DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

CATHOLIC COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING

MINUTES OF MEET1NG

March 27, 2022

Present: Deacon Charlie Koressel, Bill Noll, Joe Dickinson, Tom Elsner, Deacon Tony Schapker, John Harding, and by Zoom—Jack Martin and Francis Brickey.

Excused: Matthew Kremer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Noll at 1:10 PM at Good Shepherd Parish. He opened with a heart prayer.

The minutes of the meeting of December 5, 2021 were approved by proper motion and voice vote.

Financial Report: There was no formal report, but there are no known problems with the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities: The recent Scout/Venturer Retreat held on March 5, 2022 at the Catholic Center was discussed. In general, members of the DCCS thought it went well despite the challenges in planning. It was noticed that the cost (lunch, supplies and patches) exceeded what was collected for fees. Evaluation forms received from the units indicated a return to the weekend format was desired. The main issue was the low attendance with few of the Units participating. The single day retreat format was decided because of low interest in part due to the uncertainty of the pandemic but possibly other factors. New ways to reach units to encourage participation will be discussed further in future meetings. It was suggested, as a start, to begin to promote the Retreat at the Council’s Ideal Year of Scouting on May 5, 2022. Bill Noll will obtain a DCCS table at this event. Next year’s Retreat is currently scheduled for March 3-5, 2023 at the Catholic Center.

The Scout Faith Day was held on February 19, 2022 at Good Shepherd Parish with both Cub Scouts and Brownies in attendance. It went well but attendance was also low. Unit evaluations were positive. Next year’s Faith Day is currently scheduled for February 18, 2023

Emblems: Jack Martin reported that so far in 2022 there have been 23 Light of Christ, 12 Parvuli Dei, and 8 Ad Altare Dei emblems presented. There are 46 emblems in progress. These numbers show an increase, especially for Cub emblems from the previous year. Jack has also recently trained counselors for the Pope Pius XII. Three adults were recently presented with the Bronze Pelican Recognition: Fr. Garrett Braun, Matthew Kremer, and Brad Raben.

Membership: Jim Voelker was not present to give a report.

Vocations: Matthew Kremer was not present, but Jack Martin indicated that Matthew planned to follow up on the newest recipients of the Ad Altare Dei to encourage working on the St. Dominic Savio.

Training (Catholic Leadership Development): Joe Dickinson reported that one person completed the adult Spiritual Formation at the Retreat and that it went well.

Communications: Joe Dickinson said he would be updating the website after this meeting but encouraged any members who saw any errors or had suggestions for improvement to contact him.

Chapel Maintenance: Tom Elsner along with John Harding, gave a report indicating the council has a buyer for Old Ben Scout Reservation, but the sale is not yet final. If sold, it will be determined to what extend Scouts may continue to use the camp and if volunteers may help in maintenance especially for the chapel. The camp is being sold to raise funds to cover the council’s obligation toward paying its share of the bankruptcy settlement. The bankruptcy settlement is not yet final and is still being negotiated.

OLD BUSINESS

Deacon Tony Schapker indicated that he plans to be an active member.

There were no new applications for the Father Kreilein Endowment Award,

Bill reported that Scout Jack Martin’s from Troop 399 late application had been accepted for the St. George Trek. He still has a few items to complete before attending. He is strongly encouraged to start work on his Ad Altare Dei. The diocese should be able to cover the cost of the Trek.

John Harding gave a further update on the BSA bankruptcy and how various dioceses are handling the situation generally in a supportive way.

With regard to the Pastor Guidelines discussed last meeting, Bill suggested postponing any discussion on this matter until the relationship between the Catholic Church and BSA is further defined.

NEW BUSINESS

Deacon Charlie introduced the plan for a Diocesan Eucharistic Renewal scheduled for the next year beginning on the Feast of Corpus Christi in June. The committee talked about including a discussion of the Eucharist as part of the Faith Day and Scout/Venturer Retreat. We will also send out the information to the units to encourage participation at that level.

Bill said we need to review the application form for the Bronze Pelican to clarify the requirements for a pastor’s approval and for completion of the Spiritual Formation program. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 12, 2022 at 1:00 PM at St. Philip Parish.

CHAPLAIN’S COMMENTS

Deacon Charlie thanked the committee for their continued efforts especially for the Retreat. He

closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing at approximately 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Dickinson