

St. Philip Parish

Parish Council Minutes

November 15, 2010

Attendees:

Father Boccaccio, Sister Mary Ann McPartland, Deacon Frank Chiappetta, Jay Devine, Debra Bennetts, Ed Hughes, Robyn DiBlasio, Lou Bonsangue, Beth Pachkovsky, Brien McMahon, Patricia Castellano, Jo Cunningham, Sandra Dominick, Daniel Krenicki, Mavis Mennino, Kathi Sonntag, Katie Hefferan and Vin Boccanfuso.

Absent:

Deacon Paul Reilly, Doris Chiappetta, Deacon Jack Mahon, Elizabeth Broncati and Donald Hunter.

1. Opening Prayer:

Lou Bonsangue led us in the Council Prayer.

2. Review of October 18, 2010 Minutes:

The Council reviewed and revised the minutes.

Jay Devine moved to accept the minutes.

Daniel Krenicki seconded.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

Our next meeting will be on December 13, 2010 in the Board Room.

4. Upcoming Parish Activities and Holy Days of Obligation:

We are behind on getting things ready for the White Elephant sale. We need help bringing the donated items over to the school. Volunteers are needed on November 22 and 23 for this task.

On December 18, 2010 there will also be a 12:15 Mass.

The Thanksgiving Mass on November 25, 2010 will be a special Mass because there will be a blessing of adoption for parishioners who have adopted children and for those who have been adopted.

5. Old Business

a. Stewardship Report. We reviewed an 11/15/10 memo to Father from Alan Yoder. It shows that there has been an increase in donations from the beginning of the drive from \$5,817 to almost \$10,000 during the week of 11/14/10.

We have been able to find ways of decreasing our expenses. For example, by using only certain lines for long distance calls, we have reduced our telephone bill.

There are several parishioners who have started using the electronic donation system.

Father was very grateful that the Stewardship Drive is so successful.

Dan Krenicki had an idea that we should determine if our bank fees would decrease if more people used the electronic donation system. If this were true, it would be an incentive for more people to make electronic donations.

Robyn wanted to know if our Parish would cease to exist, if we continued to project a loss? Father explained why that would not happen. For one reason, the shortfall we have is not significant compared to the overall size of our budget.

b. The SPAG art show was held on November 6 and 7 and Frank told us about its success. Father said that a few of the artists have or will be receiving commissions. Three works of art were sold at the show.

c. Beth told us that the welcome Mass was successful. Some of the Parish Council members were there to greet new parishioners.

d. Men's Ministry. Dan Krenicki told us that the recent Mission was a "great success." The second session at the YAC was well attended. Most of the people that attended the Connecticut Catholic Men's Retreat were from Hartford. Overall, it was not very well attended.

Only 3 men attended the Men's Ministry Retreat of 11/5-11/7. About 10 men attend the regular weekly meetings. Dan told us that he will be sending out a personal invitation to sponsors and confirmation candidates to invite their dads to a future meeting.

e. Youth Ministry Update. There was a good turnout for the drive-by raking. Even half of the Team participated. They split up into about 4-5 groups and each group raked the lawns of 4 houses.

The Haunted House was also a success. The event raised \$1,500.

Deb told us that 20 high school students showed up at SPYCE to help out at the November 7, 2010 class.

f. Communication Committee Update

Deb asked us to volunteer for the Parish table at the Christmas Fair. She will be asking people to sign up for 2 hour shifts at the table.

We continue to coordinate outreach to the people who agreed to volunteer for the Parish last spring. Beth and Deb already contacted many of the volunteers. One of the jobs being done already is fixing the kneelers in the Church.

We are starting a Membership Committee. One of their first tasks will be to invite people to Lessons & Carols which will take place on Sunday, December 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

6. New Business

Pat showed us an article from the Norwalk Citizen that advertises upcoming events. She suggested that we place an ad for the Christmas Fair to get more exposure for the event.

St. Philip now has a Facebook page, so anyone on Facebook should visit our page.

At the end of the meeting, Council members were able to pick up their Christmas raffle tickets and were encouraged to pick up tickets for their friends and neighbors so that we can save on postage.

7. Summarize and Review Assignments

Opening Prayer: Jo Cunningham

Closing Prayer: Dan Krenicki

8. Closing Prayer

We ended the meeting by reading the Council Prayer.