

## **Parish Council Meeting April 15, 2009**

**Members Present:** Father Ripperger, Joe Wuerth, Larry Schmelz, Eric Schockling, Karen Jordan, Stewart Toney, Chuck Hess, Cheryl Walther.

**Representatives Present:** Building & Grounds – Walter West; Youth – Leigh Ann Campbell; Finance – Barry Geswein.

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer.

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

### **Report from the Music Ministry**

None.

### **Report from Faith Formation**

The newly formed Faith Formation Commission met in April. They had a training session and reviewed the By-Laws. The Commission likely will form executive and finance committees, and youth and adult faith formation subcommittees. Elections will be held soon.

### **Report from Finance**

A budget report was presented. Year to date collections are still running under the amount projected, but March collections showed some improvement. The Committee has started the process of formulating the budget for the next fiscal year. They are seeking input from all parish organizations about funding needs.

The Committee has now identified five volunteers to serve as counters for weekly collections. They hope to have two teams that can alternate weekends.

### **Report from Building & Grounds**

The Committee reported that 1) the new blinds have been installed in the school building; 2) replacement chalk boards have been ordered; 3) the landscaping on the NE side of the church entrance was completed, and plans are being made for the other side as well; 4) equipment is ready for the upcoming mowing season; and 5) the cabinet for one of the defibrillators has been completed. It was also explained that the old chain-link fencing was pulled up during the last cemetery workday. The Committee decided that it was not worth it to repair the fencing and they are looking for a way to get rid of the material. The council suggested putting notices in the bulletin to see who in the parish might be interested. An additional workday in the cemetery likely will be planned during the summer months.

Walter informed the council that the Committee had identified someone to replace him in providing maintenance and mowing services for the parish. Walter will continue to be available during the summer and fall for training. Walter will also continue to be the Committee representative at parish council meetings.

### **Report from Youth**

Vacation Bible School is being planned for June 15-19. They hope to set-up a campsite and signs to

generate interest. Leigh Ann hopes to incorporate a service component – perhaps planting flowers or painting picnic benches.

Leigh Ann will be getting training so that Theology of the Body educational materials can be incorporated into the teen programs. She has also been contacted about activities for grades 3-5.

The youth went to a service day at Mount St. Francis. They will be having a bake sale for funds to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference. The chili supper for Michael Sizemore was a success.

### **Old Business**

Defibrillator training: Eric reported that he not been successful in finding someone in the parish with CPR training who would be willing to present a training session. The American Red Cross can provide a 12 hour course that would cost \$57 - \$68 per person for training. Leigh Ann volunteered to contact a couple of people she knows who may be able to provide training for a lower cost.

Father's retirement reception: it was suggested that the parish plan a simple reception after the Masses. Father stressed that plans should be kept simple.

### **New Business**

The council discussed the desirability of having by-laws for the parish council, which would provide guidance as to responsibilities and required procedures. Barry noted that by-laws likely exist, and recommended that the council try to locate and update them as necessary. Joe agreed to contact past council presidents and parish secretaries.

The council also discussed what kinds of things might be helpful during the upcoming transition of pastors. It was noted that it might be useful to collect information about parish organizations (e.g., what they do and how they operate).

### **Father's Comments**

Father reminded the council that Easter and Pentecost are the two great seasons of the Church. Easter is celebrated through eight days. It is a good time for seeing people in the parish. He noted that the celebrations at St. Mary's Lanesville were very beautiful – and stressed that many people had helped in creating very memorable ceremonies.

Father noted that he remains anxious about retirement, and wants to help make the transition relatively easy. He asks for our continued prayers for vocations. He thanks God for his priesthood and is grateful to this parish.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.**

**Next Meeting May 20, 2009.**