

**St. Philip the Apostle
Parish Pastoral Council Agenda
January 4, 2011
Parish Center@ 7:30pm**

Opening Prayer

- Approval of November 9, 2010 minutes.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

- Spiritual Life Commission Annmarie Gesualdo
- Education Commission Kathleen Acott
- Human Concern Commission Mary Claps
- Parish Life Commission John Graf
- Outreach Committee Michael Koberda
- **PASTOR REPORT**
- **DEACON REPORT**

New Business

Selection of Nominating Committee

Closing Prayer: Deacon Bob Puhala

Adjournment

**Future Parish Pastoral Council Dates:
March 8, 2011, May 10, 2011, and July 12, 2011.**

St. Philip the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council
Minutes of Meeting January 4, 2011

Present: Annmarie Gesualdo, Tom McCabe, Mary Claps, Kathleen Acott, Betsy Dorsey, John Graf, Liz Harvey, Michael Koberda, Robert Ribordy, Msgr. Robert J. Dempsey, Deacon Bob Puhala, Geoff Pautsch and Cynthia Morales.

Annmarie called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and gave the opening prayer.

Minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting were approved on motion by Tom McCabe, seconded by Liz Harvey.

Commission Reports:

Spiritual Life report distributed by Annmarie Gesualdo.

*Committee met Nov. 29 and Jan. 3.

*Many compliments on Lessons and Carols and Christmas season environment and music. Thanks to all ministers for a glorious Christmas celebration.

*A generous gift from the Thordarson Family Christmas Project was acknowledged for purchase and distribution of 200 copies of Mathew Kelly's book, "Rediscover Catholicism" to SPA parishioners.

*SPA will host World Day of Prayer service, Friday, March 4, (9-Noon). Theme: "How Many Loaves Have You!"). Collection benefits women of Chile, South America. Invitations will go to Northfield churches. Volunteers needed to read, greet and serve guests.

Tom McCabe reported some of the "old geezers" volunteer as altar servers at daily 8 AM Mass.

Education report distributed by Kathleen Acott for Rima Abraham.

*RCIA adult inquiry classes continue with Msgr. Dempsey.

*Deacon Bob's Advent reflection series, "The Mass Revealed" was enthusiastically received. A shortened version is planned this year for 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

*Fall lecture series "Turning Points" was not well attended.

[Suggestions for next year: try to find speakers with name recognition; hold meetings at 10:30, between Masses.]

*Bible study of St. Matthew's Gospel continues Wed. evenings and Thur. mornings.

*PREP Faith in Action - Linus project making blankets involved 18 parish students, organized by Youth group.

*Christmas Giving Tree benefiting Catholic Charities and St. Benedict the African was set up as scheduled.

*Christmas Pageant well attended; good feedback.

*CAB: Meeting Dec. 12. Discussed plans for Jan. 7 spaghetti dinner for PREP families and friends to be held in Gym, including Bingo. Sixty-nine reservations to date.

- *CAB offers two suggestions: (1) Publish pastor's homilies on the Web, podcast or in print; (2) Piping audio of the Mass into social room.
[Further study and consideration to be given above suggestions.]

Human Concerns report distributed by Mary Claps.

Ministers of Care continue Sunday-Friday visits to Maryhaven Nursing Home.

- *Dec. 28 group of four attended funeral at St. Lambert's of former Maryhaven patient
- *Fran Reynolds and Mary Claps made home visits.

Sharing Parish-St. Benedict the African East

- *Christmas gift card collection in progress. On Dec. 13 John Meade delivered \$1,035 to the Sisters at the parish. Balance of collection will be delivered in January.

Respect Life

Committee met Dec. 8.

- *Nov. 5 Day of Adoration – people attended but did not sign up.
- *Jan. 22 Day of Adoration (Atonement) scheduled with exposition of Blessed Sacrament requires committed response – at least one person in attendance. Sign-up sheets available.
- *Jan. 9 target date for baby bottle collection benefiting Women's Center.

Parish Life report distributed by John Graf.

Men's Club

*Fall Fundraiser Sat. Nov. 6, 2010 – John gave a glowing financial report on the event that produced a profit and made everyone happy. Along with income from Directory advertising (thanks to efforts of Marge Clingan), year ended in a surplus. John credited Buggie O'Grady with reaching out to a younger group of parishioners; "oldsters" were happy to be in a comfortable venue; pre-party gatherings arranged by Marge Livingston drew positive response. John urged planning ahead for next event, involving new people and ideas to spark interest.

Bob Ribordy suggested meeting with Msgr Dempsey, John and Geoff to discuss what worked and what did not.

