

Parish Council Meeting 3/9/2010

Members in Attendance: Diane Shelton, Betsy Baker, Patsy Ford, Tony Lefkowicz, Pat Marlowe, Sandy O'Shaughnessy, Patti Peters, Matt Schallon, Claudeen Shelton, Joe Rosenberg, Veronica Wright, Fr. Joe Lehman

Members Absent: Siobhan Rea, Theresa Mercier

A . Question of the Week and Prayer:

Reading & Question of the week/Prayer

B. Approval of Minutes –Minutes from January 11, 2010 were approved as written.

C. Review of Parish Town Hall Meeting held on Feb. 2

It was suggested that a van be set up for people who don't have rides, for the next T.H. Meeting. The same people seemed to be asking the questions, maybe limit the number of questions per person. Some parents felt "disrespected" related to the Sunday morning classes /scheduling. Concerns were expressed about the Atrium vs regular catechesis (may be seen as the haves vs have nots) Fr. Joe suggested we need to "meet the need". And finally, everyone, especially those with disabilities should have church as a place to come without labels. The town hall meeting was viewed over all, as a positive experience.

This council seems to more visible and overall communication with the parish has been positive. Maybe for the next town hall meeting, we shouldn't focus on answers. Perhaps we should gather ideas and focus on the ideas/specific topics/ information vs the answers to questions. The P.C agreed that the staff did a good job answering questions. Some questions have to be answered with "no". Joe R. suggested the next meeting use the "Open Air Technology" concept where groups are formed and the focus can be on areas of personal interest. Notes from each group are then shared with the group at large.

The positive message from Fr. Joe was heard, "We can make things work if you want it" Individuals need to take leadership and the parish will provide support. The way we talk to people can empower them.

Matt – We still have 8 questions that need answered, some confusion re who answered what questions. No room on Kiosk for Town hall minutes to be posted, but a note can be put on the Kiosk telling where the notes are posted (in the fellowship hall?) and it was suggested that the 'State of the Union' given by Fr. Joe should also be posted.

Next Town hall, before Bishops visit (July 11)

May 1-2 Parish Survey during Mass, get back in 2 weeks, have session to put together strategic plan (for the Bishop's visit. A joint meeting (Staff and Parish Council) will take place to work on strengths, things to work on, and is there anything missing? Come up with a document (for OLN).

D. Communication within the Council? How best?

Reminder: to hit "Reply" not "Reply All" when emailing. Parish Council should go straight to staff with question and email is the best means. Joe R. and Rita H. will be the contacts for the parish council and staff respectively.

E. A look at WE WALK BY FAITH AND PREPARATION FOR THE BISHOP'S Meeting/answering the questions for the part COMMUNITY

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION: (see WWBF document)

1. Covered under "Word" section... Too many to write down.
2. People who want sacramental life "come" Publish specific dates for activities (example First Communion). We have programs for all sacraments. Fr. Joe would like to have a Baptism Team. Add the question for parents.
3. We do this- but many don't know. We cooperate with Lenten Mission, Marriage Formation, Migrant Ministry, Stations of the Cross, youth activities, Church Woman United.
4. Too many to list. Some have big numbers, some small. Pastoral Care is a big part of this , Capernum Young Life (Valley Wide)
5. We are (maybe) more diverse than the area in which we are located. Spanish songs, some Hispanics recently asked for a bilingual Mass. Sign Language interpretation has been done in the past. It is difficult getting some families to Christian Formation. Maybe use clusters to provide for needs. Have those who want these get involved. We recently sent some Haitians back to Haiti with clothes and supplies.
6. VT students asking for money for alternative Spring Break. Music involvement. Young adults group needs rejuvenation, maybe reconnect with clusters? Perhaps include newcomers registration packet (OLPH cluster) events for young adults. This group is sometimes difficult to define (ages?). Again, if they (young adults) want a group, they need to start it.

F. Civic center mass

Parish Council shall greet. (Good job greeting at Sunday Mass) Be there at 9:00am for Mass at 10:00am. Fr Joe wrote the names of the Parish Council Members who will greet on Easter Sunday. Tony L. volunteered to be in charge.

Next meeting - Monday, April 12th - Question of the Week - Claudeen; Minutes - Patti  
Agenda Items - We Walk by Faith

Respectfully Submitted by Diane Shelton