



Parish Council Meeting

April 28, 2010

In attendance:

Members: Father Jan, Father George, Natalie Drew, Jackie Epright, Al Simeone, Al Karg, Ray Dalessio, Jack Schuster, Lou Ferrara, Jim Fuller, Bill Galvin, John Bacchus, Bob Ferraro & Peter Kirby

Guests: Margaret Whiteman

Absent Members:

Gina Offer & Dan O'Sullivan,

1. Jack opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:00.
2. Reviewed March Minutes, made a couple minor changes and approved them. Discussed timeframe for completing the minutes and sending to everyone for their review and comments prior to sending final draft to Fr. Jan for his final approval. Once approved Al S. will send the Minutes to Richard to post on the website. We will also post a copy of the Minutes on the bulletin board in a designated area and also note important items in the bulletin. We will also let the parishioners know that the minutes will be on our website.
3. Jim presented several items from the suggestion box:
 - a. The first suggestion (probably by Lynn Marcotte) requested the purchase of the expanded version of The Word Among Us. The parish currently receives 25 copies of the simpler version each month. The expanded version contains the O. T. or N.T. reading used at daily mass instead of the biblical reference to the text. The current version gives the reference but the parishioner has to make the effort to look in the Bible to read it.

- b. "Altar Servers Needed"- we assume someone is telling us that we need additional Altar Servers and/or that the current ones need more training.
- c. "Why do we allow commercial companies (who operate for profit) to advertise their business on our bulletin board". We discussed this and will ensure we approve all parish bulletin board advertisements prior to their posting.
- d. "Why do we allow Life Line Screenings to utilize our Facilities to perform health related screening/testing?". These tests/screenings are performed at a reduced cost than what a physician would charge. Father Jan felt that Life Line Screening was offering the community a service and that parishioners & residents had the option to use the service or not.
- e. Peter Kilby suggested that we re-word the phrase in the Mass intentions regarding the welfare of all innocent humans in worn-torn areas to: "We pray for the safety of our Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and for the safety of all innocent civilians in those countries". Council agreed to this change.

The council decided to have Jim reply back to the individuals submitting a suggestion directly with an answer regarding their suggestion box question. Jim will also post a note at the suggestion box asking that all suggestions contain contact information so someone can get back to them to acknowledge this concern.

4. Margaret Whiteman presented the Council with the financial update. The Diocese performed their annual accounting audit making several recommendations relating to accounting controls and more streamlined processes. The Finance Council accepted and implemented the majority of these recommendations. See attached Audit Report for related details.

5. Jack pulled together a group of maintenance experts from the parish community to prioritize maintenance needs. Based upon their review, they prioritized safety issues and noted the top items to be addressed are:

- a. Replacement of non working electrical outlets and minor plumbing work. Jack will handle and ask for some volunteers.
- b. Lawn Mower needs to be replaced.
- c. Underground 2,000 gallon Oil Tank is reaching its 20 year life expectancy and we should remove it from the ground and install two 330 gallon oil tanks enclosed in brick to match the Church, on the rear exterior wall of the church alongside the Meeting room. Jack will get

quotes and review with the Council

6. Ray updated us on the renovation project of windows and doors in the Hall. We are ahead of schedule, half of the windows have been replaced and the doors are on order and should be in and installed in about one week.

Ray also mentioned that there is a Ct Energy Efficiency Fund available through the State of CT and C L & P for upgrading of Energy Efficient electrical fixtures. This is a Non-Interest Loan that should be paid back from the electricity savings over a 3 yr period. Based on our current electrical usage C L & P believes our monthly savings would pay for the upgrading. Based on what we know thus far, the council approves of this idea and we will look into this program. Ray will provide the loan details to the Finance Council to ensure they have appropriate cash flow to make payments to CL&P. Please see attached program details provided by Ray.

7. We discussed Adoration and the need for volunteers to cover the hours. The morning hours from 9 a.m. to 12 noon are covered. We need volunteers from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. otherwise Father Jan or Father George will have to cover these time period. All volunteers need to sign up one to two weeks in advance. As mentioned once before, it would be nice to have two people (for back-up purposes) assigned for each time slot so coverage is available in-case one person has an emergency and are unable to be there.

8. The K. of C. offered to lead in an effort to paint the interior of the main Church, Chapel, Meeting and Library rooms and they would supply the paint and lift equipment need for redoing the interior walls. A number of K. of C. members would be willing to work on the project together with other volunteers from among our parishioners. We have also asked Roy Melanson to remove a section of the interior wallboard from an exterior wall so that he and others can evaluate the conditions within these walls prior to painting. Jack will co-ordinate this process and we will move forward and determine the best way to remedy this situation. We need to move quickly on this with the K of C to confirmed and schedule that they will paint the interior of the Church.

9. Discussed our Monthly Mortgage Collection Fund (yellow envelope) and decided to change the fund name and purpose since a new Hall is a distance away. The new purpose of this fund will be for Facility Maintenance and will have an acronym name such as: "HELP" borrowing nomenclature from St Peter's which stands for Heat, Energy, Light & Power. According to Sue I verified that we give the Diocese 10% of the Weekly and Monthly collection (yellow envelope) and will have to do the same for the Facility Maintenance fund.

10. Bill mentioned that the Shaw Ministry complained and became very upset when someone mentioned that they couldn't leave their yarn, etc under the coat

rack and that it needed to be moved to their proper storage area or their items would be thrown away.

The Council discussed the incident, noting that no one was empowered to make such remarks to this Ministry. Natalie will send the Shaw Ministry an apology letter and we will find a safe storage area for them. We will also ask Lynn to re-organize the storage areas. We consider this Ministry to be a very important part of our Parish and appreciate all the good work that they do. Al K. also brought up the fact that they use their own money to purchase yarn, etc. and that they shouldn't have to do this. Deacon Bob will make an announcement regarding the worthwhile work of this ministry and ask the Parishioners for yarn donations at this weekend's masses

11. Father George concluded the meeting with a closing prayer.

12. The next meeting date was not set so please watch for an email.

Attachments:

1. Audit Report
2. CT Energy Efficiency Program