Msgr. Dempsey commented on the event: "It was a great success. There was a good feeling the night of the party. Income was up, expenses were down. I am always impressed with the generosity of those who contribute start-up donations as well as donations to the party and am grateful to all supporters. " He expressed thanks to John for spearheading the whole thing, and gratitude to Marge Clingan for all her work on Directory advertising (4 new ads this year), and to Geoff .

Parish Life report (cont'd.):

- *Jan. 29 *Cards for Charity* event to be held in parish gym, dinner at 6:30 followed by cards, includes silent auction. Proceeds to be divided among five charities.
- *Plans underway for Feb. 26 outing to a Chicago Wolves Hockey Game.

Women's Guild

- *Dec. 5th Pancake Breakfast was a huge success and money maker.
- *Jan. 6th Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo night in the works. Hope to attract many PREP families for this event opening the second half of PREP season.
Note: This event will move to a September date, opening next PREP calendar year.

Hospitality

- **Catholics Come Home* welcoming party for new parishioners Tue. Feb. 8, 6:30 PM. Jane Karol to arrange buffet and all ministries to greet and extend welcome.

Pastor's Report:

Msgr. Dempsey thanked everyone for their concern about his health...about 95% back to normal and grateful to Fr. Klein, Geoff and Carol for keeping things running, and to Deacon Bob for stepping in to lead RCIA when needed.

- *Christmas attendance was standard...collection coming in steadily. In addition to collection, we have received a number of end-of-year gifts.
- *Ongoing problems with physical plant include roof and skylight leaks, occasional flooding of vestibule and washroom. Roofers will be called after winter snows.
- *Majority of inquiry class attendees are parishioners who want to learn more about the Faith. One man with a Protestant background is thinking about becoming Catholic. Our hope is that he will be confirmed and receive Holy Communion at Easter.
- *Easter is very late – April 24.
- *Lent begins March 9 (Ash Wednesday).
- *Parish Mission March 14, 15, 16 *Social Teaching of the Church* with Rev. John Chrzan.
- *Financially we are doing okay – could be better.
Geoff reported SPA is set up for online giving.

Deacon's Report:

- *Five new altar servers – encouraged by catechists.
- *Advent reflection series – attended by eleven adults each of the four weeks, focused on Eucharist, theological underpinnings.

Deacon's report (cont'd.)

**Catholics Come Home* welcoming table and poster are set up in vestibule of Church.

Greeters after 9:30 Mass through Jan. 17.

CCH TV ads are being shown on major stations.

Tue. Feb. 8, 6:30 PM -New Parishioners Welcoming Party in church social room. Invite families –be aware that all are welcome.

Parish Council Nominating Committee: Deacon Bob, Liz Harvey, Tom McCabe.

Election process will be followed to elect one at-large Council member.

Names of nominees to be submitted by end of March.

Replacements to head Commissions will be elected from respective committees.

John Graf announced he will not be representing the Men's Club on Parish Life Commission.

Deacon Bob Puhala gave the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Claps, Secretary

Approved: 5/10/11 due to the cancellation of the 3/8/11 meeting

St. Philip the Apostle Parish Council
SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION REPORT

Submitted by
 Annmarie Gesualdo
 January 4, 2011

Spiritual Life Commission met on Monday, November 29, 2011 and January 3, 2011

ALTAR CARE	Margaret Lenhart Janet Lyman	Special thanks to the Altar Care team on creating a beautiful environment during Advent and Christmas. Ordinary time with Green vestments begin January 10 th .
ALTAR SERVERS	Donna Falzone Deacon Bob Msgr. Dempsey	Congratulations to 7 new servers who are currently in training.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	Cathy Stegich	Congratulations to Agnes Byrne added to the extraordinary ministers.
ALTAR FLOWERS	Maureen Claps Mary Claps Barb Howard Cathy Stegich Ellie Beilmann	Special thanks to the anonymous donor for Thanksgiving Flowers. Special Flower donation envelopes helped with Christmas altar flowers. Flowers for the altar continue through March 9 th .(Ash Wednesday)
LECTORS	Dan Seeberg	Schedules and Lector books distributed to all lectors. Lessons and Carol's lectors included prep and college student. Sign up dates are accepted through Lent.
MUSIC MINISTRY	Brent Weiland	Voices and instrumentalists created a majestic Christmas Season beginning with the Lessons and Carols Service through the New Year. Children continue to come forward to Angelicus Choir.
USHERS/GREETERS	Patrick O'Donoghue Stan Smith	Thank you to all the dedicated Ushers who helped usher throughout the Christmas Season.

