

Minutes
St. Gregory the Great Parish
Meeting November 11, 2002

Present: Father Arrando, Kathy Kelly, Steve Crespo, Ed DeVeaux, Janice Rudisill, and Paul Valeri

Absent: Rocco Colucci, Donna Strosser, and Pat Murphy

Special Guests: Members of the Building Committee

Minutes: Steve Crespo

Opening Prayer: Steve Crespo

Review Minutes:

- ✓ The Minutes from our last meeting were approved.

Building Committee Report:

Paul Valeri

- ✓ This meeting was set up to explain the current status and progress of the Building Project to the Building Committee.
- ✓ So far much progress has been made.
- ✓ Since we decided on modular construction to save money, Paul had two competitive bids. Paul handed out pictures of each competitors work and showed drawings of the proposed rectory structure.
- ✓ So far the cost of the rectory is about \$720,000.00, and about \$80,000.00 for the furnishings. This is \$200,000.00 less than the originally proposed \$1,000,000.00.
- ✓ As far as the fundraising is concerned, we have received \$1.34 million in pledges, and approximately \$370,000.00 in cash.
- ✓ The Diocese has mandated the following order for construction. First the rectory, then the school library and teen center, and finally the parish center. At this point we may only have enough funds to build a "shell" for the parish center. The interior of the parish center would be finished at a later date. Also some of our parishioners can perform some of the work.
- ✓ Once we accept a bid, contracts can then be drawn up. Within about thirty to forty days we will receive working drawings. Total completion of the rectory can possibly be within one hundred, twenty days.
- ✓ So far there has been a lot of volunteering. Very little money has been spent on this new phase. Mike Mazzucco has been doing a lot of work for us at no cost.

Building Committee Report Continued:

- ✓ Paul explained that the original lot proposed for the site of the rectory was not acceptable. If we were to build the rectory along Hawley Road as previously proposed, we would have to dig up a portion of the school's septic fields. Since we did not want to take any chances or cause future problems, we chose an alternate location. The church owns property behind the school. There is a perfect site behind the school next to the convent on Tamanny Trail. The site is to 1 acre of land. Of course it is subject to a soil test by the City of Danbury. Mike Mazzucco showed everyone a proposed drawing of the new site.
- ✓ Father Arrando wants to break ground right after Christmas as our time limit for the start of the project is nearing the two-year limit.
- ✓ Paul fielded questions from the Building Committee.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Arrando

- ✓ Bishop Lori was very impressed with our Confirmants. He is also impressed with our Confirmation Program and wants to discuss it further with Father.
- ✓ Father has been sick, and just now getting better.
- ✓ ARC will hold its annual meeting at St. James on November 11 at 3pm.
- ✓ The Thanksgiving Interfaith Service will also be at St. James on November 24 at 2pm.
- ✓ The United Jewish Center has invited the Council and all security volunteers to a wine and cheese party to show their appreciation for our help during their high holy days. This gathering will be at the UJC on December 8 at 2pm. There will be an Interfaith Prayer Service at St. Gregory's on December 1 at 6pm with refreshments.

Committee Reports:

Christian Services Committee:

Janice Rudisill

- ✓ The Christmas Giving Tree is ready to go. Bells were made for the ornaments this year.
- ✓ This year's family lists are being made.
- ✓ Sorting of the gifts will be on December 16. Since this is the date of our next meeting, the Council will be present to help.
- ✓ The Christmas Bazaar is full!. Our goal of fifty vendors was met. We will be serving light food items this year.

Administrative Services:**Paul Valeri**

- ✓ Paul showed the Council both bids received for the new rectory. The Council needs to vote on a bid in order to proceed to contract.
- ✓ Paul entered a motion to relocate the rectory from Hawley Road to Tamanny Trail. This change is because the original proposal for the rectory would have intruded on a Yankee Gas line and the school septic system. There was unanimous approval for this.
- ✓ Paul then presented two bids for our consideration. Westchester Modular with a bid of \$620,000.00 and D & M Construction Services with a bid of \$635,000.00. Paul entered a motion to choose a builder. Westchester Modular was approved as the low bidder (not to exceed \$620,000.00) of the two bids vying for contract.
- ✓ Paul will advise the Council when he has the contract.

Christian Education and Formation:**Pat Murphy**

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

Parish and Community Life:**Donna Strosser**

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

Spiritual Life and Worship:**Rocco Colucci**

- ✓ Rocco not present due to an illness, and no report was received.

New Business:

- ✓ Janice brought up the idea of having a Spaghetti Dinner. There would be no charge to those who attend. The Council would cook and serve the dinner. This would allow our parishioners to see the Council and talk to us in person.
- ✓ Another suggestion was for a Silent Auction to raise money for the Parish.
- ✓ Possibility of wine and cheese instead of a spaghetti dinner.
- ✓ Time frame for this will be February or March of 2003.

Our next meeting full council meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2002 @ 7:00pm before the Gift Giving Tree.

Closing Prayer: Father Arrando

Respectfully submitted: Steve Crespo