

St Nicholas Parish Council Meeting Minutes June 27, 2011

Staff Members Present:

Father William Hitpas
Barb Furdek, Director of Religious Education
Ed Koszykowski, Parish Ministries Coordinator

Discerned Members Present:

Lynda Fahrner, Sherri Galante, Bob Hoff, John Lavedure, Carole McKinstry, Jill Pietrusinski, Karyl Reckamp and Mary Ann Williams

Others Present: Trustee Carol Mauchline.

Opening: At 7:30 pm Father Bill opened the Council meeting with prayer. The May 23, 2011 minutes were revised and approved.

Parish Picnic: The Parish Picnic date was confirmed as Aug 27, 2011 following the Saturday Mass. Father Bill shared information from Joanne Smallhear who will organize the Picnic. Joanne recommended the same menu and bingo games as last year and that we request the assistance of the Youth Group again. She also recommended asking the Council members and their spouses to do the grilling and serving food just like last year.

Parish Newsletter. Liz Quirin, editor of Parish Newsletter recently resigned her position. Council thought it would be helpful if she could attend the next meeting to discuss a successor and any problems that need to be addressed. Council also discussed various options such as mail, online, placement in bulletin, reduced length, including other organizations to broaden information provided, possible quarterly schedule, and including news such as Baptisms, Weddings, etc. Cost savings discussed; current cost to print and mail about \$5,000.

Parish Council Structure: Father Bill provided Diocese of Belleville Pastoral Councils dated October 2009 and requested Council review them prior to our next meeting. It suggests Council could be led by Pastor assisted by a chairperson and secretary. Father Bill would like the Council to review all groups and committees. Father Bill suggests Future Parish Council meetings (every other month) could be dedicated to the question "What are we doing in a significant area?" (i.e. liturgy, prayer, retreats). Council discussed less formality, more conversation among equals, and improvements in socialization with other committees.

St. Clare School Expansion: Ann Daniels is attending the meeting on St. Clare School Expansion Project tonight.

Theology on Tap: The first meeting is scheduled for Jul 10, 2011 in the Good Shepherd Center. Invitations with a letter from Fr. Bill were sent to ninety, 21-30 year olds.

Parish Lottery: This year's focus is Pre-School playground equipment.

Religious Education: Father Bill, Barb Furdek, and Mary Ann Campenegro are addressing how we pass faith on to the next generation. The Aug 20-21st homily will discuss the baptismal rite and responsibility of parents to pass on the faith to their children. Father will relate the value of Catholic School and if not Catholic School what parents should consider is their responsibility in choosing either Catechesis of the Good Shepherd or Parish School of Religion. Barb Furdek affirmed information would be in newsletter and bulletin before and again after the homily.

Closing: Father Bill closed the meeting at 9:00 PM with the closing prayer. The next scheduled meeting for the Parish Council is July 25th at 7:30 pm.