

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 1, 2008

Presider: Fr. Ray Goodwin

Council Members present: John Gill, Mary Belmore, Keith Coveney Tom Tellier, Janice Mead, Sue Robertson, Sr. Yvonne, and Jo Dascanio

Ex-Officio members absent Deacon Nick CaraDonna, Robin Rignanese, Robyn Gallagher, and Debra Milkman

Guest: Religious ed. Representative Amy Sugrue & Police Chief Crepeau

Opening Prayer: John Gill

The March minutes were approved

REPORT ON HOME MASSES

Both Janice & Keith reported that the Masses held in their homes were successful, with lots of positive interaction and feedback from the friends and neighbors who were invited.

MINISTRY UPDATES

1. Religious Education, Amy Sugrue reported that the mother/son dance was a great success. R.E. fall registration went well, thanks to the tenacity of Jill Sullivan in making follow-up phone calls to parents. Although still in need of a few catechists and classroom assistants the R.E. program is in good shape. The ministries did discuss an update of the R.E. handbook, and are considering sharing a one-page handout with parents.

2. Stewardship Sue Robertson reported that the suggestion box is now a tithe box and that there will be a form on the box explaining the new status by the 15th of the month. There will also be an explanation of the tithe system in the bulletin, and Fr. Ray will address the issue after all Masses.

3. Finance, Tom Tellier reported that there is no report at this time.

4. Cluster Fr. Ray

On Wed. May 7, at 7 pm in the church hall “ a cluster parish Evening of Stewardship “ will be presented. The stewardship way of life & how it works among the cluster parishes will be explained.

NEW ACTION

1. It was suggested that April/May may be a good time to formulate the major ministries, and those ministries that are in need of assistance and get that info into the bulletin.

2. Fr. Ray noted that we need two additional parking spaces. A serious “divot” should be

repaired in the crossing area of the parking lot. These items will be passed on to the Property Committee

3. By-laws revisions, it was agreed upon to carry the elected positions forward. Suggestions made to place a "want ad" in the bulletin for a person to record the minutes. This person would not be a council member.

4. Mary Belmore has an application form for the St. Mary's scholarship. She outlined the requisites & process for the application and will e-mail a finished application to council members for suggestions.

GUEST SPEAKER Chief Crepeau

Upon learning that a level 3-sex offender was living in Grafton, the council requested a meeting with the Chief. He began his talk by explaining Megan's Law and answered basic sex offender questions including the classification of sex offender's levels, which is the likelihood of them re-offending. Level 3 is the highest. He shared photos & bios of the two known level 3 offenders living in Grafton.

He spent a good part of his talk explaining what preventative measures we could take to protect our children, especially during R.E. instructions. Sr. Yvonne noted that a child is never left alone during the time they're here for R. E. instructions. Chief Crepeau also suggested a parent sign-out log for parents picking up children.

St. Mary's has an inherited open door 24/7 policy. The Chief stated he would prefer any business to be locked when not in use.

Some council members made suggestions for restricting areas of the church by timing, lock devices etc. The building, property committee could explore this issue.

Finally Chief Crepeau told us that one of the biggest dangers to the safety & protection of our children from pedophiles is the unsupervised use of the computer.

He ended his talk by assuring us of his help.

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Fr. Ray closed our meeting with a prayer and blessing.

Prayer assignment for May: Robyn Gallagher

Yours in stewardship Jo Dascanio, Secretary