

Minutes
St. Gregory the Great Parish
Meeting January 27, 2003

Present: Father Arrando, Steve Crespo, Janice Rudisill, Paul Valeri, Rocco Colucci, Donna Strosser, and Pat Murphy

Absent: Ed DeVeaux and Kathy Kelly

With both Kathy and Ed absent, Steve chaired the meeting.

Special Guest: MaryAnn Houser – Director of Faith Formation

Minutes: Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Opening Prayer: Father Arrando

Diocese 50th Anniversary:

MaryAnn Houser

- ✓ MaryAnn was present to discuss the 50th Anniversary of the Diocese. This celebration will take place on Sunday, September 28th @ 3:00pm in the Blue Fish Stadium, Bridgeport.
- ✓ All parishes in our diocese will be involved in the celebration. Each parish will need to come up with something that signifies what its parish is about. Approximately 75-80 people from each parish will attend. Bishop Lori will be celebrating a family Mass.
- ✓ How should we represent our parish?
- ✓ Father suggested our church logo on a flag or banner. Paul added something with the ecumenical spirit that we have been involved with of late.
- ✓ Discussion of how we should proceed with the banner or flag. Maybe two banners: one with the church logo, and the other depicting the caravan of faith.
- ✓ Committee to assist. Both Rocco and Pat want to help.
- ✓ MaryAnn wanted to add that the weekend of February 8/9 is Confirmation Enrollment. She is requesting two Council members at each Mass to assist with the enrollment.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Arrando

- ✓ Christmas went well. With the snow on Christmas Day, we were hit hard financially. Father made a few phone calls and was able to augment our holiday donations by \$6,000.00 for a total of \$30,444.00.
- ✓ The Church Unity Prayer Service held on January 26th was not well attended, but was very nice.

Pastor's Report Continued:**Fr. Arrando**

- ✓ Holocaust Memorial Service to be held in April. Last year it was significant for the Jewish community to celebrate it by themselves, however, they requested our involvement for this year.

Committee Reports:**Christian Education and Formation:****Pat Murphy**

- ✓ Pasta and Padre seems to be a hit.
- ✓ There were 20 people in attendance in January. We had a nice assortment of people and it went well.
- ✓ The next Pasta and Padre will be held on February 9th.
- ✓ Father was an excellent cook.

Parish and Community Life:**Donna Strosser**

- ✓ Donna reported that the calendar is rolling along smoothly.

Spiritual Life and Worship:**Rocco Colucci**

- ✓ Rocco wanted to discuss the reflection time after Holy Communion at each Mass. The ushers rush right on out for the second collection and there is no personal reflection time. He asked if the reflection period could be at least 2 minutes.
- ✓ Everyone was in agreement that we should have some sort of reflection time after Holy Communion.
- ✓ Maybe Cathy Larson could play some reflective music, and the second collection could take place after that. Father has spoken to the ushers, but they feel that we are missing donations if they wait.
- ✓ Janice will talk to Reno DiMici (head of the ushers).
- ✓ Father suggested that Rocco write 3 to 4 announcements to the parishioners.

Christian Services Committee:**Janice Rudisill**

- ✓ The Christmas Bazaar went well this year. We made \$4200.00 profit.
- ✓ The Gift Giving Tree helped out 23 families this year.
- ✓ Looking to have a Tag Sale in the spring to help out.
- ✓ The Carnival lost the use of its Money Wheels. The state has recently banned the use of Money Wheels at such events.
- ✓ The Carnival Committee is in working on this.
- ✓ Pat suggested a "Baby Expo". Similar to a Wedding/Bridal Show, only for babies.
- ✓ Janice wants to have a Pasta Dinner for the parishioners. Let's let the parishioners meet and talk to the Council members and have a free dinner. We will table this to the next meeting. Janice and Donna will go over dates in the Parish Calendar.
- ✓ Donna suggested resurrection of The Gregorian. There is so much going on and our parishioners need to know about it.

Christian Services Committee Continued: Janice Rudisill

- ✓ Paul suggested a thank you for all those who helped out with the Library and Teen Center when completed. There will be a lot of parishioners who will have put their own work into these 2 projects.
- ✓ It appears that due to a date conflict, we will be unable to hold Attic Treasures this year.

Father had to leave the meeting for an emergency at the hospital, but returned before the meeting ended.

Building Committee Report: Paul Valeri

- ✓ We are moving forward. The contracts have been executed, and the drawings are underway. We have paid \$65,000.00 to start this part of the project.
- ✓ Mike Mazzucco has put in a ton of time at no cost to the church, and it's on going.
- ✓ We are looking to get some of the project items gratis, such as excavation.
- ✓ At the last meeting, part of the motion to spend more money for the better siding was dependent upon how much better the warranty was for such an expense. The upgraded siding is two times thicker than traditional siding. Therefore it is much less likely to deflect or be dented. Since the upgraded siding is applied at the building site, it looks much better than traditional siding as it is applied to each building section. The seams will hardly be noticeable.
- ✓ We applied for a building permit. No subdivision is needed.
- ✓ The waterline connection is underway along with septic approval.
- ✓ The financing is already set up.
- ✓ At this rate excavation can possibly start by the end of April.
- ✓ Paul would like an announcement in the bulletin stating that we are moving forward. At some point we are going to have to see how much more we need to finish. We have cut the cost and now need less to complete the entire rectory project.
- ✓ Paul suggests the possibility of a weather-tight shell for the parish center. Then say to the parishioners: "now you finish it." This may help to complete that part of the project with much less money, as parishioners may be more apt to provide services to complete it.
- ✓ Father said due to the delays, we are now bound to due the rectory first.

Our next meeting full council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2003 @ 7:00pm in the school.

Closing Prayer: Pat Murphy

Respectfully submitted: Steve Crespo