

Saint Jude the Apostle Parish Council Meeting

Minutes from January 19, 2011

(Subject to approval)

Present: Fr. Charlie Conley, Mary Pat Ninneman (chair), Sarah Trotter (vice-chair), Mary Sowinski, Paul Szews, Bill Hilbert, Andy Boettcher (secretary), Larry Burnett, Steve Berg (youth representative), Art Montgomery, Mary Garcia-Valez, Catherine Bryant, John Lauber, Bill Flood, Gary Reusch.

Excused: Mona DeGuzman

Call to order at 7:04 PM by Mary Pat Ninneman. Opening prayer was led by Bill Flood.

Pastor's Report – Fr. Charlie reported that he is very pleased with our new parish pictorial directory. Fr. Charlie thanked the Stewardship Committee, Sue Thelen and Kim Muench for all of their work on the directory. Father Charlie also thanked Jim Fangmann and the Men of St Jude for Casino Night, which was recently held. Father expressed his thanks to everyone who donated their time or prizes for the event. Fr. Charlie commented on how beautiful the liturgies were during the Christmas season and he thanked the Music Ministers for all their hard work on the liturgies.

Chair's Report – Mary Pat Ninneman asked that the council offer their prayers for Mona DeGuzman who missed the meeting due to illness. Council members had an opportunity to sign up to become liaisons for various parish organizations. The nomination process for the 2011 Parish Council elections was discussed. Larry Burnett volunteered to serve on the nomination committee. Mary Pat will assist as well. Mary Pat said that the RCIA and Confirmation classes are going very well.

Finance Committee Report – John Lauber reported that our new book keeper, Melinda, is working out very well. We are currently slightly behind in our collections for the fiscal year, likely due to the difficult economy and the fact that some statements were sent out late. The Finance Committee is working on next year's budget. School enrollment is expected to be strong next year.

Staff Reports

Prayer and Worship – Jim Puer reported, via email, that a few new people were added to our decoration committee. The feedback from the parish over the holidays was very positive. The adult choir is looking for new members as some members have left the choir for personal reasons. The festival choir is strong and has enlisted several new members. The children's choir has sung at several weekend and school liturgies with a positive response from the parish. All of the choirs are beginning to prepare for the Lent and Easter season. Our Schantz pipe organ continues to be a magnet for guest organists. Prayer and Worship is in the midst of a series of ministry sessions, with each session focusing on one of the liturgical ministries. Sessions have been held already for the music ministry, Eucharistic ministry and lector ministry. The other ministries are scheduled for later in the year.

Saint Jude School – Catherine LaDien reported, via email, that preparations are underway for this year's Catholic Schools Week, from January 30 to February 5. The theme will be "A+ for America: Catholic Schools". Many exciting events are planned for the week, including:

- A special thank you to parishioners at the weekend liturgies;
- Red, White and Blue day with a Flag Day ceremony on February 1;
- Our annual "Let Your Light Shine" liturgy and reception on February 2 along with the "Friends and Family" event
- A bowling field trip on February 3; and
- An all school assembly featuring the talented musician Greg Koch on February 4.

Many efforts are ongoing for our recruitment project, including direct mailing to over 6,000 school age households, kindergarten surveys, and an Open House to be held on February 21. The Spring Musical, *Metaphaia*, will be performed on April 8 and 9. Middle school students have been participating in or preparing for a number of academic competitions including the Spelling Bee, Geography Bee and National History Day, and Knights of Columbus contests. Winterfest will be here soon and everyone is excited. Our teachers have donated prizes for the Children's raffle and are also helping at the event. Thanks to our teachers for all of their support!

Religious Education – Gary Heun reported, via email, that the parent meetings have begun for 1st Communion. The

Junior High made over 300 sandwiches, which were delivered last week to the homeless men at the Guest House. The 1st and 2nd graders are preparing for their prayer service, which is scheduled for January 31. The Confirmation program continues to go smoothly. On February 15, the high school students will have their retreat in the Activity Center. On February 2, the high school students will be helping out at the St. Vincent de Paul meal program. Gary will advise, by mail, the parents in the program as to when each grade will be taking part in the Safeguarding Our Children program. We have had 11 families register with the parish since the last meeting.

Liaison Reports

Building and Grounds – Bill Hilbert reported that the Building and Grounds committee has been very busy. The following activities are a partial list of items either recently accomplished or planned for the near future: snow removal, installation of heating cables at the community center, grass cutting and summer grounds maintenance, spring clean-up, repaving and sealing our lots, work on church floor maintenance (volunteers will be needed for pew removal and replacement when work is performed on the church floor), repairs to several church doors, tuck pointing, addition of panic bars to one the school doors, replacement of urinals in the school's 2nd floor restroom, and several security projects around the campus. Bill also reported that the Southeast church door will be locked Mondays through Fridays.

Human Concerns – Mary Sowinski reported that the Human Concerns Committee has been very busy the last three months. The educational presentation “Catholics and Muslims in Dialogue” was well attended and very enlightening. Thanks to Deacon Don for arranging the presenters for the event. The Christmas outreach activities were also very successful. Items were collected for Father Gene’s HELP Center, The Guest House, the Christ Child Society and the Benedict Center. We collected over 70 bags of gifts for the Christ Child Society. Parishioners were encouraged to “Adopt a Family” through the Sojourner Family Peace Center. The Center indicated that at least 10 families were sponsored by St. Jude parishioners. Items were collected for our charities as well. St Jude Parish continues to be very generous to those in need. The January 10 Blood Drive was well attended with 37 units of blood collected. The Outreach Committee is meeting on January 24 to allocate Outreach funds collected in 2010.

Women of St. Jude – Sarah Trotter reported that the Pancake breakfast will be held on March 6. The Women of St. Jude's recently held event was well attended. The Snow Ball will be held on February 12.

Faith Formation – Fr. Charlie led a discussion on the relationships between parish families with children in the religious education program and parish families with children in the school. Father handed out two new articles for discussion: “For You and Who Else?” and “Teaching or Commanding?”

Other Discussions – Catherine Bryant reported that training for the new Eucharistic Ministers went very well. Catherine is investigating updated features available for the scheduling software. An adult computer class offering, to be held in the school's computer lab, is under consideration. The cookie sale for this year's Mission trip was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped and special thanks to Laura Nigh for all her work in organizing the mission trip. Fr. Juvenalis defends his Doctoral dissertation on January 27. Our prayers are with Father as he completes his studies at Marquette University.

Old Business – Mary Pat reported that the Home and School and Stewardship committees still need liaisons.

New Business – None

Closing prayer was led by Bill Flood. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Boettcher, Secretary

Note: If you have an idea or a concern that you would like to the Parish Council to consider, please contact the chair or vice-chair or any member: Steve Berg (youth representative) (793-9356), Andy Boettcher (secretary) (453-2035), Catherine Bryant (727-4077), Larry Burnett, Mona DeGuzman, Bill Flood (665-6301 wk or 208-6284 cell), Bill Hilbert (257-0135), John Lauber (453-3355), Art Montgomery (476-3298), Mary Pat Ninneman (chair) (545-0638 or 303-5153), Terry Rice, Gary Ruesch (453-6468), Mary Sowinski (453-3879), Paul Szews, Sarah Trotter (vice-chair) (475-0712), Mary Garcia-Velez (258-6977).