

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting January 13, 2009

Present: Msgr. Robert Dempsey, Deacon Bob Puhala, Bob Snediker, Cathy Stegich, Mary Claps, Rima Abraham, Annmarie Gesualdo, John Graf, Tom McCabe, MJ Murnane, Geoff Pautsch, Cindy Morales. Also present by invitation: Caitlin Bolton and John Quail, representing Friends of the Chicago River.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Snediker. John Graf gave the opening prayer.

On motion by John Graf, seconded by Geoff Pautsch, minutes of the November 11, 2008 meeting were approved.

Chairman Snediker introduced Caitlin Bolton and John Quail, who gave a half-hour presentation of a plan by Friends of the Chicago River to restore and improve river edge property on the parish's west boundary. Caitlin and John met with Bob Snediker and Tom McCabe in November '08 to walk the property and make suggestions for improvement. Under Phase I of a two-year plan, SPA would recruit parish and community volunteers to clear the selected site of invasive plants and begin planting native species of plants, shrubs and trees. **Friends** would provide direction and training. A one-day event: **Chicago River Day**, Saturday, May 9, 2009 would be advertised as the day for community involvement to clear the selected area. Chairman Snediker agreed to head the committee. The Council agreed to pursue the project.

Annmarie Gesualdo reported for the SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION:

Altar Care (Margaret Lenhart)– attentively maintained.

Altar Servers (Donna Falzone, Deacon Bob , Msgr. Dempsey)–Of 13 interested candidates, only 2 candidates committed to program. A second letter to parents is out to server age children (grades 4 through 8).

Eucharistic Ministers (Cathy Stegich) - faithfully serve, covering all Masses.

Flower Care (Maureen Claps)– Christmas flowers ordered. Donation requests appeared in bulletin. Lessons & Carols, Dec. 21st setting included icon and candles.

Lectors (Dan Seeberg)– Lessons & Carols readers included one reader from PREP and volunteer lectors.

Music Ministry (Brent Weiland)–Guest singers and instrumentalists joined SPA Choir for Lessons & Carols. Christmas Masses included instrumentalists and Angelicus Choir as well as SPA Choir.

Ushers/greeters (Stan Smith) - faithfully serve as scheduled.

Special thanks to Deacon Bob Puhala for continuing the Advent reflection series held Dec. 1, 15 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the convent.

*Evening of Reflection Nov. 6, '08 with guest speaker Fr. Ron Kunkel, attended by 37 parishioners, provided inspirational forum with book fair, speaker, refreshments. Committee plans to set an early November 2009 date, coordinating time with speaker availability, creating an annual event for liturgical formation and participation.

Next meeting: February 9, 2009, 7 p.m. in the convent.

Rima Abraham reported for the EDUCATION COMMISSION:

Adult Catechesis – Deacon Bob Puhala gave the Advent Evenings of Reflection following Lectio Divina, a method based on meditative reading of Sacred Scripture leading to prayer. The three sessions were well attended.

Bible Study -DRE Cindy Morales leads the Book of Revelation study ongoing through March with Wednesday evening and Thursday morning groups. Saturday, Jan. 24 she will lead an overview of the Bible based on Jeff Cavins' "Great Adventure Bible Timeline".

Religious Education (PREP) – Seventh graders and catechists were involved in the Giving Tree, a Faith in Action project benefiting St. Benedict the African East and Catholic Charities with gifts of children's toys and gift certificates donated by parishioners.

Students from 6th, 7th and 8th grades took part in Catholic Charities Fire Fighters Parade and the Warehouse Toy Shower. Youth minister Linda Couri reports a busload of 25 participants went to Chicago for the Parade, and the following week three students had a successful, rewarding day helping at the Toy Shower, much appreciated by Catholic Charities.

PREP 7th and 8th grade students helped at the Pancake breakfast, served food, cleared tables and helped at Santa's workshop.

Christmas pageant in the school gym was well attended by Prep families and other parishioners. Decorations and stage setup were well done and festive. All enjoyed refreshments afterwards.

Youth Group (Linda Couri) continues with five core members meeting weekly in the convent. Focus continues to be on our Catholic identity in everyday life. January plan is to cover topic of abortion (re: Roe vs. Wade anniversary). In future plan to cover topic of "loss of faith".

Junior High Youth Group (Linda Couri) is in preliminary stages of development. Dec. 19th first Movie night: seven kids attended, watched movie and ate pizza, focused on socializing but also integrated prayer and "the reason for the season" into the session.

Rima offered thankfulness for the success of the many scheduled PREP events in December. Special thanks for the hard work at the Religious Ed office, for Tim Halfmann and Linda Couri for their work with the Parade and Toy Shower events, to Cathy Stegich for coordinating the Giving Tree ornaments work, to 4th grade catechist Margery Fejes, the 4th grade students and Ann Buxton for work on the Pageant, Juanita Greening for a good job with the decorations for the Pageant and for Linda's success with the Youth groups.

Catechetical Advisory Board (CAB):

Cindy Morales reported on plans for a Game Show scheduled for April 26, the last PREP school session, that would involve PREP parents and students, based on the "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader" show on the FOX channel. Preparations are underway: John Morales to emcee; contestants to be selected from PREP parents and parishioners. Next CAB meeting: Jan. 25th.

