

St John Neumann Parish Council  
Meeting Minutes  
November 21, 2023

Present: Jay Hedrick, Tami Wetzel, Jackie Sutton, Kandi Smith, Nate Schroeder, John Endres, Angela Ray  
Absent – Christina Weber, Sam Struppa, Catherine Azzola, Nick Henderson, Paul Stokell, Fr. Dury

**Opening Prayer** – Jackie Sutton

**Old Business** –

- Minutes Approved by Jay Hedrick and second by Jackie Sutton

**New Business**

- The book “The Activated Disciple” Chapter 1 and 2 were discussed and Chapter 3 and 4 will be discussed next in Jan.
- Advent Season of Invitation is the focus.
  - Father would like to empower us to invite people to become part of our family.
  - Invite them to the Rescue project, adoration night, and mass.
  - The plan for Christmas is to get people who come to mass a couple of times a year to come back more frequently.
  - Parishioners invite or pick 6 people to come to the rescue project in Jan.
    - Maybe a beginning point for some people.
- Lynn Stelmach is the new liturgy coordinator currently getting her team together.
- The choir concert on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 is featuring kids and adults.

**Committee Updates**

**Finance**

- Emmaus Road Scholarship with the SGO scholarship granting organization is now active for this tax season.
  - Go to the scholarship website and if you are married and file jointly you can donate \$1500 to a scholarship fund and get a state tax write-off.
  - You can donate to whatever school and can follow your child or any kid dollar for dollar.
  - Make sure you label correctly - scholarship fund official SGO of the Diocese of Columbus

## Evangelization – formerly Adult Formation

- The Rescue Project
  - Fall 2023: A total of 30 participants attended the most recent session, held on Sundays, which ended on November 5. This session included those interested in OCI.
  - Spring 2024: The next session will be held on Thursday evenings after the daily Mass, from January 4 – February 10. This session will conclude with the Retreat on the 10th, which will include viewing the final three episodes of the video series. That will allow us to finish the session before Ash Wednesday.
  - There will be a major effort during the Advent Season (re: Fr. Dury's comments on "Season of Invitation") to invite parishioners to this session and to have them invite others from within and beyond SJN.
- Order of Christian Initiation
  - Five people took part in the Rites of Entrance & Welcome at the 11:00 a.m. Mass on November 12, including two who will be received into the Church on December 3 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Four others will go through another set of Rites of Entrance & Welcome on a date after Christmas.
  - Sessions meet on Sundays after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, using the SYCAMORE video series.
    - Parishioners are invited to attend these sessions for their continuing faith formation. Our next session ("On Prayer") is on December 3. We will meet (for the only time) in Rooms 9/10 in the Lower Level of the FFC.
  - Those interested in becoming Catholic or exploring life in the Church may sign up for OCI and attend sessions at any time.
- Eucharistic Revival / 2024 Eucharistic Conference
  - We are in the midst of the nationwide Eucharistic Revival, for purposes of discussing, teaching, and reaffirming the Church's teaching on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and the importance of the Mass as the "source and summit of the Christian life." This will have its peak (but not its end) at the Eucharistic Congress in July 2024 in Indianapolis.
  - SJN presented a seven-episode, video-based series produced by the USCCB for viewing by Life Groups and others on Thursday evenings, which will conclude on November 30.
    - In 2024, this series will be presented again, in addition to original content to be presented by Paul on the Eucharist & Mass, and the history & etiquette of Eucharistic Adoration.
  - SJN has also purchased tickets to the Eucharistic Congress in two tiers. Tier 1 includes transportation to Indianapolis, passes to the Congress, and lodging. Tier 2 includes passes to the Congress for those wanting to arrange their own transportation and lodging. Both of these tiers will be available for purchase on the SJN website. More details will follow.

### **Stewardship - formerly development**

- Going forward with testimonials
- Have found that those who are involved with the parish are the ones who give.
  - Mailing to those who are not giving or through EFT
- Still raising for the bell tower and any gift above \$500 - name will be on the wall or in memory of someone.
- Confessional will be starting to build on Dec 2
  - Hope to be done by reconciliation night which is Dec 6
- Classrooms have been renovated as part of the capital campaign.
- The diocese doing a feasibility study for HS to start fundraising next year.
  - The diocese will run fundraising.

### **Festivals**

- Signed contracts for tents for both festivals.
- Will start with permitting. The festival is June 14/15
- Still looking for entertainment
- Amusement rides are good to go.
- Oct fest – Will be in Sept.

### **KOC**

- KOC Services different areas
- Dec 2 host for morning in Bethlehem breakfast
  - Santa will arrive.
- Measure up campaign collecting money on the street.
- Gave 100 coats out to kids for run the race.
- Would like to ask for a tip jar at some events they host for a special cause- Jackie to get back with John.
- Keep Christ in Christmas magnet sales.
- Will do parking Christmas Eve parking at 4 pm
- Blood drive Dec 30
- Sub sale Jan 6/7
- Will put bows on the cross of fallen heroes.

## **GSM**

- Keep getting money and handing out money thanks to the support of our parish.
- Coordinating with outreach ministries and material drives

## **Men/Women Groups**

- Conference promotion for men/women.
  - Pitch or invitation to conference has proven to promote conversion.

## **TMIY**

- TMIY is going well with more guys joining.

## **Faith and Family**

- Many positive testimonials from parent
  - 2nd-grade parents have been coming back into faith by coming to mass.
  - More parents are getting involved with their kids.
- Middle school growing and currently preparing for confirmation, which is April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm
- Everyone loves the new youth space and kids are inviting others to come.

## **SVDP**

- Summary in the bulletin of how funds are used.
- Serve individual neighbors.
- Grateful for food donations as well as volunteers
- Connect with current members and recruit new ones.
- Every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday meeting in the faith and family center at 7 pm
- Currently looking for a good spiritual director.

## **Life Groups**

- Facilitator training Dec 9<sup>th</sup>
- Jim Beckman consulting with Kate

## **Young Adults – no report**

Meeting to adjourn was made by Kandi Smith and second by John Endres

The next committee meeting is Jan 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

Respectfully submitted by Tami Wetzel, Parish Council Secretary

