St. Anthony the Great Church

Parish Council Meeting Minutes 3/5/19

In attendance: Paul White, Aaron Blanco, Taylor Troy, Elaine Jenkins, Helen Kaye, Laura Farris, Nick Brown, Scott Smith

Presiding: Fr. Leo Poore

Visiting: Fr. Gerasim Eliel

The meeting was opened with the singing of “O Heavenly King.”

The Oath of Office was read by Helen Kaye

Previous Month’s Minutes – accepted with the following revisions.

* Irizarry (last name of Samuel and Tania); their daughter is Katerina
* No official commission, but many ideas for icon project

Nick Brown motioned to accept the minutes; the motion passed with unanimous consent.

Financial report (look at email notes)

* As of March 5, YTD net earnings at -$5,436.13.
* Closed out USAA index fund as it went over $60,000 (over $63,000 actually)
* Will be eventually on deposit with the Diocese after it moves through the process
* Unanimous consent that the financial report be official submitted

Committee Reports

* Brotherhood is handling Meatfare Sunday, Sisterhood is handling Cheesefare Sunday
* Brotherhood’s beer is bottled and ready to sell.

Priest Report

* Mike Panasenko’s hip was operated on.
* Mary Partlow has been absent due to frequent illness.
* Imogen King, a visitor from about 10 years ago, has made contact – she has been experiencing memory loss, but desired to receive Communion.
* Prayers are requested for Vera Panasenko’s health.
* We now have 6 new catechumens.
* Raymond was baptized on Saturday.
* Katerina was baptized on the Saturday before
* May 5th is a marriage blessing
* May 13th is another marriage blessing.
* June 9th is yet another.
* Father Leo received email from Benjamin Matthews, who has visited a few times, as well some other churches, and has asked if he can come back.
* Thanks to those who engage newcomers before they leave.

Father Gerasim

* Here to discuss clergy compensation
* Keep an eye out for the Fox family, who may (will?) be moving here
* Don’t despair about fiscal hardship – “God will bless your work”
* Father David has wife, four kids; this will cost more than Fr. Leo!
* The dynamic among the parish will change. Fr. Gerasim thinks it will be a stimulus to the parish.
* St. Ephraim Church is moving a few miles north.
* This is a golden opportunity for the growth of St. Anthony.
* Dallas-area churches are growing rapidly, even Tyler and Shreveport parishes as well. There’s a way for us to get in on this pattern as well.
* St. Anthony tithes generally not a lot, but that’s not because we haven’t been sacrificing to make things happen.
* This evening’s discussion needs to be realistic.
* Noel Busch recommended some health programs MediShare and LibertyShare.
  + Aaron Blanco ready to discuss a third option.
* Direct compensation considers median household income for the area; they are looking at Bexar, Guadalupe, and Kendall
* Rough average for the three is $64,800.
* Typical starting point is 55%
* Also a housing allowance and car allowance
* Self-employment compensation allowance (9%)
  + At this point, about $61,000
* Then health insurance, OCA pension contribution (8%)
* OCA Life Insurance
  + At this point, total is about $87,000.
* We are probably not at the point just yet to pay this much, so let’s talk about what we *can* handle.
* LibertyShare and MediShare are cheaper than the OCA insurance
* The Blancos use Christian Healthcare Ministry. Premiums for 7 of them are $135/mo with a $5,000 deductible, and that’s the base plan. Even the “Gold Plan” is $450/mo. The “self-pay” aspect has kept their costs very low as healthcare providers are willing to work with them. Does work on a reimbursement basis. Deductibles are per-incident, no out-of-pocket max. We might consider using the savings to create an “in-house HSA.”
* Housing is hard to get an exact number on – Father Leo’s allowance plus a little may be enough, maybe not.
* March 15th - 17th Fr. David will be here, possibly his wife as well. It would be good for us to have multiple compensation packages to discuss with him.
* We do not expect him to be bivocational.
* Back to the point of continued growth: having a priest with a family is an increase in responsibility, and we need to communicate this to the parish.
* Keep at the efforts to increase and retain membership: improvements to property, icons, choir, etc.
* Helen Kaye motioned to form a committee for the transition to the new priest. Scott Smith seconded.

Other Business

* For the parking lot, the Brotherhood will be having a meeting along with the building committee to discuss next steps

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9th.

The meeting was closed with a prayer by Fr. Gerasim.