

Minutes of St. Jerome Pastoral Council Meeting of January 10, 2011

In Attendance:

Social Concerns: Barbara Bagnato & Rebecca Sweeney

Parish Council: Father Dave, Father Joe, Florence Loch, Dick Maiberger, Regina Flaherty, Bob DeSimone, Beth Olson, Pat Olson, Greg Vetter, Tom Wagner, Kathy Coyne, John Davis, Alex Sgoutas, Moira Barber, Tom Reitano, Katie Corasaniti

Father Dave led the Council in Prayer on behalf of John Turchick.

Minutes of December 18th meeting were approved. A brief discussion followed regarding the handling of minutes; the new procedure will revert to the traditional practice of reviewing the previous meeting's minutes at the beginning of the current meeting. The Secretary will pass the minutes to Father Dave and Regina Flaherty prior to the meeting for review.

Social Concerns Presentation

- Barbara and Rebecca presented on St. Jerome's Social Concerns Committee. The committee is comprised of several subcommittees which manage various ongoing, monthly programs; including, but not limited to funeral lunch receptions provided to Parish families, monthly food drives and milk money collections for local food pantries, and an annual collection for *Education & Hope* for Guatemalan children. The Committee also works with organizations and churches outside of the Parish and within the community to benefit their causes.
- The Committee is open to hearing the needs of the Parish and community. The Committee will help to delegate the appropriate and necessary action/team/committee or subcommittee.
- Alex raised the question of how the Parish Council can help the cause of the Social Concerns Committee. Rebecca and Barbara affirmed the Social Concerns Committee is well connected to the appropriate vendors and organizations to accomplish the various goals on individual missions. Parishioners are encouraged to volunteer.
- 10-12 people regularly attend the monthly meetings. The subcommittees don't report at the monthly meetings, however, if a subcommittee needs help with a goal, they consult Father Dave or the committee as a whole for assistance in organization and volunteers. Likewise, the Social Concerns Committee will keep in touch with its subcommittees
- **Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of every month at 7pm.** They usually run for an hour. Parishioners are encouraged to participate. Barbara is the point person for contacting if interested in volunteering.
- Parishioners should visit the Committee's website for more detailed information:
http://www.stjeromenorwalk.org/html/social_concerns.html

Pastor's Report

- The Parish received a **\$12,000 grant** on behalf of The Daphne Seybolt Culpeper Memorial Foundation, Inc. The grant will be used to fix St. Jerome's roof. Father Dave has received three different bids for the project and, moving forward, will apply the grant to the chosen organization.
- The Parish is below budget for funds received from the offertory.
- The **Parish Raffle** will be held in June on-site, which will help alleviate some cost. There will be cash prizes as opposed to a car raffle. The new format of the raffle will hopefully help balance the Parish deficit. John Kutzo is training Karen Christensen on successful fundraising techniques.
- The TOTAL **Emmaus weekend** was postponed from its traditional January weekend and will be rescheduled. (*Update: The Emmaus weekend will be held March 4th- 6th.*)
- The first four Fridays of Lent, the **Parish Renewal Retreat** will be held in-house with speakers. A soup & bread meal will be provided. On the fourth Friday of Lent, there will be Reconciliation.
- In April there will be a **Parish Retreat** at the Convent of St. Brigitta.

Building and Grounds Committee

- The Committee is presently waiting on a bid for a new septic system / grease trap in kitchen.
- Parish Council and the Committee briefly brainstormed ways to raise money to achieve the five year plan. The Building and Grounds Committee will continue to brainstorm means of fundraising.
- The ultimate goal of the five year plan is: to add a foyer to the main entry of the Church; to rebuild the front steps of the main entry with donated bricks on behalf of parish families—which will also assist the fundraising for the project; and to redo the windows on the outside of the building.

A Reminder: The **Pancake Breakfast** will be held February 20, 2011.

The next Parish Ministry to present will be Suzanne Calnon on behalf of **Liturgy**.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be March 14, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Corasaniti
Secretary