

Parish Council Minutes October 20, 2009

Members Present: Father Steve, Julie Garvin, Jessica Brey, Bob Craig, Sue Mc Ginniss, David Ellis, Sharon Coogan, , Tom Imhoff, Santo Carfora, Mary Lynn Fox, Kathy Clanfield, Art Castro.

Members absent: Carol Roherty

Sue opened the meeting by noting the death of John Mc Poland and reading from a Gazette article that featured John. In the article John credited St Mary Parish, and “especially Father Steve for opening their arms to a wayward son.” The Parish Council reflected on what parishioners like John has meant to us as a parish. Father Steve reported that there would be a memorial service for John at St Mary.

Discussion: The Parish Council had an interesting conversation about the Catholic Reporter article “*The Inevitable, Necessary Crisis*”, by Tom Roberts. Mr. Roberts discusses Phyllis Tickles book, The Great Emergence: How Christianity Is Changing and Why.

Status Reports:

School—Julie said that the school is closely monitoring H1N1 in the school population.

David noted that the date of the Steeple Chase had been changed from the date used in previous years.

Faith Formation—Jessica would like to set up a Religious Education Board. Julie suggested that Jessica talk to other R.E. directors to see how they have organized such a group.

Sue suggested that Jessica bring us a report next month on her progress.

Finance—Father Steve said that the DSA received 51% of their campaign goal. Many employees at the diocese have lost their jobs. Because of various considerations the cost of the boiler turned out to be \$37,720. Honeywell will do the project. There will still be a \$4,000 surplus in the boiler fund.

Community Building—Art reported that there is a great need for volunteers for the Prayer Network. Nov. 8th will be our next New Members Coffee.

Evangelization—Tom reported about the great work of Dan and Judy Ansier and others for our sister parish. Over three truckloads of school supplies were sent to our sister parish. Tom added that Sister Mary has informally taken over home visits. Santo said that rides to church for homebound parishioners is an important ministry that should be reestablished.

Public Relations—Bob noted that St Mary has at least 5 entries in this month’s calendar in the Catholic Herald.

GIFTS—David told the council that he attended a talk by Brad Munger about mental illness and suicide. Mr. Munger gave useful information for volunteers working with clients that might need mental health services.

Festival—Sue reported that the Parish Festival was successful raising approximately \$25,200. Income was down \$2-3,00 but expenses were also decreased by \$2,000. Positive feedback was received regarding the food, music, and location this year.

Father’s Report—Father Steve reported that Sally Combs is looking for churches interested in supporting a homeless shelter for teens. Father Steve has decided to look for a Director of Pastoral Outreach. This new position would address the needs of the homebound, sick, elderly, and alienated Catholics. Father Steve also told the council that the parish has a newly developed website, thanks to Carl Brey.