

St John Neumann Parish Council  
Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2023

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

**Opening Prayer** – Father Dury

**Old Business –**

- March Minutes Approved
- School Update – Fr. Dury
  - High School to be started hopefully within 3 years – Elementary will be in the future - Currently working on a feasibility study. The cost could be 50 million. The Athletic fields will be built after the school.
  - Schools will be on our campus and master planning is working on the location. The Diocese will run the HS and will buy the land for the HS from SJN.
  - The HS would be run as a classical model with a strong Catholic identity.
    - Helping young people find truth and prayer.
- State Money for tuition
  - Currently every family is able to get money from the state to support tuition. SGO program.
- SJN becoming a parish of life groups with the on-ramp The Rescue Project – which is currently the only program in the parish.
  - The ownership of faith is on each of us by looking outward and not in.
- Life Groups
  - Learn to pray better with more vulnerability.
  - Customize study with accountability.
  - Hope is that the small groups connect.
  - Kate the director of Life Groups will be coached by XX Beckman
    - She will mentor the trainers (team) for life groups.
    - The team helps facilitate – by learning how to accompany the group's walking journey to Christ.
  - Parish Council is a Life Group
    - Reminder of what discipleship is and what we are required to do.
    - Reading the Book Disciples of Mission to discuss with the group.

**New Business**

- Perpetual Adoration – the spirit in this parish is different due to adoration.
  - Need 2-3 hours to be committed to be filled.
  - Life groups could possibly take turns.
- Outreach
  - Working with GSM and SVDP
  - The last outreach drive has shown an increase in donations.

- Working on volunteer opportunities – finding people and gaps for volunteers
- Offertory
  - The first week of the drive had 120 responses, which is better than the past few years.
- Capital Campaign pledges still coming in –
  - Still need donations for the bell tower
  - Grotto waiting on stone which was backordered.
    - Hope is to have the Bishop consecrate the altar in May
    - Prayers will be buried once the stone arrives.
- Advent Season of Invitation
  - 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.
- Hospitality
  - Help Parish with Sunday experience.
    - Currently when you walk in the door there is a smiling face and someone to help find a pew to sit.
    - Everyone should be a hospitality minister in the pews.
    - Be more hospitable during coffee and doughnuts.
    - In the future may have a parking lot person.
    - Always think about how we can do better in the hospitality area.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Finance**

- Offertory has seen growth vs the same period last 12 months - +11%
  - Has enabled us to meet all expenses, even with expenses going up.
  - Assessments (taxes) going up.
  - School Subsidies should be going down due to the State Program – SGO
    - If you pay state taxes, you could divert an amount to Catholic school scholar program. Anyone can give \$750 per person if you pay state taxes and are working.
      - Fill out the scholar form and get a credit off taxes. This should reduce subsidies.
    - Universal education will keep increasing.
  - Grotto – 1/3 had been paid. – Cost \$200K
  - Security update
    - The parish office door will be locked, and an intercom is in place to talk.
      - Encourage visitors to make appointments.
    - Forming a security group that will have grant money available.

### **Adult Faith Formation**

- Going forward with the Rescue Project
  - Usually do Rescue project and OCI together.

- Currently have 12 individuals at various stages of entering the church
  - Now a rolling enrollment – get them started and in their own formation when they are ready to enter church.
- Have a team of 12 people to help with the rescue project and OCI.
- The next rescue project is in Jan. with childcare.
  - Reaching out to alumni to help be table leaders.
- Looking for more people to become part of the evangelist team.
  - Providing formation groups on Thursday evenings for life groups to become prepped for revival and get them to think about the Eucharist congress.
- November will start the “Sycamore” rescue project.
  - Think about entering a wide end of a funnel and then narrowing it down to life groups and how to get them there.

### **Men/Women Groups**

- The men’s group is getting rid of the old model by having a mini-conference to build momentum for a big conference.
- Building out parish captain model. On-going conversation.
- Men’s club 70% Knights

### **TMIY**

- A lot of young guys started to come but not consistently due to family obligations but keep drawing guys in.
- The focus is on fellowship and small groups.

### **Festivals**

- The goal is to get people to build community- to have a great night of community. Making money is good but not the main reason to have festivals.
  - The goal is to get more sponsorships to be fully funded and then if something happens, we are covered.
    - Suggestion to hold back some funds to cover.
- The festival had one of the biggest nights on Sat. Profit of \$26K.
  - Gave to Youth ministry - \$5k, GSM - \$12K, SVDP - \$5K, Mommies Matter - \$3K.
- Next year’s festival is June 14/15.
  - In search of a band to replace Reagonmics
- Looking for a new treasurer for the festival.
- October Fest had a deficit of \$9K. Church picked up the fireworks cost of \$5K so the actual loss was \$4.5K
  - This has been the trend for the last 3 years.
  - Currently challenge is on the light trees invoice and will understand the total after.
  - Beer sales were down. Will continue with a 50/50 drawing after it was decided that the money raffle was not going well.
  - There was a reduction in ground tents and porta pots.

### **KOC**

- Knights were asked to host a kid's Christmas party.
- Sub Sale ongoing.
- Packed 150 bags of trick-or-treat candy for veterans.
- Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> Coat for Kids
  - Need to get the correct neighborhood for the donations, so on Nov. 11 will donate to the Run the Race neighborhoods.
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> at Sam's bar on Rt 23 from 4-8 accepting cash, clothing, and toiletries for veterans. The bar will have drink specials.
- Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> will ask Parishioners for donations for vets.
- Looking into a pancake breakfast for the community like the fish fry to bring more people into the church.
  - Summer may be the best option due to availability. Looking at the time to be 10-1
  - Need to get people used to working in the kitchen - men's club not as many people.
- This will be the last year doing ribbons for Reach for America

## **GSM**

- Provided mission statement of GSM –
  - “To engage the parishioners of SJN to share the blessings of their faith and to provide funds for outreach and discipleship programs in order to serve the greatest number of individuals in the most effective way on a local, national, and international basis.”
- Looking for new members, especially of the younger generation.
- GSM takes seriously the funds received and safeguards the funds.
- Most of the funds come from parishioners.
- Last 5 months - \$45k of contributions
  - Life groups, Bethesda ministry, Design Outreach Water Pump (international), parishioner in need

**SVDP – no report**

**Young Adults – no report**

Meeting to adjourn was made by Nate Schroeder and second by Kandi Smith  
 The next committee meeting is Nov.21st at 6:30  
 Respectfully submitted by Tami Wetzel, Parish Council Secretary