

Parish Council Minutes December 15, 2009

Members Present: Father Steve, Sue McGinnis, David Ellis, Sharon Coogan, Bob Craig, Julie Garvin, Santo Carfora, Carol Roherty, Kathy Clanfield, Art Castro, Mary Lynn Fox

Members Absent: Tom Imhoff, Jessica Brey

Parish Council discussed the article *A Renaissance of Devotions*, by Patrick Malloy, in *The National Catholic Reporter*. The article, which discussed some Catholics' renewed interest in devotions, sparked suggestions by the council. The council suggested that the parish bulletin might be used as a place for questions and answers about Church teaching. The Spires might include a page that deals with practices that are essential or preferred by Catholics. Overall, the parish council agreed that in these matters, balance is good.

Minutes of the November meeting were passed.

### **Status Reports**

**Faith Formation**-- Father Steve reported that the Faith Formation program will finish the year as is. Volunteers have filled many needed positions. Decisions have not yet been made about the search for a new director. Sharon encouraged Father to include parents of religious education students in the decision making process.

**School**—Staff - Kindergarten aide has resigned. For the time being our 3K teacher will fill in. I will look to fill this position when our Kindergarten teacher returns from long-term leave, so that she and I can interview together. We are looking for an additional person to work at Aftercare from 3:00-4:00 daily.

School Activities - All School Christmas Program is Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Church

Advent - Students are purchasing small gifts to give the men of the GIFTS shelter when they are here in January.

Middle School students are again adopting families from ECHO and will be going to Target to shop for these families.

School Board - One Board member resigned due to work responsibilities. Two other parents are interested. We held our first "Family Night" on Sat., Nov. 21. It was well received and we had some good discussion about future Family Nights, Fundraisers at school and opportunities to get new families involved.

Home and School - Magazine sale has just finished. Near as we can tell, we have profited about the same as last year (approx. \$4000). Plans are underway for a new fundraiser, The Big Raffle, as reported at the Nov. Parish Council meeting.

Athletic Assoc. - We hosted a 4<sup>th</sup> grade Co-ed tournament Dec. 4-5. Our team finished second. The tournament was successful and profitable. There were some problems which I will need to discuss with other principals.

Basketball season begins Jan. 4. We are still looking for coaches for our A Boys and B Boys teams.

Eighth grade fundraisers - Letter writing campaign to DC – the girls are asking people to consider writing a letter to the President of the U.S. and for \$20 they will hand deliver them to the White House.

**Finance**-- Kathy and Father gave the financial report. The committee is looking for a more accurate way for reporting weekly/monthly parish finances

**GIFTS**--Although the GIFTS program is progressing successfully, Dave has encountered some hot water problems in the Nativity House. It was suggested that a parishioner might be available to help solve these plumbing problems. Scott Petranek, a director of the GIFTS program, said that the hospitality of St. Mary's was the best of any of the GIFTS sites.

**Evangelization**--Tom's report included that Dan and Judy Ansier are looking for things that could be donated to our sister parish, St Francis Solanas. Virginia Wyss is waiting for Cluster results. Carol reported that this year is ECHO's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. ECHO began at St Mary parish. Ron DelCiello, a St Mary parishioner and director of House of Mercy, is retiring. Father Steve will write an article about Ron for The Spires. Pregnancy Helpline received back only one half of the baby bottle banks. Bob will put a note in the bulletin asking for their return. Bob will also put a note in the bulletin regarding the hymnal stamp.

**Fundraising**--Sharon reported that the Gifts From Near and Far Sale grossed approximately \$1100, the parish receives 10% of the sale. The council thought the sale was beneficial. Sharon will get the approval of the council before next fall's sale.

**Pastor's Report**--Father Steve reported that the new parish position of Director of Pastoral Outreach has been posted on the parish website. The posting has also been sent to many Catholic colleges and universities. The parish website is progressing well. A variety of new links have been added. Father told the council that money has been stolen from the Marian Shrine in the Church. The Shrine was damaged during the break-in. Father and Jim Allen are working on constructing a new system which will prevent this from happening again. Father Emmanuel from Ghana will be visiting St Mary at Christmastime.