

St, John the Apostle Church  
Pastoral Parish Finance Council Meeting  
July 16, 2023

Members present: Father Toan Do, Deacon Mike Jones, Chairman Tony Brown, Andy Miller, Kathy Thissen, Jeremy Stull, Denice Jackson, Ed Kopp and Bookkeeper Judy Yates. Not present: Elizabeth Arnold and Christy Gossett.

- Opening prayer led by Father Toan
- Bank statements were passed around and signed by present members.
- 4th Quarter Finance Report was reviewed by Tony Brown. Tony pointed out that expenses on the report were over budget due to paving costs that had to be included in this statement.
- **OLD BUSINESS**
- Security During Church Mass-No extra security precautions have been implemented at this time. A meeting with Father Toan was requested by parishioners but never happened. It appears that most members of St. John do not feel that the locking of doors during mass is necessary. The council members discussed perhaps having some security volunteers present at each mass time that could also assume the role of ushers.
- Convent Rental Update-It was previously discussed and decided that the convent would be converted into rental spaces comprising of two units which would be available for renting to parishioners only. This project has been approved by the Archbishop, and once necessary renovations are finished, an approved contract/lease agreement will be needed from the Archdiocese. Father Toan reported that there is one fully committed parishioner ready to move in once available. This project serves the purpose of offering help to these tenants rather than being based on profit and will keep the building from deteriorating that will come with not using it. The goal is to keep rent at a level below the average for Meade County. The renovations have begun and thus far the only costs incurred have been for materials with this money coming from St. John's recent auction. All work has been done by volunteers.
- Blacktop Sealing-Tony Brown briefly updated the council on the current paving project. Our remaining cost should be around \$27,000 or less. For the driveway portion of the pavement near Diana's Park, it is possible that the county will pay more than 25 percent. Tony advised that it was also worth noting that in the paving contract, it states that in the future, if paving needs to be redone, the county will cover up to 1/3 of the cost.
- Parish Office Windows-Tony Brown and Judy Yates discussed the ongoing replacement of windows in the parish office/school building. One of the eight windows has been installed, and St. John cost will be \$50,000 or less.
- **NEW BUSINESS**
- Budget--Tony Brown reviewed the budget and pointed out there will be no truck raffle this year. Another raffle will take its place (see Fundraising). Flaherty Chevrolet will instead donate a vehicle for the auction. Tony advised that St.

John's payroll expenses are at 37 percent of the budget which is very good and a big improvement from previous years. Convent expenses are included in the elevated electric/gas expenses. Catholic Mutual Insurance Group has raised St. John property insurance by 32 percent. The \$90,000 listed on parking/driveways/walkways will be paid from the Archdiocese Savings.

- Update on school-Father Toan advised that he had a meeting with Nancy Tate, Jennifer Shelton and Dr. Jonathan Mangin who advocates for reopening the school. Father Toan and Deacon Mike attended as parish council representatives, and John DeVries, John Beavin and Rodney Pickering attended as representatives who each have knowledge of the school when it was opened, and the hardships incurred when the school had to close. The advocate group reported that they have been granted 501(c) tax exempt status. Father Toan said that after discussion it was made clear at the meeting that there is no intention to open a standalone St. John School in the future. If this endeavor moves forward, it must be a Meade County effort. The school would have to be financially self-sufficient, although St. John would willingly help with the infrastructure. A school board consisting of people from all Catholic parishes within Meade County should be implemented, and the advocates group will work on coming up with a business plan.
- Fundraising--Tony Brown and Judy Yates discussed upcoming fundraising. In lieu of the Truck raffle, there will be a cash prize raffle consisting of four cash prizes in the amounts of \$5,000, \$2,500, \$1,500, and \$1,000. Tickets will be sold at \$20 each. 2,000 cash tickets will be printed. The quilt raffle will still be in place, a discussion of raising these tickets to \$5 each has not yet been decided. Parishioner packets will consist of 7 cash raffle tickets and the number of quilt raffle tickets to be decided. Ticket packets will be available for pick up before and after masses starting September 2 & 3, 2023. There will also be some raffle ticket sales before and after mass that will be set up as the Harvest Festival approaches. The first Harvest Festival meeting will be Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at this time there is no chairperson although some parishioners have volunteered to take on some roles in helping. Judy emphasized how important this fundraiser is and that St. John needs everyone to pitch in and volunteer in whatever way they are able for the Harvest Festival to be a success.
- Charity Fund-Deacon Mike reported that there is about \$14,000 in funds. There was a motion that was seconded and unanimously approved by the parish council granting Father Toan Do authorization to use these funds at his discretion with no need to obtain further approval.
- The HUB Ministry--Father Toan reported that Becky Flaherty asked to reduce her work week to 2 days. Jessica Miller will be hired to work the other 3 days of the week. Becky will remain the director. The HUB hopes to have 15 children participating this upcoming year.
- Questions/Concerns-Deacon Mike reported that the food bank is almost self-supporting, and they are averaging serving between 60-65 families a week. Andy Miller suggested that some of the tree limbs on the sidewalk be trimmed as it looked to be becoming a nuisance to people who use the sidewalks

due to the limited parking with the paving project. Father Toan and Judy Yates said they would look into that.

**Closing prayer-**Father Toan closed in prayer at 12:30 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2023 following the 10:00 AM mass.

Respectfully submitted by Denice Jackson