

St. Dominic Parish Council Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2026 – 7:00pm

Cherry Street Annex Building

Attending: Father Jim, Lynette Eilermann, Barb Koopmann, Tony Antonacci, Steve Usselmann, John Becker, Jason Miller, Lisa Rivera, Suann Fields, Brian Albers, Helen Essenpreis, Connie Robben, Chris Holthaus

Absent: Maribeth Detmer

Call to Order: Lynette Eilermann

Opening Prayer: Chris Holthaus

Approval of May Meeting Minutes: Approved by Steve Usselmann, seconded by Lisa Rivera

Approval of May Agenda: Approved by Tony Antonacci, seconded by John Becker

ASA Advisory Council Report: Fr. Jim reporting

- A. 362 enrolled from Pre-K through 8th grade.
- B. Three new teachers: 2 Jr. high, 1 pre-K.
- C. Reached out to families who did not return this year. There were various reasons given.

Hispanic Ministry: Helen reporting.

- A. Diocese has started an Immigration Commission
 - i. Overall Vision: The Diocese of Belleville wants our parishes to recognize migrants and immigrants first and foremost as beloved children of God, treating each person with dignity, compassion, respect, and welcome.
 - ii. Rooted in Catholic Teaching: The work of the Immigration Commission is grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the dignity of the human person, solidarity, justice, respect for life and our Gospel responsibility to care for those who are vulnerable.
 - iii. Pastoral, Not Just Legal: The commission's role goes beyond immigration laws or policies. A major emphasis is pastoral accompaniment – helping immigrants and their families know that the Church is present to them, especially when they are facing detention, deportation, family separation, or other immigration challenges.
 - iv. Immediate Priorities: The commission is currently concentrating on four areas:
 - 1. Developing a coordinated parish and diocesan response for accompanying immigrants and families.
 - 2. Building relationships with ICE and detention centers and developing ways to identify and support parishioners who may be detained.
 - 3. Providing formation and education for clergy and lay leaders so parishes know how to respond appropriately and pastorally.
 - 4. Connecting immigration ministry with Bishop Godfrey's pastoral plan and existing diocesan structures, rather than creating an isolated ministry.

What this means for St. Dominic: At this point, we do not necessarily need to create a new program. We should begin considering: If an immigrant or migrant family in our parish or community needed help, would we know how to respond, whom to contact, and how to accompany them?

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A. Lynette and Helen reviewed files. The last time parish history was updated was 2008 (150 year celebration). We would like to have someone update / document parish history since then. We will post in the bulletin to see if anyone is interested.

Committee Reports:

A. Building and Maintenance: John reporting

1. Jr. High roof needs replaced. Had 3 roofing companies look at it. Currently getting bids.
2. Walk-in freezer went out. It was not immediately discovered, and we lost all contents. Kohonen replaced it. Kohonen will investigate an updated alarm system, ideally that would send a notification to a phone.
3. Replaced / upgraded lighting by the altar area in church. Also installed additional lighting on the first pillars. The lighting was donated by the Men's Sodality.

B. Liturgy/Stewardship: Helen reporting.

1. Ministry updates:

- i. Planning for Extraordinary Minister training for new ministers.
- ii. Altar Server training will begin after the start of the school year for students in 4th grade and above, with additional opportunities for YFF students.
- iii. Additional ushers are needed, and efforts will be made to recruit new volunteers, including high school students.
- iv. Music Ministry continues learning new music for upcoming liturgies.
- v. The committee discussed the implementation of Ministry Scheduler Pro particularly scheduling preferences for weekday and funeral masses.

2. Upcoming Liturgical Celebrations:

- i. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 14th & 15th),
- ii. Catechetical Sunday, including the blessing of catechists at the 11:00am mass. (September 20th).
- iii. Respect Life Sunday, All Saints/All Souls observances, Thanksgiving Masses, and the Children's Mass schedule for the coming year were also reviewed by the committee.

3. Environment & Worship:

- i. New altar server cassocks have been ordered. These were donated by the Ladies' Sodality.
- ii. The Liturgy Committee discussed concerns regarding the church sound system, particularly for those seated in the rear.
- iii. The possibility of offering additional lector formation was also considered.

