

## **Parish Council Minutes: September 14, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 7:09

### **The following members were present**

John Arcari	Sharon Gagne	Joy O'Sullivan
Reverend David Baranowski	Lorraine Levesque	Lori Riley
Michael Bocchini	Gerry Luczak	Carol Rizzo
	Marie Nespral	

### **Absent:**

Leigh-Ann Hammond	Deacon Bob Pallotti
Jean Roncaioli	Bob Smith

Opening Prayer: The Opening Prayer was led by Father Dave

Minutes: The Minutes of the June 1, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as amended.

### **Father Dave's Report**

1. There will be an insert in the bulletin to describe necessary repairs to the building and grounds.

The following is a partial list of the work done this year:

\*Work on the plaza \$40,000. Half of the money was from operating budget and half from Wells Fargo account. He is happy with the work done by the contractor. The contractors will put a coating on the concrete to protect it from snow removal chemicals.

\*Main church re-lamped -- \$1,900

\*Tree removal--\$1,500

\*Controller for air handler for air conditioner and heat in the Fr. Shea Hall and chapel area of the church replaced for \$16,900

\*Moving religious education office—full dollar amount was not available.

Received free furniture from John Cherette, a friend of Nick Bonadies.

2. Future work that needs to be done

\*Will meet with contractors to receive bids for repaving of both driveway entrances to the parking lot. Estimates run from \$31,000 --\$45,000.

\*Excavation of a trench was completed in front of church to put in electrical wiring so that new lamp posts can be put in. He is hoping that the Holiday Bazaar will raise the money to provide 8-9 lampposts.

3. Finance council is looking at ways to provide greater revenue

\*Will initiate a letter campaign through the firm Letter Concepts. Letters will go out on 9/30, 10/14, and 10/28, which will urge parishioners to increase their weekly giving. Parish Information cards and a Bookmarker will go out with the first letter.

Parishioner giving has been averaging \$8,000/week for a long while. The Finance Council feels that the amount that the church needs for operating expenses is \$10,000/week. This year, on two occasions, they needed to dip into savings to provide for regular operating expenses.

The cost of using the firm Letter Concepts is approximately \$9,000 with an additional \$2,000 going toward postage. The contract is such that if there is not a \$2,000 increase in parishioner giving for four weeks in a row, they will not charge the parish \$9,000, but a percentage of the increase.

Father Dave will speak about the letter campaign during the homily at all masses on the weekend of September 26/27. He will tie it into the Stewardship theme of Time, Talent, Treasure and the Ministry Fair that is happening that weekend also.

4. Trying to reduce expenses. Cut staff from 5 full-time to 3 full-time staff. Would like to make buildings more energy efficient, including rectory.

5. Small Christian Communities Core Committee begins again tomorrow night, 9/15. He hopes that in 6-9 months it will branch out to form new communities. Reflection on life is the goal of the communities. Deacon Bob was not available for comment.

6. The Employment Support Group continues to meet on Thursdays. Five of the people in the group have gotten jobs. There is a partnership with Cora Belden Library, which provides computer services. Fr. Dave hopes that Archbishop's Annual Appeal will approve funds for group.

#### **Youth Group: Sharon Gagne**

1. Going to Youth Spectacular with Confirmation JIS II students on Sunday, 9/20.
2. 11<sup>th</sup> annual Charity Dance Committee meeting next week.
3. Tag Sale on Oct. 23-25.
4. October 4 BYOP (Pumpkin painting)

#### **Liturgy Committee: Lorraine Levesque**

1. Blessing of the Animals in honor of St Francis on Oct 3 at 11AM
2. November 2 is the Memorial Mass for parishioners who have passed away this year.
3. Will observe 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the church building with Archbishop Mansell presiding on November 21, 2010.

#### **Community Life: John Arcari**

1. The Committee would like to thank parishioners, Dixieland Band, and Choir for their help in making the Feast of St. James picnic held in July a success. The committee was pleased with the turn-out.
2. Will provide snacks for ministry fair.

3. 10/17 is “The Irish Variety Show.” The committee is promoting the event at Irish venues, and churches. There will be cabaret style seating and people are encouraged to BYO food and drink. Michael Bradley will be singing Danny Boy before the show begins.
4. 11/20-21 Holiday Bazaar
5. 12/27 Annual Christmas Pageant
6. 3/31 Seder meal
7. 4/17 Comedy Night
8. 7/24 St. James Feast Day Pot Luck Picnic

**Respect Life: Gerry Luczak**

1. 40 Days for Life starting 10/1 with adoration at the church. Will go to a prayer vigil on October 24 across the street from an abortion clinic. Members of St. Elizabeth Seton will be at both events.
2. Respect Life Mass with Archbishop Mansell 10/4, 2 PM, at the cathedral
3. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pro-Life Conference at Holy Angels in So. Meriden, 10/17
4. CT Right to Life Convention 10/24 at the Courtyard by Marriott, Cromwell.

**Social Concerns—Marie Nespral**

1. Office of Urban Affairs annual dinner in October. Fr. John Blackhall will be honored this year for his work with the Hispanic community.

**Religious Education: Carol Rizzo**

1. Confirmation program began on Sunday. Classes will begin on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
2. Monthly Pancake Breakfasts begin on October 4. There will be a “stimulus sale” which will reduce prices to \$5 per person, \$20 per family. Revenue from the breakfasts pays for shelter visits which cost over \$200 per visit.

**Lori Riley: Precious Blood**

1. Coordinate with Saint Elizabeth Seton for this month’s adoration—40 Days for Life

**Stewardship: Joy O’Sullivan for Leigh-Ann Hammond**

1. Goal of Ministry Fair is informational. Parish Council will have a table.
2. Ministry signs and tablecloths will be provided by Stewardship Committee
3. A video is being made by a parishioner that will be shown after communion during the weekend of the ministry fair.
4. The idea of mandatory community service for parishioners was discussed.  
\*Father Dave said that one model suggested  
1 hour for prayer (including mass)  
1 hour for social outreach  
1 hour for education
5. Joy O’Sullivan encouraged others to ask people to volunteers. Many people are just waiting to be asked.

**Music: Joy O’Sullivan**

1. St. Cecilia Day concert, in conjunction with the National Pastoral Musicians St. Cecilia Concert initiative, will be held on November 20.

2. Choir begins singing this weekend.

**New Business**

John Arcari reports that the Methodist Church benches and peace pole were stolen. Firefighters will be sending over a check to help replace the bench and peace pole. He would like St. James to send a check to help. Father Dave offers to send a check from "Change for Change" which for \$250-300.

Joy O'Sullivan volunteered to help John Arcari plant flowers around Fr. Frisbie's bench.

Father Dave offered a prayer to Our Lady and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joy O'Sullivan  
Secretary, St. James Parish Council