor (will be here for weekend liturgies); Fr. Hammond and Fr. Hoan will help out during the week. We will probably not have a full-time associate pastor until next July 2014.
 - b. Msgr. Garrity had MRI back in September and then consulted someone who said he may need a total shoulder replacement. He has been getting cortisone shots, but they are only helping so much. If he has to have this surgery, he will be out for 6 weeks. He has not made a final decision regarding this matter but would like to do it the first part of January, so that he will be healed by Easter.
- XIV. Closing prayer – Msgr. Garrity

Respectfully submitted: Mary Hearnberger