

Saint Gregory the Great

Danbury Ct

Parish Council Minutes September 28, 2009

Present; Fr.Arrando; Janice Rudisill; Stephanie Martin; E. Smythe; Peggy Forster; Suzanne Wilcox; Peter Buzaid, Drew Miller, Karen Conover;

Absent: None

Opening prayer was offered by Drew

The first agenda item was the preparations for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

Rene Hellmann presented the status of the preparations for the **Church Directory**.

She has made arrangements with Olin Mills who will publish the directory at no cost to the parish, relying instead on collateral sales of the photos taken of each family. Each family will get a free book and an 8X10 copy of their photo. There will be a directory of names and opportunities for advertising pages.

We will need about 250 families to break even.

Dates for the photo taking are Nov 19, 20, 21; Dec 4, 5; Jan 5, 6. Saturday hours will be 10-5 and weekdays 3-9.

Signup sheets in the church will be Oct 24/5, Oct 31/Nov1, Nov 7/8. This is where volunteers are needed to man the signup sheets.

There will be a mailing to the parish with suggested dates for each family.

A **meeting of the committee heads** was suggested for Oct 26th to coordinate all the activities. Peter will call them and will also email Ed the email addresses for a follow up email.

Refurbishment and Monument

Refurbishment is under way, the painting has been done and the stucco is to be treated. So far the weatherproofing is holding.

A committee will be formed of experienced people to recommend interior changes.

The monument will cost \$25-50K and will be made of polycarbonate and might be lighted. The bronze plaque that goes on it will be brought to Italy with the pilgrimage for a Papal blessing.

Fundraising for the refurbishment is not yet formalized but will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Dinner Dance: Will be at the Amber Room Oct 15, 2010. We currently have a reservation for the larger room which holds 280 people. Cost will be \$50 per person with a cash bar. Father pointed out there will be 35-40 unpaid guests so the selling price will probably be closer to \$100 per person. Reserving the smaller room in addition was discussed as there are about 600 families active in the parish.

Other Agenda Items:

Bishop's Appeal

Was successfully completed with a slight overage. Father pointed out that this was the most difficult year to satisfy the assessment and that he has spent *35-40 hours per week* since February to achieve this result.

New Priests

We have been assigned a new priest whose name is not yet available for publication. He should be here in October.

Confirmation

Archbishop Cronin will preside at Confirmation Oct 3 at 730. There will be a reception for the Archbishop afterwards.

Security

Father read a letter from the Medeco lock company advising us that the number and control of keys to the buildings is critical to our insurance coverage and costs. We do comply with limiting the number of keys and who gets them.

St Augustine Medal

Drew Miller was picked by Father for his dedication and service to the parish this year.

Festival/Carnival/Picnic

The festival earned the parish about \$800 but required very little work. The Carnival required the usual very large amount of work but only produced about \$19K in receipts. The picnic was viewed as very successful and netted about \$500. Moving the Carnival to October was discussed as the July time slot has too much competition.

Ministry reports

Faith Formation

Peggy reported that costs for the CCD are \$150 per child and \$100 per sacrament but that there are family limits and anyone who cannot pay gets a waiver from Father. The numbers of participants are down.

Spiritual Life

"God at Work in Our Lives," continues to meet.

Finance

Drew reported on the annual statement that had been recently published in the bulletin. This follows the Diocesan mandated format but has been simplified to make it easier for the parish to understand. The offertory is up thanks to the stewardship campaign and despite the economic malaise, expenses have been well controlled but nevertheless we had a net loss.

Social Concerns

The area food bank needs are greater. It was suggested that a list of foods be published so that parishioners can bring them to Mass with them.

Minutes of May 18, 2009 meeting were approved Stephanie made the motion, Ed seconded and all approved.

The meetings of the full council for next year will be set at the next meeting which is November 16.