

# St. John The Evangelist Parish Council Minutes

## January 14, 2010

### Call to Order and Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 7:55p.m. Fr. Pat provided a reading entitled, "Time Marches On" and everyone read a section.

### Roll Call

Present: Fr. Patrick O'Connor, Matt Reyes, Vicki Atkinson, Steve Bauer, Brenda Bookmyer, Darrell Maciag, Geri Overholt, Ron Trepkowski  
Excused Jim Bourdon, Dave Duyck,  
Absent: Dave Cowell, Pat Vansumeren

### Approval of Minutes

The October 8, 2009 Minutes were provided by Ron Trepkowski The November 2009 Minutes were mailed and were approved.

### **COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Liturgy** - Fr. Pat reported they had a meeting to talk about the Lenten season. Christmas has been removed and the poinsettias were offered to parishioners and, those that were not taken were removed.

**Education: Adult Faith Formation** - Fr. Pat read the report.

- Adult Cluster Faith Formation met 1/6/10 at St. John's and looked at the evaluations of their last two sessions of the series. Morality by Bob Burn only had 27 in attendance which they thought to be low. The Church's Liturgical Prayer was held here at St. John's with Fr. Pat as the speaker. There were 55 in attendance. The prayer experiences were well received but had only a few (5) at St. Joe's because it was a snow day. St. John's had a few more (10) but was in competition with the Kevin Cole concert and the Cramer concert the same night. It would be worthwhile to try Morning Prayer at another time of the year to see how it goes here at St. John's.
- People were interested in future topics of: Holy Spirit and Social Justice.
- Topics of interest were shared and the committee decided to have Spirituality be their focus for the coming year. Ideas included God-incidence vs. coincidence, Spirit and the Word, conversion, building a relationship with God, choice less events, and experiencing God through prayer, music and art. Committee members were asked to bring additional ideas and potential speakers to the next meeting when a final decision will be made on the offerings.
- Rose and Diane Seidel from St. Boniface went to talk with Ed Hogan, the Diocesan Theologian, on 1/14/10 to see if he could help with a layout of how they should approach the topic, and if he was interested in presenting. He was very helpful and even agreed to present a series of four Wednesdays in the fall of 2010. They will bring this back to the adult cluster group for consideration.
- Ideas for future presentations were shared including Fr. Dale's Bibliophobia and a talk on what makes Catholics different from the rest.
- The committee was looking at a possible Bible Study Series to use after Disciples in Mission. 23 Publications has many in a topical format called Threshold. St. Boniface will be using this Easter Season.

### **Good Shepherd and Sacramental**

- The children will have their Good Samaritan Mass on 1/20/10 at 6:30. All are welcome to bring hygiene products to help area people in need. The GS Mass and the Mitten Tree Mass are to create an awareness in our families and young people for stewardship.
- Sacramental prep will begin their Confirmation and Eucharist sessions in February. Rose and Gretchen will be meeting next week with the other DRE's to start planning the Confirmation Mass together on 4/1/10 and 4/2/10. Rehearsal will be the Saturday before 3/27 at 9:00 at St. John's. A letter will go out soon to all parents involved with a reminder of the preparation dates already given, and the approved date for Confirmation.

- Rose and Gretchen are working on a safety plan for the Good Shepherd program now that we're in the new building.

**Youth Ministry** - Fr. Pat stated we do not have a Youth Minister and, when we look at budgeting, we will look at hiring a part-time Youth Minister to work with the new committee that's been created and, secondly, look at another Pastoral Associate because we have had two in the past, and Adult Education and some other things are falling through the cracks. The book drive for the Juvenile Home went very well. We had hoped to do a hockey game, but some of the younger girls were not excited about that. There is a Faith Youth Day at Apple Mountain the end of January. The parish will subsidize the youth of the parish (6 - 12 grade) lift ticket which is \$18. Each youth of the parish can bring a friend, but we are not going to subsidize them. Marlene C. whose daughter is a student here, is part of the staff at Good Samaritan Mission. She suggested giving our youth a tour of the Mission and maybe even work there. That would be part of the Lenten experience. When Fr. Pat returns, they will plan for more events so we are done by springtime, then discuss a summer activity

