

Sts Peter and Paul Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2011 call to order: 6:15 PM

present: Fr. John Thomas, Dawn Ligibel, Bart Casey, Rocky Spader, Libby Downs, Padre Carmelo, Chris Thomas, Joe Schippers, Pat Covington, Fr. Ewem, Sarah Kranz, Shannon Trogden; Finance Committee members present include: Tom Buehrle, Ed Shemwell, John DeAngelis, Jose Quinones, Matthew Baker, Sue Dade and Rosemary Wiggins.

absent: Diana Burch

Fr. John led the prayer. Formation: Libby D - "How I am preparing my Parish for the New Missal". Most of the changes will be in what the pastors say at Mass. Changes will take effect in November. The English translation only will change. Much more universal.

Dawn welcomed the Finance committee to the meeting. Thankful to God to have Pat Covington back and good to see him healthy. November minutes approved and to be included on the website.

Action Items From November: *Welcome committee update* (Diana Burch absent tonight) report next meeting - high priority. *Bart update on \$5 challenge* - although there was a launch perhaps feels a reassertion is needed. Suggested to add to email when the bulletin goes out. Tom Buehrle indicates it is hard to track how many have already answered the challenge as there are many who have increased their giving even though they didn't indicate it was in answer to the challenge. Discussion of adding the red envelope added to the envelope packets. Although in past meetings, the council thought it was not necessary to add the envelope. Rocky asks it be added. Bart asks if we can consider reevaluating a way to track parishioners who use the envelopes and those who don't. Tom explains the envelopes and the numbering system and how they use the system to also mail other church items. Discussion of having a table after Mass to give parishioners the opportunity to sign up for the \$5 challenge this weekend and then next weekend. Joe and Sarah agree to take Saturday nights; Rocky and Bart will take Sunday 8AM Mass; Pat and Bart will take 10:30AM. Fr. John will go ahead and initiate the red envelope as soon as possible. Tom Buehrle will check the envelopes tracking to see who is using them to see if it would be less cost to the church to cut those out. Bart indicates *the Email service* at a cost is not necessarily the way to go if the facebook page is not currently aiding in updates and participation. Libby will contact someone to maintain the Church facebook page. Bart wonders openly about adding more pictures of "caught doing good". Chris expresses concern that there may not be a large number of people even using facebook. *Music Director update*- Fr. John has posted the position. He has received a few responses. In communication with 2 and does have a phone interview tomorrow for one. Volunteer options had been discussed before. Some discussion ensued.

New Business: Mission report - attendance was around 200 each night. Fr. John Thomas expresses his thoughts and that Fr. Tony's message and life he brought with him was welcome and refreshing. Many responses were that many people wanted to have a Mission more often. Our collection was \$3,100 for Fr. Tony. His travel was the only expense and it was around \$400.

Scripture Study update: currently expecting 120-130 parishioners. Sign-ups took place last weekend and will wrap-up at this weekend's Mass. Everyone present is also encouraged to sign up and show our own level of commitment to our own spirituality. Feb 7th starts the 1st of the 7 week bible study. The school children will also be participating at the school for the 7 weeks. Predominantly this will be small sessions in homes, but there are a few small groups scheduled here at SSPP. Ideal: join the study, study for 20 minutes a day, join the discussion - however, there will be "life" situations to interrupt the best laid plans; encouragement to participate in as much as you can and don't beat yourself up for what you can't do. Although previously discussed to have large groups meet, this was changed to meet the needs of the church.

Finance Committee - Tom Buehrle shared the finance committee's review of income versus expenses, ended the year over \$106,000 in debt, though did receive a large donation from parishioners which aided in the recovery. Chris questions the donations which are given and are not accounted for, such as time and materials. The monthly expense deficit is around \$7000. Budget is formed around what you know you have. The ones who step up and take care of the unexpected items are then used and cannot be used for regular items. Finance committee has previously recommended there be cuts made. Rocky asks about the blanket payments for utilities. Tom explains the allocation of expenses to PSR, education, etc., to send to the diocese for deductions on our diocesan assessment. Bart asks the Finance committee what is their recommendation for cuts. Dawn indicates it's not the finance committee's job to make a decision, but to advise the pastor. Fr. John is ultimately the one who makes the decisions. John DeAngelis reaffirms the tightening of the budget over the past year and these cuts have helped, but there is still a deficit. Dawn reiterates that a true Stewardship push needs to transpire to aide in this process. As we get the parishioners to express their time and talent in the true spirit of stewardship, then the gifts will supply the need. Dawn shares after reading the document on Stewardship from the USCCB, it is blatantly obvious how lacking we are in our true Stewardship. Establishing a mindset in the parish of Stewardship - not an option; when we focus on what God wants us to do we should live it. The question is not do I have to give, but what can I give! Starting with the Mission, leading into bible study groups, growing the faith of the parish will lead them into Godly stewardship. Finance and Parish Council have to be in agreement that Fr. John will need to make decisions and make cuts. Finance Committee shared a few options they advised Fr. John Thomas to consider: Cut 7-8 grades, cut Parish Staff, cut Subsidizing payments to the school. Rocky asks if the Diocese can help. There would be no diocesan intervention for the school. John DeAngelis also reminded that the Finance committee also gave an option to initiate an across the board pay cut for everyone. School side is regulated by the diocese on salary. That would leave the only cuts to be at the Parish. Bart asks if the middle school cuts were made would there be any way to incorporate the 5th grade into the school. Sarah states as it is apparent that a large portion of parishioners with school aged children don't send their children to the school, then this is the issue. Bart questions about adding a 2-3 year old program and would it aide to feeding more of our parishioners' children to attend the school. Sarah volunteers to look into the 2-3 year old possibilities (regulations). We are all in agreement there is a need to cut, and grow stewardship. Fr. John Thomas will take the matter into prayer.

Parish Council Election process - guidelines from the Diocese state the number of female and male should be equal. Dawn recommends this coming process we have two "hats" to draw the lots out of. Joe recommends that every nominated person should be put into the drawing process. Dawn also recommends educating those who are nominated before they accept nomination. Fr. John suggested a workshop and welcome anyone interested in being on the PPC should be required to attend. Rocky, being vice chair, is initiating the election process for this year. Rocky will be ready next month to present a refined version of this year's election.

Liaison communication - Worship Comm. - planning for Lent, discussion of the Eucharistic Miracles presentation in the gym. School - update on the kitchen, State will come in next Thursday and first meals will be Feb 7. Thanks to Fred and Wendy Anderson for their donation to the school of \$22,000 to purchase new computers for the school. Rocky voiced concern over the kitchen use and need guidelines set up for those who use it. Sarah states she and Yvette Holmes will get that done. Spanish Little Rock study is slated to start toward the end of February.

Review Action Items: Dawn - Dianna Burch follow up regarding welcome committee. This weekend and next weekend a table set up in Narthex for \$5 challenge - the Father's will announce at the Masses. Red envelopes will be added. Libby will touch base with those asked to work with the facebook page. Sarah will look into a 2-3 year old program here at the school. Rocky will present at the next meeting changes to the process for the upcoming election. Fr. John will make decisions on expenses and Stewardship direction.

1998 Ford Van for sale \$2500

What are we communicating to the parish and how? recommendation to get the facebook page up to date.

Pastors comments - exhort to prayer and thanks for all those in attendance. Keep the family of Kaye Kane in your prayers. Marian Ziegler RIP.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Trogden