

Parish Council Meeting January 21, 2009

Members Present: Joe Wueth, Beth Ann Henry, Karen Jordan, Stewart Toney, Chuck Hess, Cheryl Walther, Rosemary Roberts. (Father Ripperger was in Florida. Lynnette Barr attended.)

Representatives Present: Building & Grounds – Walter West; Faith Formation – Sister Barbara; Youth – Leigh Ann Campbell; Finance – Barry Geswein.

Meeting opened at 7:00 with a prayer.

Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented.

Report from the Music Ministry

None.

Report from Faith Formation

Sister reported that they are working on choosing materials for Lenten faith sharing groups. Last year, three groups met on a regular basis throughout Lent. She has ordered daily reflection booklets for Lent, and will make them available for parishioners who want them.

Faith Formation is starting a series of sessions for the high school age youth based on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Sessions will also be held for the parents of the students attending the sessions. Twelve videos are available. They will do what they can this year (hopefully four sessions can be held), and sessions will be offered on an on-going basis in the future. Sister is informing the parents of the program through a letter explaining the positive aspects of the series.

Faith Formation is discussing developing activities for the youth in grades 4-6.

Report from Finance

No report, because the Committee had not met yet this month.

Report from Building & Grounds

Damage from the September storm has been repaired. The Committee is still trying to decide what to do about the tin roof on the barn.

The new windows in the school are doing a good job of keeping the temperature in the school steady.

A new van was purchased. It is a 2004, 12 passenger van, with 31,800 miles. It is in very good condition. The purchase price was \$6,500. The Committee is looking into getting running boards, so it will be easier to get into and out of the van.

The Council discussed whether new blinds are needed for the school building. A consensus was reached that uniform blinds throughout the school would enhance the look of the building and provide needed privacy for evening events.

The sound system enhancements in the church building have been completed. The adjustments and additions have made a noticeable improvement.

Work will be done on the cemetery fence in the spring.

The Committee will try to bring to the next meeting more definitive information about the garden improvements being planned for the areas at the sides of the front of the church building.

Report from Youth

Leigh Ann reported that youth involvement has been strong, and that parents are stepping up to help. Fourteen youth have signed-up for the upcoming Mission Trip for high school age youth. The trip to Logan, West Virginia, is scheduled for June 20-26. The cost is \$248 per child for the week. (That amount does not include the costs for gas, for a white water rafting event, or for food during the travel time.)

The Council returned to the issue of a dedicated space for the youth on the parish grounds. Leigh Ann noted that approximately 60 students participate in youth programming throughout the year: approximately 20 high school age, and 40 junior high school age. Three options were discussed: the old garage by the parish office, a classroom in the school building, and the basement of the rectory. For a variety of reasons, the consensus was that the basement of the rectory would be the preferable location. No plans were made or discussed for any immediate use that space for this purpose.

New Business

Barry presented the results and recommendations of an Internal Control Assessment performed by independent accountants. The purpose of the assessment primarily was to evaluate the parish's accounting controls and financial reporting processes. The accountants made several recommendations to the parish, and Barry reported the changes that the parish would be making. The changes include: having more than one authorized check signer, using a second team to count and record weekly collections, providing a detailed income and expense report for any fundraising event, sending a record of contributions to all parishioners, even those who have not made a contribution.

The Council also discussed the issue of making the parish office more secure. A motion was made and passed to authorize Walter to secure the office.

Sister Barbara briefly introduced the idea of having a parish "hospitality committee," to host receptions, etc., and regular, periodic events to help welcome new parish members.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Next Meeting February 18, 2009.**