

MINUTES
ST. GREGORY THE GREAT PARISH
PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING OF May 21, 2007

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

Pastor's Report

Father reported on several items:

A Diocesan audit of the Parish financials is underway. Father reported that although the audit team is quite thorough and demanding it is going well.

Bishop's appeal is at 74%

The newly repaired roof on the church held out well in the recent rain.

The school roof needs some repair, thankfully it is minor and a contractor has been engaged.

Fr Ray's 25th anniversary is Jun 10th.

Reports from the ministries

Reports from the Administrative services, Faith Formation and Spiritual Life ministries are attached.

Spaghetti Dinner

The fall will see a reprisal of our successful Council Spaghetti Dinner, this time however it will be the Council Italian Dinner as we will switch to a casserole pasta like lasagna which will be easier to serve.

It was agreed that wine will be served again despite the report of some comments.

Family Mass

We all felt that the calling of names of new parishioners that do not show up is embarrassing so it was suggested that we do this quarterly from now on.

Stephanie volunteered to follow up on new parishioners by phone and report back to the council next meeting.

Use of the facilities

Janice provided a list of rules for use of the school building, it is attached. Karen will review with Sister and report back.

Maintenance and clean up day for the church grounds

Andy will make up a list and take care of it.

Pot Holes, Fr reported they will be fixed by the time of the Carnival

Lighting of the parking lot

It was deemed insufficient and possibly dangerous. Pete will call Phil S of F&M to get a recommendation and estimate.

Next Meeting

We will be off for the summer but:

Next Full council is Sep 17th (with an exec council meeting on Sep 10th)

AND the exec council will meet on Jun 4th to review the actions mentioned in these minutes.

FAITH FORMATION REPORT

May 21, 2007

First Communion news - 46 children received First Eucharist on either May 13th or May 19th.

Confirmation candidate news - 36 students are enrolled and progressing through the packet process

Faith Formation Classes news - Classes have ended for this year. Registration packets have been mailed to all families currently registered. Registration letters are being prepared for mailing to new families of 5 & 6 year old children.

Wednesday morning Bible Study news - About 12 women are participating. The topic is "Israel's Story" - Hebrew Scripture highlights.

Vacation Bible School news - As of today, 24 students have registered with capability of 50.

CROSSROADS news - last event for this year is June 24th. The topic is Sacramentals and a summary of this year's journey on the Sacraments. Next year we will study The Creed.

RCIA - has ended for this year. One person received Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. One person received Eucharist and Confirmation (and one youth chose to receive Confirmation so his sponsor/sister could be present) at Easter Vigil.

Celebrate the Lectionary - Katie Sniffin is moving on. CTL next year will be coordinated by Mary Tracy and Donna Strosser. Katie was presented with gifts at the last CTL session on May 6th.

Baccalaureate Mass for all high school and college graduates is on Sunday, June 3rd at Noon.

Youth Group Sponsored Concert on May 15th had approximately 25 people in attendance.

Women's Retreat was held on May 10th in the church. Sr. Jane made all arrangements. Sr. Jane's fellow Ursuline Sister Margaret led the group in prayer, meditation, soul searching and fellowship. About 10 women participated and all agreed it would be great to have more.

Concerns: Need to reach out to adult workers by providing activities/programs for strengthening and/or finding their faith at times they are more likely to participate; evenings and possibly some weekend things. I would really like to start an evening Bible Study for adults. The Women's Retreat was part of what I would like to see more of but at a time that working people could attend. We are missing a whole appendage of the Lord's body by not focusing on this group. I hope to think of a few other things along this line.

Administrative Services

May 21st, 2007

- **Finance Committee**

- Last meeting: March 5th
- Next meeting: June 5th (*may need to reschedule to week of 6/11*)
- Topics discussed:
 - Positive net income (*even when excluding extraordinary bequest*)
 - Offertory collections / counting process
 - Need 18 volunteers (5 teams of 3, plus 3 backups)
 - Target date: July 1st
 - Alternative weekly offertory process
 - ‘Pledge / commitment’ – style offertory
 - Need to continue to gather feedback from parishioners
- Parish audit begins this week

- **Email Newsletter**

- Two emails gone out (*March & May*)
 - No issues reported, approx 75% opened
 - Details attached
- Need to keep building email list to cover greater share of parish
 - Added 15 contacts since original campaign (8% more)
 - Other ideas for capturing more emails? *Permissively!!*

Spiritual Life Committee
May 21, 2007

1. Liturgy Committee Formation
 - Called to Participate
 - Parish-wide invitation
 - What are the issues?
 - Survey: Key issues that are of concern to parishioners – what does the Council think
 - Fall start-up
 - Summer recruitment

2. Women's Retreat Day
 - Sister Jane and I planned the retreat, sent out notices to several groups and parishes.
 - We invited two religious women to give the retreat. Sister Margaret O'Brien of the Ursuline Order was able to do it. Subject: Being your Best Self in the Presence of God.
 - 10 women
 - 8:45-1:30
 - Plans for future women's events

3. God at Work? Prayer Group
 - Once a month, seven people
 - Group spiritual direction
 - An opportunity to talk about where God is leading individuals

4. Additional small group work in the parish
 - Interest groups: pre-retirement, retirement
 - Circles of trust: joining soul and role
 - Parker Palmer: A Hidden Wholeness

5. Spiritual Guide for individual parishioners

6. A proposal: a day of retreat for the Parish Advisory Council
 - Proposed presenters: priest and lay woman from Fairfield CT

Saint Gregory the Great Parish
Use of Parish School Building

You must call Karen Conover to reserve classroom/ and or gym and use of the building.

You will need to call the parish office to make arrangements for the key to be left for you. If using classrooms make sure to also get the classroom keys.

All lights must be turned off when you leave the building. Check the bathrooms also.

All windows must be closed and locked.

Ceiling fans must be turned off.

Make sure all lights in classrooms and hallways are shut off.

*Gym floor must be swept clean if necessary.

Please wipe the tables down before you put them away.

All garbage must be removed from the building and put in the dumpster out back.

Do not leave garbage on the ground; if the dumpster is full, leave garbage in the kitchen tied and sealed.

KITCHEN USE

All dishes must be washed dried and PUT AWAY. No dishes are to be left on the counter or dish drain.

If you use the stove, it must be wiped down after use.

The grease can must be removed after each use and the cart must be wiped down.

All food left in the refrigerator must be removed, unless it will be used within the next 3 weeks.

All food in the freezer must be sealed and marked with the organization's name and date on it.

**Brooms, dust mops, garbage bags can be found in the janitor closet across from the girl's room. Cleaning supplies will be found under the sink.*