

Minutes
St. Gregory the Great Parish
Meeting January 26, 2004

Present: Father Arrando, Steve Crespo, Janice Rudisill, Rocco Colucci, Ed DeVeaux, Pat Murphy, and Paul Valeri.

Absent: Kathy Kelly and Donna Strosser

Opening Prayer: Father Angelo

With Kathy absent, Ed chaired the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Angelo

- ✓ We had a full crowd for the Interfaith Service.
- ✓ Thanks to Janice for the Giving Tree and the Bazaar.
- ✓ We far outdid ourselves on the Giving Tree.
- ✓ This year's Christmas collection went very well.
- ✓ Budget-wise we are on target.
- ✓ The Ecumenical Service was on Sunday, January 25th.
- ✓ Father Angelo read a letter from Rabbi Librach of the United Jewish Center. The letter thanked St. Gregory's for all its help, including security during the high holy days.
- ✓ Currently, St. Gregory's and six other religious groups run the Rapid Response Network. Father requested a motion be entered on a resolution for ARC (The Association of Religious Communities) to take over the network. The resolution could only take effect if St. Gregory's and the other six groups grant such a resolution. The motion was so entered, and passed.
- ✓ We have a new priest. Father Phillip Pitia. He is originally from The Sudan in Africa. He will be here until his visa expires in June. Father said the Bishop promised that we will have a permanent priest.
- ✓ Finally, our assessment for the Annual Bishop's Appeal was increased from \$72,000 to \$86,000.

Committee Reports:

Christian Service Committee:

Janice Rudisill

- ✓ Confirmation enrollment will be the weekend of February 7th and 8th. She is requesting that Council members be present at the masses to assist.
- ✓ This year's Bazaar hit a major snag with snow both weekends. We made a total of \$3500. Our usual net is around \$6,000 to \$7,000. We are looking into other fundraisers to supplement the losses.

Christian Service Committee: Continued Janice Rudisill

- ✓ Through the Gift Giving Tree we were able to help 42 families for CACD, and 10 patients through the Interfaith AIDS Ministry.
- ✓ Since there were many requests for donations at last year's Pasta Dinner, it was suggested that we ask for donations to the Food Pantry as an offering this year. We are going to try and set the date for the dinner at the end of March. Janice will contact Donna for check the calendar.
- ✓ Ed wanted to know why the winners of the baskets from the Bazaar were not posted. People we asking about it.

Building Project: Paul Valeri

- ✓ Problems prevented occupancy of the new rectory.
- ✓ There were also problems with an easement of the waterline. But we finally are all approved and received a Certificate of Occupancy.
- ✓ Many thanks to Richard Arconti for donation of legal services.
- ✓ Mike Mazzucco continues to donate many personal hours to this project.
- ✓ The new rectory had a problem with pipes freezing and bursting. Luckily it was caught early.
- ✓ The furniture should be arriving this Friday and the priests can move in next week.
- ✓ Paul received a verbal commitment from parishioners to pave the driveway.
- ✓ Father thanked Paul for all of his efforts in the rectory project.
- ✓ There was a preliminary meeting on changes to the old rectory.

Christian Education and Formation: Pat Murphy

- ✓ Scheduling has begun for this year's "Pasta and Padre".

Parish and Community Life: Donna Strosser

- ✓ Donna was not present, and no report was received.

Spiritual Life and Worship: Rocco Colucci

- ✓ Rocco had a question regarding the standing after communion. He was concerned that it takes away from the reflection time. Father reminded everyone that communion is a communal act, not a private act.
- ✓ Rocco was also concerned that the ushers are too quick to start the 2nd collection. He suggested that we have two collections back-to-back to alleviate that problem. Father will discuss the matter with the ushers and provide a time to implement.

New Business:

Pat asked everyone to consider this idea. At her daughter's church they have a cremains garden. There would be a wall put around the Alhambra Gardens, and ashes would be put into urns and the urns would be put into tubes in sections of the all. We would charge for this service. Pat will ask Roger Gavigan to look into it. Father will check with the Bishops as far as pricing and the Diocese input.

Paul added – with the rectory complete, we can start on the library and senior center. We can also begin discussion on the parish center. Let's go simple and cost effective.

Our next meeting full council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2003 @ 7:00pm in the school.

Please submit any reports to me by February 9, 2003.

Closing Prayer: Pat Murphy

Respectfully submitted: Steve Crespo