

St. Catherine of Sweden
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes
Sunday, March 7, 2010

Attendees:

Father Regis, Lori McKinniss, Denis Antol, Scott Rick , Bob Hovanec, Jim Kaczynski, Karen Gust, Gary Spicuzza, Marilyn Adams, Karen Taylor, Pam Grove, Bill Rasile, Phyllis Murray

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Denis Antol at 10:35 am.

Opening Prayer:

Opening Prayer was given by Karen Gust.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the January 3, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

New Business:

- Priests from neighboring parishes have joined us as guest speakers for our Lenten Series, Where Do Priests Come From, held each Friday evening after Stations of the Cross. Teens of St. Catherine's will present a multi-media, dramatic reading of the Stations of the Cross on Friday, March 12. There will not be a speaker that evening.
- Father reported on several physical improvements recently made at the church. He also indicated that the church incurred a \$5,000 budget deficit due to plowing costs resulting from the unusual snow fall in February. It was agreed upon to add a second collection, entitled "\$5 Sunday" to help absorb the shortfall. It was discussed that the collection should be held soon before people forget the impact of the snowy month.
- Messages displayed before mass on the wall above the organ are well received. These include a Welcome message, the Sunday scripture readings and special prayers that may pertain to the liturgical season. Father Regis is open to any ideas of other items to display; possibly hymn numbers.
- Fundraisers – Put the Nuns In Charge, held on Saturday, February 20, was a huge success and raised \$5,000 for the Building Fund. Nearly 300 people enjoyed the evening. A record number of people attended the March 1 Fish Fry raising \$7,245. This surpassed the highest profit recorded in January, 2007 which was \$7,089.
- Father suggested the next fundraiser for the Building Fund be a Garage Sale. A parishioner approached Father and agreed to coordinate the event with help from others. Much discussion occurred in regards to the type of items to be collected,

date of the sale, assistance needed, potential bake sale/ café sale, etc. Upon review of the calendar of events, the Garage Sale will occur on Saturday, April 24. Father collected names of those interested in helping. A meeting will occur soon to organize the event.

- The paper recycle bin is constantly overflowing. Lori McKinniss has had discussions with Abbitti regarding pickup of paper and adding a second paper recycle bin.
- Carly Dukovich, a high school senior in our parish, received the 2010 Spirit of Faith Catholic Athlete Award. Additionally, the girls and boys CYO basketball teams had another successful season. Father will be recognizing these youth at a Sunday mass in the near future.
- Council decided Donut Sunday will now occur in May, September and February rather than monthly. Issues with CCD children and monthly losses incurred to host the event initiated the discussion and precipitated the change.
- Two members of Parish Council terms expire in May. Phyllis Murray will not continue with a second term. Dennis Antol will speak with Dick McGeown to see if he would like to continue with a second term. Members were asked to think of other parishioners who may be interested in joining council and to speak with Denis.
- Lori McKinniss reported that the church will be working with Life Touch to create a new photo directory. Lori reviewed many of the features in working with Life Touch and pleased with the services they will offer; which will not absorb much staff time as past directories have. Pictures will be scheduled in May thru July, which captures families with college students. The goal is to distribute the directory at the start of Advent. Marilyn Adams will be the liaison to work with Life Touch. Scott Rick also offered assistance.

Standing Committee Reports:

Community Life – A New Member Social occurred on Sunday, January 10, in conjunction with Donut Sunday. Members of various ministries attended and briefly spoke, but the event was poorly attended by new members. Future discussions are needed to create a new venue to attract and welcome new members.

Community Life assisted Joanne Giovannini with the event “Put the Nuns In Charge” and thanked council for their contributions.

Worship - The Holy Thursday Bus Tour is being finalized, hoping to visit six parishes in the Pittsburgh area.

Physical Plant - Bill Rasile provided a report of many items recently completed including tiling in bathrooms (including bridal bath), screens in sanctuary, and electrical issues with lights in the upper parking lot. Lori McKinniss reported that we may be able to receive possible reimbursement from the insurance company due to the nature of the problem. Items in progress include: building a garage at the rectory, meditation walk and gazebo, changing light bulbs and timing of room sensors to save money on electrical expenses.

Faith Formation - The Resurrection Eggs activity held during the February 26 Fish Fry was enjoyed by 35 preschool / young elementary children. Middle school and high school students assisted with the activity. The committee is discussing whether to host this activity again during Lent since it was well received.

Plans are underway for a Women's Retreat at the Kearns Spirituality Center on Saturday, October 16. The committee has met with Sister Ann, who will be the speaker of the event. Details to follow.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 10:30 am.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at Noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Murray