4. Faith Formation and Parish initiatives

- i. Capital campaign funds designed for liturgical formation were discussed, with the first parish Town Hall scheduled for September 6th.
- ii. Initial Advent planning has begun, including the possibility of featuring saints' reflection in the parish bulletin throughout the season.

C. Finance: Chris reporting

1. Approved digital payment policy.
2. Meeting next week.

D. Spiritual Formation: Connie reporting

1. Plans are being reviewed for the parish's new Miles with Mary initiative, a 31 day parish-wide spiritual pilgrimage beginning this fall and open to neighboring parishes.

2. Looking into an adult faith formation idea "What We Believe", an Ascension Press program based on the Apostles Creed. This is a 10 week program that can be split, 5 in the fall, 5 in the spring. The idea is to have it on Wednesdays in the cafeteria and invite ASA parents and all other adult parishioners.

E. Community/Welcoming: Lynette reporting

1. No new parishioners in May-July.
2. For the months of May, June, and July, we sent out 10 baptism cards, 3 marriage cards, 24 anniversary cards, and 3 sympathy cards.
3. We coordinated three socials in conjunction with Maribeth and the Ladies Sodality to celebrate graduates after weekend masses May 30-31st, Bishop's mass on June 24th, and St. Dominic Feast Day this past weekend, August 8-9.
4. The committee will support Helen with upcoming Box of Joy effort and collect donations for nursing home residents in the month of September.

F. Media: No report

G. Fundraising: Lynette reporting

1. Capital Campaign
 - a. Maintenance committee is doing a great job on estimates for numerous projects
 - b. Townhall meetings planned for September
 - c. Parishioner testimonials will be posted in the bulletin and online
2. Picnic bills are all in and have been paid. A wrap up meeting is scheduled for August 13th at 7:30 in the Annex.

H. St. Joseph's Men's Sodality: John reporting

1. Next meeting is August 27th at the KC Hall at 7:00pm.

I. St. Dominic Altar Sodality: Lynette reporting for Maribeth

1. Next meeting is September 14th. It is "bring a friend". Ladies bring a dish, and the sodality provides the meat.
2. A couple of ladies will be asked to attend the next meeting to discuss the capital campaign.
3. Would like to extend sincere thank you to the picnic committee. They did a fantastic job, especially adding an extra day. We are grateful for the young parishioners being so involved and wish to encourage them to continue their superb service.

J. Office Manager:

1. Implementing a new automatic scheduling program called Ministry Pro. An email has gone out to everyone on the various ministries to confirm / update information. Several Parish Council members did not recall receiving an email, so Helen will have John check into this.
2. Lynette and Helen spent several days going through file cabinets. The files being retained will be labeled and organized. The remaining will be shredded.
3. Still reviewing what to do with some furniture and statues remaining upstairs at the rectory.
4. Kevin Grapperhaus assisting with hooking a new phone system, which will be tied in with ASA.

K. Fr. Jim

1. Been going great, looking forward to another year, especially with the campaign.

2. Same schedule for school masses.

Correspondence

A. Upcoming Events

- a. August / September – Box of Joy donations
- b. September – Collect donations for nursing homes
- c. September 14th – Bring a Friend Ladies Sodality Meeting
- d. September 20th – Catechetical Sunday
- e. October – Playpen for baby donations
- f. October 4th – Chicken dinner
- g. October 22-25 – Rummage Sale (setup October 11th)
- h. November 7th – ASA Auction (4:00 mass)
- i. November 20th – Designer Purse Bingo
- j. November / December – Giving Tree
- k. December 7th – Ladies Sodality Christmas Party

B. Good of the Order: None

Future Business:

- A. Next Parish Council Meeting 9/8 at 7:00pm in the Annex. (Capital Campaign at 6:00pm)

Motion to adjourn by Steve Usselman and seconded by Chris Holthaus

Closing Prayer – Chris Holthaus

Minutes Submitted by Barb Koopmann