

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL  
Minutes of Meeting November 11, 2008

Present: Msgr. Robert Dempsey, Deacon Bob Puhala, Bob Snediker, Mary Claps, Annmarie Gesualdo, Rima Abraham, John Graf, MJ Murnane, Tom McCabe, Geoff Pautsch, Cindy Morales and Linda Couri. Absent: Cathy Stegich.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Snediker. Tom McCabe gave the opening prayer.

On motion by A. Gesualdo, seconded by T.McCabe, minutes of the September 9, 2008 meeting were approved, with the following correction on page 2: Carol Brown, the new parish secretary, is a parishioner in Queen of All Saints Parish.

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION Report (Annmarie Gesualdo):

- Welcome new Eucharistic ministers: Joan Frazier and Wayne Thein.
- Angelicus choir has three new members.
- Lessons & Carols Sunday, Dec. 21. Hospitality Committee in charge of refreshments.
- Plans being made for Christmas caroling at Maryhaven, Holy Spirit and Sacred Heart Convents.
- Ushers have four new members.
- Lectors' new books have arrived and must be picked up (Dan Seeberg, contact).
- Favorable comments received re: Nov. 6 Evening of Reflection with Rev. Ronald Kunkel; good response to the Book Fair coordinated by Brent Weiland.
- Plans for 9:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Liturgy with Msgr. Dempsey and Deacon Bob Puhala will include peoples' procession to the altar with gifts of food donations for the needy.

EDUCATION COMMISSION Report (Rima Abraham):

- Faith in Action program (forming PREP students in the spirit of service and stewardship), well underway, is coordinated by Gina Dickinson and involves Religious Ed office, Women's Guild and Men's Club.
- September coat drive benefited Catholic Charities.
- Participation in North Shore CROP Hunger Walk supported Catholic Relief Services.
- PREP students involved in Oct. 26 All Saints Day party, rehearsals for Christmas Pageant, and Dec. 7 Pancake Breakfast.
- SPA participation in Catholic Charities' annual *Celebration of Giving* is a two-fold project, helping needy families through Catholic Charities as well as our sharing parish, St. Benedict the African East. Our Giving Tree is set up the week of Nov. 16, decorated with gift tag ornament suggestions for needed donations. PREP 7<sup>th</sup> grade class and their catechists are responsible for ornaments and placement.
- Sat. Dec. 6 and Dec. 13, PREP 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in the annual Firefighters' Parade to sort thousands of toys and fill needy family packages, a project coordinated by Tim Halfmann.
- The Catechetical Advisory Board (CAB) will meet each month on a Sunday following PREP. Next meeting, Nov. 23.

- Youth Minister, Linda Couri has met six times with her High School group of five members since September 24<sup>th</sup>, focusing on Catholic identity in everyday life. Future plans include a service outing and a social outing. Linda is working on developing a program for Junior High kids, starting with a service project, such as the Toy Parade and Catholic Charities fill-order day.

**HUMAN CONCERNS COMMISSION Report (Mary Claps):**

Ministers of Care Committee continues to meet weekly at Maryhaven Nursing Home. Weekly home visits are made to Marlan Slaywin, Rita Dillon and Dean Brockman.

Sharing Parish-St. Benedict the African East: John Meade contacted Sr. Mary Pokorny regarding the desired gift card and monetary donations for Christmas giving. Larger amounts, \$20 cash rather than two \$10s are helpful as well as CTA cards and certificates at Jewel, Walgreens, Target, Home Depot, Kohls, WalMart, and some McDonalds and KFC. John will deliver gifts to St. Benedict's in December. Our Giving Tree, set up before Thanksgiving, in cooperation with Catholic Charities' *Celebration of Giving*, will be decorated with gift suggestions, offering St. Philip's parishioners a variety of opportunities to contribute to needy families.

Respect Life Committee: Pat Catarello reports the committee hosted Coffee/Donuts Sunday after 9:30 Mass on Oct. 5. On Oct. 17 with St. Norbert's they visited Albany abortuary for a prayer meeting. They held their annual dinner Oct. 27. Letters have been sent to political candidates.

**PARISH LIFE COMMISSION Report (John Graf):**

Hospitality Committee: Neighborhood parties were held Oct. 26, Nov. 1, 2, 9. Two hours seems the right timing. Not too many unfamiliar faces, but parties were fun. Suggestion: next year's committee follow up invitations with phone calls. Annual parties a good idea. Committee will host reception after LESSONS AND CAROLS on Sunday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>.

Men's Club: Annual recruitment drive for Board members and volunteers for Cards for Charity fundraiser is underway. Amate House Food Drive was a rousing success, with St. Philip's donating 2,000 lbs. of the more than 45 tons of food collected.

Women's Guild: Sep. 30<sup>th</sup> Membership Mass and Dinner was well attended; now have 106 members. Approximately 30 attended Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Evening of Reflection with speaker Rev. Timothy Fiala. Next event: Pancake Breakfast, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, Juanita Greening, Chair. Helpers and raffle prizes are needed and welcomed.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Msgr. Dempsey announced the Construction Project is underway, permit to be received from Water Reclamation District for installation of toilets. Trees were removed (new tree will be planted), stained glass window protected. Hopefully, the work will be finished in time for Easter, first week in April, weather permitting. During construction, the handicapped entrance will be closed. Entrance to the Fr. Henry Room will be inaccessible.

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(Pastor's report cont'd.)

More meetings will have to be held in the Convent. Despite economic downturn, collections have not been doing too badly. Christmas and New Year's important; stock gifts may be less. We'll have another food drive at Thanksgiving – Catholic Charities say the need is great. Sad news to report: the death this morning of Rosalie Happ, funeral to be held here Saturday, Nov. 15, Msgr. Dempsey presiding.

#### DEACON'S REPORT:

Deacon Bob Puhala and Msgr. Dempsey visited PREP classes and distributed handouts to students. Good response from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> graders, not so much from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

- On Fri. Nov. 14, he will participate in Deacons' Extension Program , 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Hope Parish. He will represent Catholics.
- Advent Evenings of Reflection, Dec. 1, 15 and 22, 7-8 p.m. will be led by Deacon Bob at St. Philip's.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

- Geoff reported exterior curb sign designs due this week for 2 ft. brick pier with title on top. Parish Census follow-up...no action until after Christmas season.
- Registration for Feb. 7, 2009 Archdiocesan Conference on Evangelization at Maria High School will be paid by St. Philip's. Geoff should be notified in order to register attendees.
- Bob Snediker welcomed Linda Couri, new Youth Minister.
- Bob Snediker proposed an opportunity for SPA available through Friends of the Chicago River to enhance the planted area running along the creek on the west side of the parish property adjoining Northview Bank property. The parish would volunteer manual labor to remove buckthorn and other invasive plants. Replacement plants would be provided by the Friends group at a cost to be determined. It was agreed to call a special meeting with representatives of the Friends of the Chicago River to determine requirements. Bob will follow up.
- Rev. George Klein celebrates his 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination with a special Mass on May 17, 2009 at 11:45 at St. Philip's, reception in the gym to follow. John and Cindy Graf volunteered to chair the reception. Committee on parish gift: MJ Murnane, Tom McCabe, John Graf.
- Tom McCabe proposed SPA participate in a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine May 19, 2009. The tour for 30 at \$195.00 per person would include bus transportation, tour to shrine, walk around grounds, dinner at hotel, overnight stay. Invitation could be extended to other parishes. Tom will write a bulletin notice for Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Closing prayer was given by Msgr. Dempsey.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on motion by John Graf, seconded by Deacon Bob Puhala.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Claps, Secretary

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_