- † **Thordarson Family Christmas Project –purchase and distribution of Matthew Kelly books to SPA parishioners.**
- † **World Prayer Day, March 4, 2011 “How Many Loaves Have You!” St. Philip the Apostle Parish is the hosting parish. (9:00 a.m. – Noon) The women of CHILE in South America are responsible for writing the Prayer Service which will be celebrated all over the world on March 4th.**

Education Commission Report

Meeting of January 4, 2011

Submitted by Rima Abraham

Adult Catechesis

RCIA /Adult enquiry classes with Monsignor Dempsey continue.

Excerpts from the USCCB Pastoral letter "Marriage Love and Life in the Divine Plan" are summarized in the bulletin

The parish received a generous donation of Michael Kelly's book "Rediscovering Catholicism". The books are available in the church vestibule.

Deacon Bob Advent reflection 'The Mass Revealed' was very well received. Kathleen asked if he would talk to the PREP students. A shortened version to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students is planned for this year, and a yearly presentation to the 6th grade whose curriculum includes the Mass.

The fall talk series 'Turning Points' was not well attended.

Bible Study

The Gospel of St. Matthew study continues. Sessions Wed. 7pm and Thurs. 9 am

Religious Education (PREP)

Eighteen parish students gathered to make blankets for the Linus Project; a Faith in Action Project this year.

The annual Giving Tree benefiting Catholic Charities and St Benedict was set up as scheduled. The 'Fire Fighters Toy Parade' was Dec. 11. A group from St. Philip attended.

The Christmas Pageant went very well, was well attended, with good feedback.

The Catechetical Advisory Board (CAB)

The Dec. 12 CAB meeting was well attended. Preparation for the Jan. 7th spaghetti dinner for PREP families and friends were discussed.

Two proposals were recommended:

- Publishing Msgr.'s homilies on the Web, podcast or in print.
- Piping the mass into the social room to give the parents a chance to better teach their young children and train them about mass attendance.

Future Education Commission Reports will be prepared by Kathleen Acott and Fran Postel. Kathleen will represent the Education Commission today. Next meeting, Jan 23.

St. Philip the Apostle Parish Pastoral Council
HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION REPORT
January 4, 2011
Submitted by Mary Claps

Ministers of Care Committee:

*Weekly visits to Maryhaven continue.

*Funeral at St. Lambert's Dec. 28 for Marguerite Haberman, long-time patient at Maryhaven, attended by Mary & Maureen Claps, Dorothy Broccolo and Joella Cramblit.

*Home visits: Fran Reynolds to Theresa Curcio; Mary Claps to John Campbell.

Sharing Parish – St. Benedict the African East:

Report from John Meade 12/30/10:

"The annual Christmas gift card collection is being conducted at St. Philip's for the material needs of the people of St. Benedict the African Parish and the Englewood community. The initial collection of cards totaled \$1,035 which was delivered to the Sisters at the parish on December 13th. Donations of cards and cash collected subsequent to that date will be taken to St. Benedict the African in early January. It is anticipated that a couple St. Philip parishioners will be joining me for Mass there and to make the presentation."

Respect Life Committee:

On November third, Wednesday, we were given the abortion schedule for Albany Park abortion Facility. Abortions are Tuesday 9:30-11:30 A.M., Thursday, 9-Noon, Friday 9-10 A.M., and Saturday, 8-Noon.

The Friday, November 5, Day of Adoration, had people in the church, but most had not signed up for a particular time but came to pray anyway.

The prayer vigil for Nascent Human Life was discussed and tabled because the date was a problem for the Saturday after Thanksgiving when many of our committee would not be home. Monsignor planned to commemorate this request of Pope Benedict for Vespers before the 5:30 Mass, Saturday, November 27, which was meaningful and beautiful.

No one of the committee attended the Chastity Initiative dinner. It was \$80.00, which was too expensive, we thought.

The December meeting was moved from Wednesday, December 1, to Wednesday December 8, because several members would still be out-of-town from Thanksgiving. The Day of Adoration, Day of Atonement will be Friday, January 2. We need to have committed response to specific times because Eucharistic Adoration

with Exposition of the sacred host requires at least one person in attendance. Thirty-eight years of legalized abortion is a national tragedy we must petition heaven to stop. To kill our own is not just infanticide but barbarism.

Legislation permitting civil unions passed the Illinois legislative which is deplorable and certainly jeopardizes traditional marriage and other issues. We need to study the implications of this law, which most Catholic legislators approved. Shame on them!!!

Our bulletin will still include sections of *Marriage* from the USCCB, which are being read and discussed also in our meetings, after the agenda is covered. This Sacrament affects all families.

A push for baby bottles for change is encouraged, also in our bulletin. January 9 is the target date.

We begin each meeting with prayer for our nation and read our mission statement. We end our meetings with prayers for the closing of the abortuary. Next meeting is January 5, 2011.

Pat Catarello
January 2, 2011