

St. Catherine of Alexandria

8661 N. 76th Place, Milwaukee, WI 53223

St. Catherine Parish is committed to worshipping God and His Son, Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. We are dedicated to living the Word of God by our Christian example. We shall achieve this through service to our Parish and stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

January 19th, 2010

Present: Debbie Hintz, Parish Director; Mary Konshak, Chairperson; Barbara Holt, Vice-Chairperson; Frank Maier, Secretary; Jack Fox, Trustee; Ed Schwanke, Trustee; Ken Laczniak; John Scholz; Renee Serre; Bob Wazniak; Jerry Wolf

Absent: Ed Schwanke, Trustee; Ellie Okunseri

Opening Prayer

Mary led the opening prayer.

Comments from Parishioners

There were not any parishioners present at this meeting.

Approval of November Minutes

Barb motioned to approve the November minutes and Ken seconded the motion. The November minutes were approved.

Nomination Committee

Barb gave Ken the materials and notes from last year's nomination process and explained the timing of certain milestones during the process. Ellie, Ken, and Bob are on the committee as second-year members.

Developing a Long Range Planning Process

Debbie told the Council that we do not have a long range plan for the parish. With the school decision made, the focus can be on the parish and its long range goals. Debbie attended a seminar on Appreciative Inquiry and believes it can provide a framework for the process of creating and seeing through long range goals. However, the seminar did not provide a lot of details. In general, developing the goals will include listening to parishioners (perhaps through listening sessions), consulting the committees, and talking to the staff. Debbie will have more information for our next meeting, but we did agree that we should pick a few goals to focus on, so we can see success as we reach them.

Parish Director's Report

Community Education Center Update

Debbie had a handout listing the current contacts for the Center. The Committee met last Wednesday, January 13th and Maureen Gallagher was in

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attendance. Debbie discussed highlighted contacts from the handout. The economy has hurt efforts to find users for the building, but other contacts are being made, like charter high schools. Some calls have been received from organizations with elementary schools, but that would be in conflict with our own Northwest Catholic. Barb will look at dates for future computer classes, which have been very well received.

Faith in our Future Status

FIOF has a goal of \$287k and there is \$66.8k in the account. Both values are as of the end of November. The follow up committee (made up of the campaign co-chairs) needs to do some further follow up. Barb asked if FIOF goals (like outreach) can be tied into long range planning goals because we would have the financial resources to support such goals. Debbie responded that the \$20,000 set aside for outreach has not yet been defined and that a long range process could help that. Renee asked if new members are asked about FIOF. Debbie said that there is information in their welcome packet, but no further contact is made.

Christ Have Mercy Retreat

The retreat will happen Thursday night, Friday night, and Saturday morning; March 4th, 5th, and 6th. There also will be Reconciliation on Friday night and a mass on Saturday morning. It will be led and supported by staff and parishioners. Barb mentioned that couples are encouraged to come as couples.

Marketing Campaign

Debbie said that first bid from a marketing firm came in at \$26k, which is too high for our budget. She also mentioned that the Archdiocese has pre-formatted post cards that can be used for mass mailings. One was recently done for NW Catholic promoting the open house in early February. Debbie's further research found an outside company that has more options than the Archdiocese's. This company has reasonable prices and many filters on who would potentially receive the post cards. Our first parish post card mailing will happen a few weeks before Easter. She reminded us that \$7,500 was set aside in FIOF for this marketing.

Holy Hour of Life Prayer Service

The service will be held on Thursday, January 21st at 7:30pm. This is the eve of the anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision.

Church Roof Update

Noffke Roofing was here recently to assess site conditions. They will set up scaffolding on south side of the church only and begin work next week.

Other

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The Parish Life Committee wants to do a pictorial directory. It has been five years since last one.

Barb asked for final version of the statutes for NW Catholic. Debbie will get a copy of the final version.

Mary asked about bulletin item regarding electronic funds transfers. Tri-city Bank charges about \$0.15 per transaction. It is this low due to the fact that the parish does business with them. We are not sure how many people will take advantage of this, but it is available as an option.

Committee Reports

Christian Formation – Jerry Wolf

No committee, no meeting, no report. Nicole has tried to recruit parents of the religious education students, but has not any success yet.

Finance/Administrative Services – John Scholz

The deficit has been reduced by a behest from the estate of Bill Kelm. \$5k of his gift will be put towards a new organ; the rest will go to general operation expenses. Christmas contributions were up \$2k from last year. However, contributions for the first six months of the fiscal year are \$11k lower than the same period last year. The money donated by Eileen Johnson for scholarships has gained \$11k in interest. 75% of the money is to be used for education and scholarships and 25% for parish needs. We may be able to use the money for our subsidy to NW Catholic. This is currently under review by attorney/parishioner Ken Voss. The next meeting is February 9th.

Human Concerns – Ken Laczniak

Ken discussed Lenten alms giving. Four charities have been chosen for this year: St. Vincent DePaul, the St. Gaul meal program, Daystar Woman's Shelter, and Casa Maria. He also discussed the activities of the various sub-committees and ministries, which are all very busy. Of particular note; the Sleeping Bag Ministry will assemble sleeping bags on February 27th and March 20th. The next meeting will be in March.

Parish Life – Renee Serre

Next week's meeting was cancelled, since the only topic was the donut social. There will not be a women's retreat during Lent in order to avoid a conflict with the Christ Have Mercy retreat. A meeting will be scheduled after the Ministry Fair; the exact date and time is to be determined.

Prayer & Worship – Barbara Holt

Barb was asked by the committee to ask the Council to raise 'off-lights' temperature in the Granville Room. Bob suggested turning on lights sooner so the room is warmed up for the activity. Debbie will clarify how the system

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works. The Council stated that the increased heating costs due to a higher low temperature could not be justified. The committee also discussed moving the Christmas concert from before midnight mass. One suggestion is to do the concert before the 10:30am mass on Christmas Day. Attendance at the midnight mass has been low the past two years. They also discussed having more blue reflection books for next year and more black books this year for Lent. The masses and activities for Lent were also discussed. The next meeting is February 2nd.

School Advisory Board – Bob Wazniak

Post cards will be sent out for Catholic School Week. Both campuses will have open house on February 2nd. The Choice audit has been successfully completed. The eight-graders from both schools want one graduation and one year book. Both are signs that the students are treating both campuses as one school. The tuition will remain the same for next school year. An increase could not be justified due the current economic conditions. A development committee has been formed to search for additional third source funding. The next meeting is February 10th at St. Bernadette.

Stewardship – Ellie Okunseri

In Ellie's place, Debbie stated that the committee met last week and discussed the Ministry Fair. Every committee has been asked to attend the February 22nd meeting in order to finalize the details of the fair. Free raffles tickets will be acquired by the attendees when they talk representatives of the various committees. Food will also be placed at various tables to encourage more interaction. Parish Council may also have a table, even though the fair is after this year's nomination process. The Fair is scheduled for April 24th and 25th.

Closing Prayer

Mary led closing prayer.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Frank Maier, Secretary, Parish Council.

Handouts: Community Education Center contacts summary.