

St. Matthew Parish Council Meeting

April 28th, 2010

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Present: Father Jim, Father Jim, Scott Mokoski, Brenda Falusi, Reeni Vinci, Flavio Gaudio, Jennifer Gaudio, Cheryl Mathieu, Marion Burke

Chairperson: Scott Mokoski opened the meeting at 7:05 and closed the meeting at 8:25.

Opening Prayer and Reflections: Father Jim

Discussion and acceptance of April minutes: Cheryl Mathieu and Flavio Gaudio

Pastor's Remarks: Fr Jim told us of the wonderful new statue of Mary we received from Father Brian in Mystic for our use. It is a concrete statue and quite heavy. The statue does require a power-washing and some painting. The meditation garden is also coming along wonderfully.

Fr. Jim also informed the council of the plans being made from the Office of Pastoral Planning concerning a growing shortage of priests. The Deaneries of Norwich and Willimantic will be discussing plans of working with fewer priests. Fr. Jim informed us of the process and will keep us up to date on the developments. He discussed the concerns of priests covering multiple parishes.

Committee Reports:

Faith Formation: Karen Sheridan

Grades K-6 had a wonderful week of Are you Smarter than a (K-6) Grader. Parent were invited to attend. Sign up for teachers has already begun. Night of Discernment will be May 20th. Confirmation Preparation, Grade 8, did Bible Bowl, which was great fun. Confirmation Rehearsal May 23rd with 66 students. We were also told of the time/date changes for the schedule of Grades 7-9 for next year. Class names are changing from Grade 9 and Grade 10 to Confirmation Prep 1 and 2. This more closely reflects the Confirmation 2 year process and supports those students who may be entering the process from a different grade than traditional.

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Program "Why Catholic?" – Brenda Falusi, Reeni Vinci

Currently the team is meeting concerning Evangelization, recruiting Small Faith Community Leaders, and planning the program. Currently a bulletin board is being created in the Parish Hall, announcements will be in the bulletin, and dates for upcoming events are being planned. August 27th will be a Taste of Why Catholic? An evening where participants will experience a session and ask questions.

Development: Brenda Falusi, Gary Kozlowski, Flavio Gaudio, and Paul Wilczewski

Silk City Choir was held, with about 60 attendees. Craft fair was cancelled because of lack of crafters.

Stewardship: Marion Burke

Brochures for various ministries are being worked on with a sample of the Music Ministry available at the meeting. Ministry Fair was set up for after Labor Day. Currently looking for a display for the brochures.

Building/Maintenance: Scott Mokoski, Gary Kozlowski

Gary and Scott believe that they have found the source of the leak, which is coming from a down spout. Also discussed some cleaning issues and making a date in the next few months to do a thorough cleaning.

Communication: Linda Romejko

Cyndi from Faith Formation would like to do on-line registration for classes for the upcoming year. Would look similar to contact sheet. Also looking to do payments online, however there may be too many options. The second quote from the lights looks very good. There was also discussion concerning the bamboo type plants behind the rectory, and discussed options for the removal of them.

Liturgy: Alaric Fox

Last meeting was March 11th which was a long intense meeting. Eucharistic Minister Training is tomorrow. Next Meeting is May 4th to review Easter Week. It was noted how hard the committee works to make everything perfect.

Arts and Environment: Marion Burke

Everything looked wonderful for the week of Easter. Currently looking into creating a permanent baptismal font in the sanctuary. Discussing changes for Pentecost. A good community cleaning was also discussed and are looking to have it completed before summer.

Pro Life: Reeni Vinci

Did really well with the Big Y cards last month. There will be no cards sold in May, will continue the first weekend in June.

Carnival: Alaric Fox

Memorial Day weekend, May 27th – 29th. The planning group is doing a great job. The new signs have been approved, look for them shortly.

Haiti: Father Jim, Paul Wilczewski

Last meeting was May 20th. John Bouley will be going on that trip from May 5th – May 15th. He hopes to either get to Ganthier or have Fr. Emmanuel come to see him. Next meeting is May 18th. We are continuing to support the school. The teacher salary has been paid through June. The Norwich Diocese Haitian ministry had the Yearly Gala in April at Mystic Aquarium and a group from St. Matthew's did attend.

Old business: Had some questions about painting the front of the church, at the entranceway and the one-day Spirit in the Life Seminar on May 15th.

New business: Fr. Jim updated us on the possible sale of the Grange to us. While there is much work to be done, the building is safe. A small committee will be meeting to discuss the feasibility of the purchase on May 11th. The finance committee is meeting May 19th. The Council's next meeting will be held May 26th at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall.

PRAYER INTENTION

PRAYER INTENTION: The Parish Council recommends the following prayer intentions for the month of May: ***For all mothers, living and deceased: that we may appreciate their loving presence in our lives and remember the importance of their nurturing love in our growth. And for all of our young people who will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday: may they be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.***