**Christian Service** - Brenda reported Advent By Candlelight went well. The singer did a fabulous job. A Thanksgiving dinner invitation was given to anyone who was going to be alone on Thanksgiving, but only five people responded, so meals were taken to those people instead. In addition, twelve meals provided by Krzysiak's were delivered to twelve homebound people. Next year, they have tentatively scheduled Thanksgiving Dinner for 11/18/10 and perhaps they will have a better response. They had a bake sale and made \$1200. Next year, the bake sale will be 12/11/10 and 12/12 /10. They also took sixty poinsettia plants or flowers to the homebound, donated by Keit's. The Sharing Tree had 278 tags from the Salvation Army supplying 44 families. Eleven volunteers wrote tags, 14 sorted and 12 people passed out the gifts. Fr. Pat commented that they also gave to a couple other families whose names came up, so the generosity was very strong despite the dismal economy. Hungry Howie's pizza was taken to seventeen (full capacity) at the Juvenile Home and New Year's Eve. The upcoming Food Of Faith dates are 3/14/10 and 10/3/10. They average serving 130 to 140 people. More dates will be forthcoming. The Cradle Of Love starts 1/30/10 for three weeks, collecting donations of baby supplies. The donations are shared with Beacon Of Hope, Samaritan Mission and the Alternative School. Question was asked if the Cradle Of Love recipients are designated or do they search out needs? Fr. Pat replied that Kathy contacts the places and finds out what specifically they need, so random things are not collected; however, they are appreciative of anything. They had a discussion about the Mother's Day Rose Sale which goes to the Right To Life. They raised about \$500 last year, but the roses didn't last. An idea similar to the Lenten Rice Bowl was suggested whereby you take home a baby bottle and fill it with change and return it on Father's Day. This is tentative and further discussion will follow. Fr. Pat said that Christian Service does a lot of things behind the scenes and touch many families.

**Administration & Finance** - Ron distributed financials which were halfway through the fiscal year. On p. 1 the Reserve Savings shows \$211,561 which is higher than normal due to some bequests. On p. 3 Combined Report under Income, Sunday & Holyday Collections, we are \$29,000 over budget. Income is doing very well according to Bob Duyck. Under Expenses, you will note that the last column should be at 50% since we are half way through the year. Service To Parishioners is at 82%, and Fr. Pat explained this was due to Stewardship's mailing and printing charges. Ron continued, on p. 4 and 5, there were some items way over budget that need to be adjusted. On the last page, Expenses versus Income shows a surplus of \$182,260 but taking away Prepaid Rent, Donations and Bequests, we actually have a net surplus of \$73,141. There are several reasons for the surplus. We all know that the Staff has been tightening their budget and they took a 20% salary cut. Additionally, there are two salaries missing from the budget: Sr. Maria Dina and Kathy Treadwell. And, we think the Stewardship Campaign has helped. Even though we didn't get all that many cards back, we did gain 31 people who had not been using their envelopes. Some people have not returned their pledge card, but they are responding. When the 20% salary decrease was proposed and the Staff agreed to it, we agreed to revisit it after six months and, if doing okay, Staff would be given some of that back. So, it was proposed by Administration & Finance that they receive 10% back, assess it again in April and, if we are still okay, increase it. That would mean we would open our office again on Friday morning from 8:30 to noon and provide more service hours in the parish as well. Administration & Finance concurs that it would be a just decision to give back 10% to the Staff. Question was raised what Bob Duyck thought of all this? Fr. Pat stated he wanted to be conservative since we have the winter heating bills ahead, but he was confident we should be

okay. Fr. Stated, since he has been at St. John's, this is only the second time we have been in the black at mid-year. We were his first year, then we started to breakeven, and the last two years have been a struggle. He stated hat's off to the Staff; not only for the salary cut but they have been very good about not spending unless it is absolutely necessary.

