

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
January 12, 2010, 7-8:40pm

In attendance: Fr. Patrick Goodwin; Alexandra Murphy; Rick Arellano; Thomas Sullivan; Barbara DeLuca, Paul Canales, Chris Olofson, Eileen Estilo, Mary Kate Hallock

Fr. Patrick reported that he has been talking to a personnel consultant regarding taking staff to the next level. He's also been very connected with the school since we came back from Christmas – visiting classes and meeting with Judy.

Barbara met with Judy regarding school/parish collaboration just after the break. She was impressed with Judy's competence and commitment to Catholic education. Judy feels it takes 3 years to get to know a school and this is her third year.

Judy sees Service Learning and Outreach as the two most successful areas of collaboration between church and school. Anna Good was tasked with designing activities for each class that were age appropriate, and the teachers then carry out these activities. The school choir is also very present at the Sunday liturgies and the Bell Choir performs from time to time. Attendance for choir varies, but it was quite large last week – 17 children. There is a monthly 8:30 am Friday liturgy that each class is responsible for – the teachers also spearhead this.

From here, discussion followed which ultimately led to more ideas for the upcoming redesign of the parish bulletin. A "School Corner" was suggested - things to include in the bulletin could be:

- Announcements regarding Friday, student liturgies
- School volunteer opportunities for parish members – perhaps a "school news" corner for the bulletin. (St. T's is a parish school and even though 95% of our parishioners have or have had children in the school, those that do not need to be informed.)
- Service learning project reports

Chris and Barbara committed to working with Judy to gather information about specific needs. As for timing, the bulletin is prepared on Tuesday – Debbie would need the information from Judy through Chris on Monday.

Alex didn't realize that she was spearheading the bulletin re-design effort – Eileen, Barbara and Chris have agreed to help, but Alex will begin talking to Debbie this week to get the ball rolling.

Mary Kate and Eileen reported on Liturgy. Previously, we had talked about a mass by grade per month for Sundays – in talking about details, this proved to be a tough task because the staff already prepares the Friday liturgies. Also, many are not parishioners and would not be available to run the mass. A better idea might be to recruit parish children (in school at St. T's or in Faith Formation) to participate in the masses as lectors, offertory participants, etc... We should also offer the opportunity to Faith Formation families to participate in choir – choir rehearses at 2:15pm on Wednesdays which is an accessible time for public school children. Eileen will talk to Mr. George about getting the word out to Faith Formation families.

Kathy Brady will be using a set of Lenten weekly theme cards for mass and school families. We should see those during lent.

Eileen and Kate also reported on a second orientation retreat for new families. The date is set for Saturday, April 17th for a ½ day retreat that will be open to all new families. Alex will send out a "Save the Date" to new parish families. Eileen discussed creating a repeatable format for the retreats year after year. Chris felt strongly that the retreat should be mandatory for all incoming Kindergarten families, and that it should be in the school contract.

Rick gave us a packet which included a letter requesting an increase in weekly contributions. This letter would accompany the end-of-year donation statements that every family receives for tax purposes. Alex suggested including an EFT form. Changes and additions to the letter were recommended and discussed. Ultimately, we decided to let Rick and Chris complete the letter, get it approved by Fr. Goodwin, and send it off. A revised financial section in the bulletin is mentioned in the letter – Alex will include that as part of the bulletin re-design effort.

Paul reported on Outreach and has a meeting set for Jan. 17th where they will analyze the requests for funds. There are new requests and we cannot fund everyone equally, so decisions will have to be made.

-Genesis, a social justice group has gotten behind the transportation issue and is fighting for free public transportation for all school children. The stimulus money is there and it is an achievable goal, but the group is hoping to assemble several hundred people in support of the effort.

-The St. Elizabeth auction is coming up at the end of the month, and Sarah Guthrie is in charge of the event. She might need help that night, so pass on any available help.

Barbara and Tom have been looking at funeral ministries at other parishes. Barbara talked to Santa Maria's in Orinda. They have a volunteer committee of 40 people. The

committee provides salads, desserts, soft drinks, set up and clean up. The bereaved family pays \$150 to rent the hall and for any alcohol or meats they wish to have, if at all. There is no parish budget for this – the committee is all volunteer and donates their food and time. We'll take time to digest this information and perhaps discuss what such a ministry would look like at St. T's. Fr. Goodwin estimates that we have 15-25 funerals annually.

Tom reminded us that this is our 5th meeting and that we only have 4 left this year. We need to start thinking about replacements for outgoing council members – Paul and Mary Kate will be leaving, and we have a vacancy, so we are looking to recruit 3 additional council members.

After a closing prayer by Father Patrick the meeting adjourned 8:40pm.