

St. Mary Parish Council Meeting
Minutes
June 10, 2008
7:00 pm

Presider: Fr. Ray Goodwin

Council Members present: Deacon Nick CaraDonna, John Gill, Mary Belmore, Keith Coveney Tom Tellier, Janice Mead, Sue Robertson, Sr. Yvonne, Debra Milkman, Mary Szymczak and Jo Dascanio

Council members absent: Robin Rignanese, Robyn Gallagher, and Rebecca Edwards

Opening Prayer was by Mary Belmore:

The May minutes were approved.

MINISTRY UPDATES

1. Religious Education, Sr. Yvonne reported on a common misconception regarding Religious Education [R.E.], some families interpret their children attending R.E. class equal to attending Mass. The R.E. committee have a few ideas in mind for next year to change this thinking. More to follow.

Vacation Bible School didn't happen this year because of low parental interest. On the plus side R.E. attendance is at 80 % across the board.

2. Stewardship, Sue Robertson reported the Welcome Package for new members is the big summer project for this ministry.

New member nominations for the Stewardship Ministry will take place the weekend of June 22nd and June 29th, with coffee, treats and an opportunity to meet some of the current members after the 10am Mass.

3. Finance, Deacon Nick reported the parish is doing OK; the pension fund is also in good shape. There has been an increase in health insurance premiums. The oil price came in at budget this year. The committee is using three different routes to plan ahead on the oil issue for next year. More input at Sept. meeting.

4. Cluster

There will be a cluster meeting Nov. 16th at St. James. The two main areas of concern will be R. E. & Stewardship.

5. Council Discussion

+Scholarship award-The scholarship award has three candidates. They will be interviewed over the next few weeks. Keith has offered to represent the council as part of that process. It was agreed to acknowledge Helen Rehberg & her team for the formative role they played in this happening

+Credit card deduction-A suggestion was made to investigate the possibility of using a credit card system, for the parishioners' weekly contributions, St. Luke's in Westboro was cited as a model.

+Liturgical advisory team-Fr. Ray suggested a liturgical advisory team be formed. Mike Gillespie was mentioned as a resource person with survey experience who may be able to help us with this endeavor.

+The By-Laws have been finalized, many thanks to Mary Belmore & Robin Rignanese for a tedious job, well done.

HAPPENINGS

Deacon Nick informed us that by next year he will seek re-assignment to a smaller parish. He cited his time, energy & family commitment as factors in his decision.

The Council thanked Debra Milkman & Robin Rignanese for their three years of faithful service.

VOTING 2008-2009

John Gill was re-elected council chair, Mary Belmore was re-elected first chair and Janice Mead was elected secretary.

We closed the meeting with our annual spring party.

Yours in stewardship Jo Dascanio, Secretary