

Minutes
St. Gregory the Great Parish
Meeting Nov 15, 2004
Full Council

Present: Father Angelo, Mary McCormack, Paul Valeri, Ross Rizzo, Ed Smythe, Donna Strosser and Janice Rudisill

Absent: Carol DelliCarpini

Special Guests: Rich McDermott, Parish Bookkeeper
Tony Lucera, Parish Trustee

Additional Guests: Members of the Finance Advisory Board including: Mary Palladino

Opening Prayer: E. Smythe

- **Opening comments were made by Fr. Arrando**
 - The parish in general is doing well, the mortgage is coming down.
 - The parish recently passed a stringent audit with minor findings that will be corrected easily. These included consolidating all checking accounts into one.
 - The Interfaith Service is Monday the 22nd at the 1st Congregational Church. Father would like as many of the council to attend as possible.
 - This Sunday at the family Mass new parishioners will be greeted. Council members should attend.
 - At this point Father had to leave to teach a class.

- **Parish and Community Life: Donna Strosser**
 - Participation in new parishioner welcoming at the noon Mass is poor and ideas to improve were addressed:
 - Consider a different Mass, as by noon most people with kids are on their way for the rest of the day. Saturday at 4:30 was suggested and it will be tried.
 - Schedule the event for a Mass the new parishioner can attend, even if that means doing this at multiple Masses.
 - Follow up with those that missed and reschedule for the following month.

- Use Parish registration as an opportunity to see if the new parishioner is interested in activities and sign them up immediately so as to take advantage of the excitement of the moment.
- Offer gifts such as ethnically specific house warming items.
- Offer House blessings.
- Add the above to the registration form.
- An electrical outlet on the outside of the church near the main entrance was requested as this can be used for the coffee pots used for this event. Ross agreed to take care of that.

- Gregorian:
 - Topical inputs are needed for the Jan edition.
 - The Council decided to set a theme of community involvement for this edition, such as Dorothy Day house, Aide Ministry.
 - Articles should be about four paragraphs long.

- Scheduling of facilities for activities:
 - There has been a problem with conflicts between groups attempting to use school/church facilities for various activities. It was decided to publish the calendar to coaches, activity leaders etc. and enforce the rule that the facility must be booked on the calendar in order to have a right to use it at a particular time. It was suggested that Father and Sister be approached to help in the enforcement of this.

- Lectionary is doing well; some of the grads are now serving on the altar.

- **Financial Overview**
 - Rich McDermott provided the parish P&L statement (unaudited) for the fiscal years ending in Jun 2003 and Jun 2004.
 - This showed the decline in the offertory collection and resulting deficit performance. This also implied a decline in active membership.
 - Questions regarding where does the deficit come from led to a request for a cash flow statement.
 - This engendered a discussion on how to attract more to the offertory as well as how to reach out to those who have become inactive.
 - An appeal to the parish was discussed. It was proposed that a flier be sent to all known members to inquire as to interests, likes and dislikes and reasons for not participating if they are not. The results of this can be used to develop a strategy for increasing membership and revenue.

- It was agreed that these issues be tabled to a separate meeting of the finance board which is to be held on Dec 20 at 7PM at a place to be advised (Donna agreed to so advise).

Replacement for Rocco Colucci.

- Mary will contact Rocco for a recommendation for a candidate.

Reports for next meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for Jan 24 at 7PM. Reports must be to the Secretary by Jan 7th so that they can be discussed at the executive council on the 10th. Reports can be in outline form.

Next prayers: Opening prayer by Donna Strosser, closing by Janice Rudisill.