

St. Teresa Parish Altar Society
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Parish Courtyard

Rosary: The meeting began with the praying of the Rosary and at 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mary Pat McBride, President, welcomed everyone. We then introduced ourselves, stating our position, how long we have been in the parish, and something about ourselves.

Reports

Approval of Minutes: Sara Hein moved to approve the June Board meeting minutes and Shelly Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bed Making: Theresa Kottwitz passed around a signup sheet for anyone interested in helping to make beds at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat Center on Monday, August 17th. There are two times to sign up: 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Theresa will be in touch with those who have volunteered.

Treasurers Report:

- Due to the \$25.00 monthly fees that Union Bank charges for business accounts (those accounts requiring two signatures), it was agreed that Cindy Love be allowed to switch our Altar Society account over to West Gate Bank where there would be no fees. This is pending Father Hottovy's approval. Father arrived toward the end of the meeting and gave his approval to make this change. Cindy will follow through.
- Our current budget shows that, taking into consideration our usual expenses, we should have enough money at the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year that, if we are unable to hold our annual Parish Bazaar, we would have enough remaining funds to pay our expenses for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. However, it will be tight so we should refrain from any unnecessary spending for the next two years. Please see the attached budget sheets for details regarding the projected budgets for the next two years.
- It was agreed that, in order to increase the number of women paying dues, Mary Pat will include a self-addressed envelope in the Altar Society mailing. This might make it easier for women to send back their dues payment. There is an option in the Online Giving link to pay the Altar Society dues online.

Membership:

- The mailing is close to being ready. The envelopes are labeled and Judy Moser is in the process of folding and collating the mailing. She will add the envelopes as discussed above.
- Judy hopes to get the mailing out early next week. She needs Fr. Hottovy to sign the post office form for bulk mailings.
- Judy will let us know if she needs any help.

Special Projects:

- Due to COVID, there will not be a Sisters' Appreciation Dinner.
- The question was raised on whether or not Fr. Hottovy would like a luncheon for the two Confirmations that are scheduled. Fr. Hottovy arrived toward the end of the meeting and explained that there will not be any need to offer this luncheon.
- There was a farewell card shower for Fr. Goodwin prior to his leaving St. Teresa's.
- There was a discussion on holding a simplified outdoor open house to welcome Fr. Kipper. Some ideas were to hold this after the Masses or at 1:00 on a Sunday. This would allow families to safely introduce their family and meet Fr. Kipper. There would not be any food or beverage served. Fr. Hottovy thought this would be possible.

Historian:

- Stella Sinclair has retired as historian and we are in need of someone to replace her. This is an especially important time to document in our history, with all the changes due to COVID. If anyone hears of someone interested or who might be good at this, please let Mary Pat know. In the meantime, please begin collecting pictures and articles and sending them to Mary Pat. She will keep them until someone else steps forward.
- Stella did rely on other people to bring her articles and pictures. So this person would need then to organize the information and keep up the display cabinet bulletin board in Kaczmarek Hall.

Kitchen:

- There will be no coffee and rolls from September – December. January – May is still to be determined. There may not be any need to have circles clean the kitchen unless this changes.
- Should Altar Society host meetings with snacks?
- Rosie reported that there was one funeral dinner that was catered with sack lunches.
- We will table the dishware discussion for a while.

Circle Leaders:

- No reports.

Spiritual Chair:

- Mary Davis is stepping down as our Altar Society Spiritual Chair. Mary explained some of the duties of this position:
 - Attend the LDCCW (Lincoln Diocese Council of Catholic Women) meetings. Report to the St. Teresa Altar Society what the LDCCW is doing. These have been on Zoom due to COVID.
 - Collect the holy cards and books that are given to baptized babies families.
 - Report on the President's Project. LDCCW comes up with a project and asks help from the diocese. Last year they collected donations for CSS. Fr. Fulton asked for specific items.
 - Diaper Drive: Mary mentioned that Jeanne Kee had the idea to get the school involved in the diaper drive. Jeanne will contact Sr. Mary Cecilia. Maybe we could get pictures of the students bringing in the diapers and wipes.

Leadership:

- Nancy reported that LB814, dismemberment abortion bill, pulled a 34-11 vote. There are two stages before it becomes a law and it has passed through the first stage.
- Nancy recommended that everyone should try to attend the Catholics at the Capitol if they ever get the opportunity. It is a good way to meet our senators.

Topics for Discussion**Name Change:**

- Should St. Teresa's Altar Society consider changing its name? Some of the reasoning to change the name is to try to attract more interest in Altar Society, to rid the connotation of a group that only works, and to represent better all aspects of what Altar Society does.
- Some suggestions are:
 - PCCW – will anyone know what that means?
 - Parish Council of Catholic Women of St. Teresa's – is that too long?
- There has been some negative feedback from the younger women of the parish in joining Altar Society. They feel they are called right now to raise their children (a corporeal work of mercy) and do not have time for this.
- After some discussion, it was agreed to table this for now. However, everyone is asked to be considering and praying about what direction we should go.

The Tradition of Circles:

- Judy gave a brief history of the establishment of the Circles. In the beginning women came together informally based on interest: knitting group, sewing group, card group, quilting group, etc. It began as a social outlet for the women of the parish. As the parish grew, they formalized the circles and created them based on geography. However, the circles are no longer getting together socially and some circles are not active. If we did start up a social gathering for each circle, would anyone come?
- The Cathedral of the Risen Christ divided their parish of women by age and interest. St. Joseph's Parish could not get circle leaders. So they sent out a survey of who is willing to help with what tasks. Those that answered the survey are the only women they call. So if anyone complains that no one ever calls them, they are asked if they completed the survey at the beginning of the year. Women can be added throughout the year. St. Joseph's uses the SignUp Genius and this is working well for them.
- It was agreed to think and pray about what direction we might want to go in the future. One suggestion would be to try something for a set time period and then re-evaluate its effectiveness.
- We are currently in need of a circle leader for St. Bridget Circle. Mary Pat will continue to do this until a leader can be found. But it would be best to find someone soon as it is too much to be a circle leader and president.
- The annual dues that are collected from those who wish to be placed on the "Do not call" list, should be used to purchase food for funerals. So should a circle leader come up short with food donations, she does have this money available to her. This needs to be better communicated to the circle leaders.

Parish Bazaar:

- Megan, the current Bazaar chair, would like to step down from her position. Fr. Hottovy would like to do something but we do not have a chair.
- It was discussed that maybe this year we just do the raffle.

Meetings for Fall:

- It was agreed that we should continue our regular monthly meetings in Kaczmarek Hall. If the weather permits, we could opt to meet outside as well.

Round Robin:

- Mary Pat gave Dianne Reznicek a Rosary and a Rosary book as a gift. Mary Pat expressed the amazing job that Dianne did in her tenure as President and is very grateful to have served under her.
- No future agenda items were brought up.
- We will hold the Installation of Officers at the September meeting since we were unable to hold this in May.

Closing:

- Fr. Hottovy closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing at 8:30 p.m.