Mary Claps reported for HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION:

Ministers of Care continue weekly visits to Maryhaven Nursing Home and to: Dean Brockman (Tom McCabe); Marlan Slaywin (Mary Claps); Rita Dillon (Barb Ringley).

Minutes of Meeting January 13, 2009 -3

Sharing Parish – St. Benedict the African East:

SPA received a thank-you letter from Pastor, Rev. David Jones in gratitude for Fall gift of \$3,636.50 and for the continuing generosity of St. Philip's parishioners. On Dec. 14th John Meade delivered Christmas donations (Giving Tree) of \$1,975 to SBAE. He and Joe Salazar attended Mass there and visited with Fr. Jones and Sisters Mary and Joann. John will deliver the balance of Christmas gifts the end of January. He asks for Council input on more involvement with SBA, possibly attending Mass there as a group. Msgr. Dempsey commented that the Council supports John's efforts. John was appointed liaison for SPA and should manage accordingly. Msgr. checked calendar and suggested Feb. 22 for a visit. Cindy suggested including PREP youth and parents as well as parishioners and will follow up with John as to a date.

Respect Life Committee (Pat Catarello):

Nov. 5th meeting was not happy because committee fears Obama's pledge to Planned Parenthood to promote FOCA, Freedom of Choice Act, which will legalize no brakes on abortion. We prayed and decided to follow our Bishop's advice. [See Pastor's Report].
Dec. 3rd meeting agenda included: Jan. 23-8 to 4 p.m. Day of Adoration with Exposition and sign up for half hours of prayer; Valentine Candy for Life; Baby Bottles collection; Bishop Egan's letter on the unborn; Baby Shower with Women's Guild; Catholic Rally in Springfield in March. Jan. 22 Chicago Archdiocesan March for Life.
Next meeting: Jan. 7.

John Graf reported for PARISH LIFE COMMISSION:

Men's Club – organization of Feb. 28th Cards for Charity event in the gym is on schedule. Continuing to look for more active members and considering additional events to promote camaraderie.

Women's Guild – In addition to the Spring luncheon, a few mini events, mostly social in nature, are planned for the coming months: Thursday, January 29 will be fondue night in the convent; late February or early March – pottery painting night in The Glen at Color Me Mine. Early May we hope to coordinate with Respect Life Committee to host a "baby shower" at the convent or in the gym to collect items for the Women's Shelter. This is in the planning stages and will be presented at their next meeting. Sue Endre is planning the Spring Luncheon, on the parish calendar for Saturday, April 25th.

MJ Murnane commented on First Reconciliation to be held Saturday, Feb. 7 for eleven children preparing for First Communion and suggested holding a party afterward for children and parents. Cindy volunteered to ask Caroline (Hospitality) about hosting.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

Msgr. Dempsey reported that weather interfered with projected plans for the new construction, delayed in part due to moisture in the ground. Plumbing work to be completed. Laying the foundation will have to wait until March. Project will not be completed by Easter, nor by May 17 (Fr. Klein's anniversary).

Minutes of Meeting January 13, 2009 -4

(Pastor's report cont'd.)

Sunday collections have fallen a little. Christmas donations \$6-8,000 less than last year.

Pledge drive for Annual Catholic Appeal is coming.

Re: Respect Life's letter-writing to incoming President, objecting to his signing the Freedom of Choice Act, the bishops have decided to call for a postcard writing campaign: Write senators and congressmen asking that this legislation not take effect. The weekend of Jan. 31-Feb. 1 postcards will be available in back of church. Legislation has to be reintroduced. Pray for all involved.

DEACON'S REPORT:

Deacon Bob Puhala reported three new servers are to be trained, training to take place shortly.

Lenten Reflection evenings: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – 7:30-8:00 p.m. in the convent.

No meeting during Holy Week. Due to a heavy schedule, Deacon Bob will not be visible the next two months. A seminary deacon, Nick Wickert will be at SPA the middle of February.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee was appointed in accordance with Council bylaws, Art.II, Election Process. Three members to be elected in May will replace outgoing Bob Snediker, Cathy Stegich and MJ Murnane. The Nominating Committee is: Deacon Bob Puhala, Bob Snediker and MJ Murnane.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Census Committee: Geoff reported meeting Jan. 13 with Annmarie, Cathy and Mary to discuss the first step in determining registered parishioners: identifying adult children, those over age 23 who should be registered. Those no longer living at home will be removed from database. A letter will be sent to adult children in parish requesting response by February 2.

Parish Sign: Geoff reported the design is in process. Northfield's size limitation is 36 sq.ft.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in La Crosse, Wisconsin: Tom McCabe reported on the trip planned for Tue., Wed., May 19-20. Bus would leave SPA at 7 a.m. Mass at the shrine, breakfast, dinner, overnight stay and return by bus. Cost, \$195 includes donation.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

Deacon Bob Puhala gave the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. on motion by Geoff, seconded by Deacon Bob.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Claps, Secretary

Date approved:
