

November 13, 2007, PPC Meeting Minutes

Absent: Deacon Bob Puhala and Cindy Morales

Opening Prayer led by M.J. Murnane

September 11, 2007 minutes approved by Bob Snediker and Annmarie Gesualdo

Commission Reports:

Spiritual Life Commission Report by Annmarie Gesualdo

Altar Care: Handled by Margaret

Flower Care: Deacon Bob complimented the floral arrangements for our services.

Extraordinary ministers: Need to recruit new members. Notices are in the bulletin.

Lectors: New books in back of church. Dan Seeburg has replaced Anna Koberda.

Music: Christmas Choir is forming. Lessons & Carols will have a reception afterward.

Altar servers: 3 new servers – 2 boys and 1 girl.

Human Concerns Commission Report by Mary Claps

Bruce Old is helping on Fridays at Mary Haven.

Tomorrow Giving Tree will be set-up. Notice in bulletin reminding parishioners to donate. Posters from Catholic Charities will be displayed also. John Lucas will deliver to St. Benedict's on the South Side. In addition, during Advent, the baby bottle ministry will collect donations.

Respect Life group had a good turn out for Jason Evert's pro-life speech. He has appeared at various parishes in the diocese.

Faith in Action, the PREP service group, is collecting canned goods throughout November. We will also have our traditional Thanksgiving Day canned goods drive for Catholic Charities pantry in Des Plaines. Gina Dickinson is responsible for the Faith in Action donations and Caroline Duppler is responsible for the Thanksgiving Day Catholic Charities donations.

Parish Life Commission Report by John Graf

Neighborhood Parties were well organized and have a good response. There were 5 parties with 50-60 people attending -long time parishioners and new, young and old, all with great enthusiasm. Marge Livingston suggested announcing now that one parish wide party should follow in the spring, when snowbirds have returned. Hospitality Committee will put together.

Pancake Breakfast is in full swing with Denise Waltz running the show.

Poker Smoker may not be a smoker. Geoff is calling the village regarding the no smoking ordinance.

Education Commission Report by Rima Abraham

Evening of Reflection on November 27, from 7-8:30pm will have Deacon Bob as the speaker on Giving and Growing in Ordinary Ways.

Bible study is well attended on Wednesday evening with 15 members and Thursday morning with 10 members.

Youth Ministry had a mini-retreat with mass, dinner and discussion. It is a nice group of girls. Looking into pro-life march in Washington, D.C. May be planning a possible mission trip for the summer. In December, would like to have 11:45am mass as TEEN Mass and reach out to the young people through music. GREAT IDEA.

Religious Ed had an All Saints Day Party. More children dressed up this year. Need to order more pizza. There was not enough food for all the classes.

Recently, after the PREP school year began, many families withdrew from our PREP program. Issues with requirements, books and the DRE were brought to Monsignor's attention. CAB discussed this issue also. Clear guidelines and requirements, as well as, a better general orientation parent meeting at the onset of the PREP school year are a few suggestions. A December 9th, Curriculum Day, is set. The parents can peruse the syllabus for the year, examine the textbooks, meet the catechists and discuss any issues or concerns they may have. The CAB would like more parental involvement. A suggestion was made to have a parent committee for the sacrament classes of 1st/2nd year and 7th/8th year. They would collaborate with the DRE on retreat days, preview films, and discuss details of the sacrament service. Also, someone should contact the unhappy families that left and ask questions, an exit interview.

Monsignor will have an intervention in December with the DRE and Rima Abraham, Cathy Stegich, and Tim Halfman will attend. They will discuss parameters with expectations and a deadline. Parents want and need to be heard in order to preserve our program.

Pastor Report:

Religious education program problem addressed.

Need new bid for replacement of rectory and convent windows because archdiocese wants an industrial quality.

Architect has made the final touches on the plans and should be done before Christmas with construction planned for summer 2008.

October Fest made money due to generous donations and therefore was underwritten. A discussion of less formal, just beer and brats, no tent, a general reduction of expenses will be the change for next year's party.

The directory patrons and ads are going well.

Our deanery, 2A, which includes 11 parishes in Evanston, Skokie, Wilmette, Winnetka and Northfield, has experienced a drop in Sunday mass attendance. Across the US, 33% of Catholics attend mass, at St. Philip, 32% of members attend mass, in our diocese 22% attend mass.

Deacon Report:

New Business:

Gene Broccolo attended a program for PPC and Commission members to better serve the role as parish leaders. Ms. Rita Kattner is the director. Approximately, 25 people attended. Suggested it as a worthwhile investment of our time. They discussed meeting formats, multi-ethnic activities through different commissions to help unite a parish, and the 3 levels of a council. Level 1 is receiving information to and from the council, Level

2 is responding to the information, Level 3 is establishing goals both short and long term and evaluating parish priorities through checks and balances.
More opportunities for these informative sessions should be mailed to each one of the council members.

Adjournment:

At 9:28pm, Bob Snediker made a motion to dismiss and MJ Murnane seconded.

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 8, 2008, 7:30PM, FATHER HENRY ROOM