

MINUTES
ST. GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH
PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING OF March 19, 2007

Council Members Present: Janice Rudisill, Suzanne Wilcox, Stephanie Martin, Peter Buzaid, Andrew Miller, Karen Conover, Fr. Arrando

Absent: Ed Smythe, Peggy Forster

The first item was from the finance board- more security is needed for the collection, possibly to send money in rather than collect manually. The current envelope system costs \$1234.00 monthly. Peter will call Mark Paladino to get information on how a different parish handles their collection. (They get it up front or mailed monthly.)

Fr. Ray's anniversary celebration is at the June 10 12PM Mass.
Peter will call Deacons Bill Murphy, Bob Blankshen and Paul Pilkington to ask them and their wives to do a reception for him after Mass. Janice & Stephanie said they would help if the wives needed it.

Bishops Appeal in pew is this week end. Council is covering Masses.
Stephanie 4:30 - Andy 7:30- 7:45 Peter- 9:00 Suzanne- 12:00 Karen

We spoke on extending our terms. Father was all for it. Suzanne made a motion that reads, "A Stay of the running of the terms for one year". Andy seconded the motion and all agreed. The council as currently constituted will continue for another year.

Movie night will be April 22, 2007. Family and kids in the gym, free, come and have a good time. Peter will just check on copy rights to make sure we can show the film without any problem. Father said we use the term "FAMILY" make it just for us.

Janice asked the council to keep thinking of themes for the carnival. To make it more interesting when we settle on themes Father will talk from the altar asking for volunteers to help.

Crop Walk- Stephanie will get sign ups at church and get it going. Walk for food. More details will follow by bulletin.

Andy said he sent 189 e-mails for our 1st news letter. 74% opened it. 41% used it to click to other links. Andy is doing a flyer to add to bulletin to get more e-mails, Janice said Faith Formation will be over quickly if we are to reach these families we must go ASAP.

Suzanne is working on a women's retreat with Sister Jane.
We are launching Basket 6 for Hope for the homeless, we did 5 already.

Father spoke about immigration and the ongoing concern. Father stated he spoke with the superintendent of Danbury schools and said immigrants are becoming afraid to sign their children up for reduced or free lunch Churches are supposed to help people regardless of their papers.

New Business:

Janice spoke about an e-mail from Robin in the choir. Stated the church looked cold and uninviting. Perhaps we can warm up the entrance ways. Put banners up. We will discuss more at our next meeting. Janice then brought up how the Welcome Mass for new comers needs to be worked better. Father has the invites done by parish Secretary Mary Lou. No one knows what's going on or who is there, Janice would like to see it done right with refreshments and the council. We will talk about it at the next meeting.

No minutes were approved; this will be attended to at the next meeting.

Attached is Andy's report on the email statistics and the spiritual life and worship report.

Meeting ended at 8:30PM

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Ministry Report: Spiritual Life and Worship
January 22, 2007

Purpose: to aid in the planning and providing for the spiritual development of each member of the parish through liturgical celebrations, significant experiences, and spiritual growth programs.

❖ Ongoing activities:

Mass and Liturgy: gratitude to priests. Lectors and Eucharistic ministers – always looking for volunteers. Recruitment twice a year. Status: 62 Eucharistic ministers, 30 lectors. Altar Servers – recruit twice a year. Fall and Late spring. Grade 3 and up. 50-60 children. Evenly split boys and girls. Dean Bill trains. Altar Care: volunteers. Ruth Lucera. Dry cleaning of vestments: Ship Shape
Pre-Cana: taken over by the Diocese
Pre-Baptism: Rosemary and Dennis. Two sessions for prospective parents, one before baby is born. Three couples with children of their own (Petrosky, Durkin, Petrelli) meet with prospective parents. Couple meets with priest and/or deacon as well. Baptismal garment and candle are gifts to the parents.

❖ Retreats, Prayer Groups and Special Activities

Seasonal special activities: Communal Reconciliation service on eve of Ash Wednesday
God at Work? Prayer Group – 8 people, meets once a month: group spiritual direction
Richard Rohr Retreat at Passionist Retreat House April 20-22 – “Inner Peace, Outer Peacemaking.”
Lenten Retreat in parish –to be given by a Redemptorist, priest the week before Holy Week.

❖ Issues

1. Liturgy Committee: Suzanne with Philip Cioppa and his wife Janey.
2. Prayer service and update for Eucharistic ministers and lectors Sat. AM in Lent
3. Deacon Dan's illness - pray
4. Preaching schedule – each priest to preach at his own Mass to replace Dan
5. Organist and choir issues

What you see, hear, feel, touch, or think about is only one half of reality, so to speak. It is form. In the teaching of Jesus, it is simply called “the world,” and the other dimension is “the kingdom of heaven or eternal life.” From The New Earth by Eckhart Tolle

Suzanne Dale Wilcox