

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

March 9, 2010

7-9:00pm

In attendance: Fr. Patrick Goodwin, Rick Arellano, Thomas Sullivan, Barbara DeLuca, Paul Canales, Chris Olofson,

Absent: Mary Kate Hallock, Alex Murphy, Eileen Estillo

The meeting opened at 7:05pm with a prayer by Paul Canales.

Because of the conflict with a school presentation on bullying, three committee members were not present at the meeting. Other than tonight, Tom said that MaryKate had confirmed there were no conflicts with the remaining meeting calendar.

Fr. Patrick opened the meeting by thanking the council for their guidance and assistance with issues that had been weighing heavily on him during the past few months. A positive outcome came of the experience and he is happy to have everything behind him.

A new staff position proposal was brought to Father Patrick and the council spent some time discussing this new position and the positive effect it could have on our parish and school community. The position would be that of a liaison or chaplain between the parish, school and school parents. The emphasis of the position would be faculty support so that the faculty could strengthen their connection to their faith. The position would help the faculty in bringing religious instruction home with the students. The hope being that if more of their religious instruction, service learning, class mass participation, etc. was brought home with the children their parents would then feel a greater connection to the parish community. Father Patrick said that the feeling of connectedness with the faith becomes even more important as the kids get older with more distractions in their lives.

This chaplain position would be a resource for the teachers. They could use this person to come into their classrooms to provide more in-depth learning of particular religious topics. While Barbara mentioned that the teachers should be receiving this instruction through the diocese, the council discussed a more enhanced experience with the help of this person. While the curriculum is mandated by the dioceses it could be "updated" in the way that it is taught so it's more meaningful to the kids. The chaplain could also be a resource for the parents in how to bring a specific religious tradition into the home. Chris brought up the example of how to pray with the advent wreath during Christmas and how this person might be showing the kids or Chris how to make it more meaningful in the home.

The main benefit of the chaplain or liaison position would be that they could provide a meaningful connection between the parents and the parish, the faculty and their faith, and the kids and their "religion in action" (i.e. updating the way the curriculum is taught and brought home).

Father Patrick wanted to work with Judy on this potential hire as it would be a shared position between the church and the school. Judy has indicated that this would be a "dream" addition to the school staff and help her be a more effective principal. The

council expressed that her “buy-in” would be key and that she would need to understand exactly what this position means. The council discussed that this position would support Judy in “catholicizing the community” with the kids being the conduit for their parents increased commitment with the church and their faith.

Chris next discussed her meeting with Mimi Moloney in taking on the Funeral Reception Ministry at St. Theresa. Mimi agreed to do it with Chris as a co-chair. Chris will set up a meeting with Mimi, Tom and Barbara before the next council meeting to go over what Tom and Barbara found in their research with other communities (best practices).

Rick then discussed the new financial summary in the end of month bulletin. The council agreed that what Rick put together was PERFECT and would continue to be displayed in the 4th Sunday bulletin.

Chris mentioned that she will continue to follow up with Debbie Gunn regarding the envelope format for suggested giving amounts. She will try and get a physical sample from Debbie by the next meeting. Chris and Rick will then meet to re-design our envelopes as Rick mentioned there is a small one-time fee to reprint the envelopes (less than \$30.00).

Chris also reported that she met with Judy regarding the follow up with families that are considered, for tuition purposes, as “in-parish” but didn’t meet their \$600 donation to the church. She and Judy agreed to look at this 2x/year at the end of August and the end of February. Judy had already addressed the families that didn’t meet their donation amount with Father Patrick in an earlier meeting and was arranging to send out notification letters to the family.

Paul gave a detailed report on Outreach activities. Particularly, that communication has increased dramatically with the help of Jackie and Laura. Laura/Jackie are now responsible for supplying a snippet in each bulletin about what Outreach does or what Outreach needs. The council agreed that this was a good start since we will want to pitch the stewardship angle once it’s been firmly established that the parish is giving to others and that there is a price to this generosity which may need to be paid in increased weekly contributions.

Paul also mentioned that the future of funding inner-city Catholic Schools remains a challenge as it’s tough to compete with free charter schools that have all the newest computers etc. So, rather than make donations to places like St. Jarlath, we would have a more focused giving campaign aimed at organizations like FACE which also serves that population. The Outreach Committee may also focus on scholarships to individual kids that are recommended by their principal because of specific needs thus bypassing school giving completely.

Members present were given names of candidates to contact for potential new council members. As interested candidates accept the invitations they will be provided the discernment materials followed by interviews.

Our meeting adjourned at 9:00pm with a closing prayer by Fr. Patrick

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Olofson