

Minutes OLA Parish Council Meeting, October 9, 2023

Members present: Fr. Paul D, Fr. Marlon, Fr. Paul R, B. Texter (parish coordinator), T. Woodward (bookkeeper), C. Herschel (rel. ed. coordinator) B. Cinque (trustee), B. Ernst (finance chair), B. Bonitz, J. Ciezlewicz, R. Masiero, A.M. Troy, Excused S. Maleike, B. Auer, S. Chevalier, S. Osborne

- A. Call to order by B. Texter (7:00pm)
- B. Opening prayer: B. Bonitz
- C. Visitors present: T. Dempsey, L. Dyer, T. Wall
- D. Acceptance of the September 11,2023 minutes (Approved)
- E. Next meeting: Monday, November13, 2023
- F. Pastoral Asst. report: submitted by G. Texter:
  - a. Eucharistic Minister and Lector Training – Thank you to the training team – Sr. Margaret Ellen Burke, P. Davis, B. Texter, L. Dyer, Fr. Paul R, Fr. Marlon. The six new Ministers of The Eucharist completed the training in basic theology of the ministry as well as understanding the progression of the mass. The returning lector completed a refresher session. All received a copy of the practicum needed to equip them for their role in the liturgy.
  - b. Ecumenical/ Interfaith Outreach – The GMIC Warming Station for the homeless need’s overnight volunteers. Training dates are available in Oct. and Nov. Anyone interested contact Marilyn Pierce at 845-346-6110
- G. Religious Ed. Report: C. Herschel:
  - a. Religious Ed. Program opened 9/12/2023 with a blessing over the children by Fr. Paul R. The children learned about Our Mother Mary’s Birthday and then worked on a project that will be displayed on the Altar as a Visio Divino. The same night the parents met in the church to go over the calendar year. A few members from the Parish Council also sat in on the meeting. The children joined the parents for a closing prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
  - b. Catechetical Sunday was 9/17/2023. Thank you to Fr. Marlon for a beautiful mass. Elena DeMartino will be retiring at the end of this school year.
  - c. The first Youth Mass for Rel. Ed. The Rite of Enrollment for level 7 was held on Sat. 9/23/2023.
  - d. The 1<sup>st</sup> fire drill was Tuesday 10/3/2023.
  - e. Monday 10/16 and 10/23 the level 7 and 8 class will attend a series on Social Teachings put together by Fr. Paul R. The session will be at St. Joseph’s Church, Wurtsboro.
  - f. Parents of level 8 children will have a Confirmation meeting on Tues. 10/29/2023.
  - g. Faith, Food & Fun “Eucharistic Revival” will be 11/4/2023 followed by a Youth Mass at 5:30pm. All parishioners are invited.
  - h. The 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown drill of the year will be 11/7/2023, with Mike Perry assisting.
  - i. In July 2023 Christine Herschel presented to Fr Paul Denault her retirement letter effective May 2024.
- H. Finance report: T. Woodward:
  - a. The Church and Parish Center received a sewer and water tax bill which was for an exorbitant amount. To date no one from the village offices has returned the many calls Beth has put into them. Still no explanation.
- I. Maintenance:

- a. Parish Center Basement – Water (puddles) came into the backroom again. Sam will address this issue when he gets back.
  - b. Fire & Security – The new system will be installed during the week between Christmas & New Years.
  - c. New Signage – The new sign will be installed on High St. this week.
  - d. WiFi in the Parish Center – Beth will meet Spectrum on Wed. 10/11/2023 to find out what can be done to improve the wifi signal in the building.
- J. Unfinished Business:
- a. The NY Archdioceses will conduct an Increase Income Campaign in December 2023.
  - b. Ladies Guild – Despite the rainy day the Junk in the Trunk event made over \$400. Selling 16 spaces. The ladies will meet in homes to work on crafts.
- K. New Business:
- a. The Xavier Group is scheduled to perform at OLA Friday 12/1/2023 at 7:30pm. Beth will check with Carol from the group, when they prefer to eat a meal, before/after the performance?
  - b. The sound system in the Church is old. We will reach out to Rhoda Collins who is in contact with Octavius for his input.
  - c. Fr. Marlon would like to Celebrate Mass on Thanksgiving morning at 9:30am.

Closing Remarks: Father Paul – Some miscommunication has occurred recently. We need to encourage one another and stay focused on our mission at Our Lady of the Assumption.

Closing Prayer: