

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Niagara, WI
Parish Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
7/26/23

Present: Debbie Wodenka, Judy Parent, Josh Vandembush, Patti Sparapani, Tony Noska, Fr. Felix Abano, Tammy VanPembrook

1. Opening prayer: All (Meeting called to order at 4:45 pm)
2. Request to approve agenda: Motion by Josh Vandembush, seconded by Tony Noska
3. Approval prior meeting minutes: Motion by Josh Vandembush, seconded by Tammy VanPembrook
4. Old Business:

A. Narthex/Nave discussion: Cleaning up of the narthex is being completed and the addition of rosary and veil racks in hopes to encourage the spirit of welcoming/visiting in the narthex and silence/prayer in the nave of the church. Tammie Goldschmidt mentioned to council members prior to the meeting she'd like to have a sign up sheet for parishioners to lead the rosary before Sunday mass. All present agreed this would be a positive idea, but may need to be a process in order to implement. Discussion about asking Knights of Columbus to purchase an inexpensive keyboard for Sunday choir practice other than in the body of the church. Josh Vandembush will present at K of C meeting. Patti Sparapani will work on wording for entry doors of church (narthex/nave) and look for frames. Josh Vandembush mentioned trying to gather after Sunday masses for fellowship in the parish hall starting in the fall. Thank you to Judy Parent and Lori Aderman for cleaning church windows and removing diseased plants.

B. Tammy VanPembrook gave a recap of yesterday's monastery tour taken by Our Lady's Maidens of the Altar starting at the Iron Mountain, MI Carmelites, followed by a visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion and ending with a Carmelite monastery tour in Denmark, WI. Five young ladies and 2 mothers from St. Anthony's of Padua parish attended.. The Iron Mountain Carmelites gave a rare Q&A session with the girls from behind their cloistered

grate. Sister Rosaria, extern sister, showed the girls a model of their monastery the sisters made and gave each of the girls a gift bag and vocation brochure. Safe trip and fun was had by all. OLMOTA will resume meeting monthly in October. A trip to the Wausau Oratory is being planned for this fall. Young ladies age 10-18 are encouraged to join and/or speak to Tammy with questions.

C. Was discussed in A. above.

D. The organ donation mentioned at the June meeting will not be feasible for our needs.

E. Pillars: Discussion by the group will be ongoing and requires a lot of planning, asking “what are our goals”? This month, the group was asked to define what ministries St Anthony of Padua parish currently has and how they fit into the pillars. Please think about goals and bring your ideas back to future meetings. Members of the parish are invited and encouraged to join a subcommittee if they would like to be involved in the forming of the parish mission statement and strategic plan. Discussion regarding Knights of Columbus involvement of faith/church areas, since these are pillars of the Knights. Ideas were shared about starting something small, such as a Christmas/Advent poster contest. We’d like to add “working on a strategic parish plan for 2023” into Council’s Corner. Father Felix mentioned having a monthly bible study with lectors at his previous parish and he was agreeable to do so at St. Anthony’s as well..

F. Christian burial presentation will be presented by Josh Vandembush and Tammie Goldschmidt on 11/22/2023, which is All Soul’s Day. Tony Noska mentioned using the parish hall and also having potluck food available at the presentation. Josh would like to do a practice presentation in September/October for council members. Tammy VanPembroke suggested advertising with a flyer or brochure to other area parishes at least a month in advance, as well as on our parish website.

G. Patti Sparapani will ask Dawn Johnson if there have been any more donations for statue restoration and follow up with us at the next meeting. It was decided it would be a good idea to leave this topic in Council’s Corner for a while as a reminder for future donation support.

5. New Business:

A. Josh Vandembush presented a three ring binder he assembled with parish pastoral council by law info, minutes, contact persons, etc., to keep on hand for reference for anyone council members and/or parishioners who may have questions about the council. Josh has a copy and one will be kept in the parish office.

B. FYI: Parish website is being updated & revised. Please be patient during this transition.

C. Finance council rep, Judy Parent, informed the group \$500 was budgeted and has been approved for parish pastoral council annual needs.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 30th at 4:30pm.

Adjournment motion by Tony Noska at 6:15pm, seconded by Josh Vandembush.

Closing prayer by the group.