Administration & Finance have proposed Parish Council approve the return of 10% Staff salaries for the next three months, and review it again in April. Question was asked if this affected school Staff as well and Fr. Pat replied the school is staffed through BACS so this is just the Parish Staff. It was proposed that the Staff be given 10% for three months and review it again in April and open office hours again on Friday mornings.

**Motion** Ron made a motion that we adopt the resolution and review it again in April.

**Motion Seconded** Darrell seconded the motion.

**Motion Carried**

**Building & Grounds - Church:** Ron reported that they discussed carpeting and lighting.

**Building & Grounds - School:** A Short Term and Long Term list of projects was distributed. Some were completed and some still have to be done.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Fr. Pat stated we had a line of credit with the Diocese when we were planning to do Phase I and Phase II together. Brian Buckingham called to ask when we were going to borrow the money. Fr. Pat advised we were done for the time being. Brian advised they wanted to close out the open-ended loan since it becomes an agenda item each month when we do not use it. When we do Phase II, we would be able to use the capital spent as collateral against the loan. In other words, in rough figures, this building is worth \$900,000 plus tearing down of the old convent, plus purchase of the house, which puts us at \$1 million+ as collateral to extend the loan. They would count that in the formula and that's why we originally wanted to do that under the umbrella and he didn't have a problem with that.
- Dr. Ingersoll is considering opening a charter school on the eastside of Bay City, possibly St. Joe's. The population he wants to target is Baytown. He is very concerned about education. They are in the beginning stages of discussion.
- In the past, whenever we added or deleted Masses in the Vicariate, there was usually a discussion of all the pastors and pastoral administrators before making a decision. Recently, Fr. Steve Fillian, from a Cass City parish, did not know this and decided to have a Sunday evening Mass every other week for his youth. It has now become a weekly Mass. Fr. Bill Rakowski said they are planning on having a 5:30 Sunday evening Mass during Lent, partially because the parish is pushing for it since they have to go to Saginaw if they don't make Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday during the day. We are generally not looking at adding Masses without discussing it first.
- We had good news on Fr. Tom Moore who spoke to our parish last summer. He went back to Haiti last Friday and we were concerned that they hadn't heard from him or seen him, but the members of the Mission contacted his Provincial who confirmed he is well. Early estimates of the earthquake killing tens of thousands have been changed to hundreds of thousands.
- Fr. Tom MacNamara was here yesterday and he was very impressed with the changes. It was a dream he'd had for the parish. He has been moved to the Cathedral.
- If purchases are made at the Bay City Mall January through June 1, including the theatre and kiosks, save the receipts and turn them into the school. They will give you your receipts back if you want. The school with the highest receipt count gets \$5,000. Last year, St. John's School got \$5,000 back from the Mall.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Stewardship Update**

Ron reported they made this a two-year committee. Brian Gallagher has agreed to stay on one more year to help the committee continue the pilot program so they have resources such as books and CD's they will use to create fliers. We should be receiving a quarterly newsletter around Ash Wednesday. They are looking for volunteers to join the committee so, if you know of anyone, let us know. As Fr. Pat said, there were approximately 180 cards returned with pledges.

### **BOLD Phase II**

Fr. Stated he was going to pull the BOLD Committee back together sometime the end of February to do Phase II. There were people who pledged to the BOLD Campaign because they wanted handicap door openers and closers. We should save a great deal of money in lighting since the incandescent lamps gobble up heat and do not provide all that much light. The furnace needs replacing and the 24-year old carpet is not all that good (or healthy). As was mentioned to Administration & Finance, Fr. Pat did promise Bishop Cistone and Arch Bishop Carlson if we do not do something significant to the church, that by 2011 we will have introduced kneelers into the church. We have bought some time on redoing the parking lot.

**Parish Dinner Dance**

Tickets were available at tonight's meeting and sign-up sheet was available for people to work. They are having the same caterer. Susan Tanner will be asked about decorating. Needed someone to sell tickets after Mass on 1/24 after 10:30 Mass. Joyce filled that slot. It was noted that Steve Gallagher is in the Josh Ramsey Band and we might consider them for next year.

**NEXT MEETING** February 11, 2010 at 7:45 p.m.,

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce A. Petrimoulx  
Recording Secretary