

Parish Council Minutes November 17, 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

Carl Brey spoke to Parish Council about the parish's new website. Carl described the many features of the website. Sue told Carl that the website was a great gift to the parish.

Minutes of October meeting were passed.

Status Reports:

Community Building—Art and others shared many wonderful stories from the *New Members Coffee*. The event was a success.

Finance—Kathy and Father Steve reported that contributions have decreased, on average, 7% from last year. Usually such a decrease will even out by the end of the year.

Pledges have indicated approximately a \$10,000 increase from last year. Father Steve reminded the council that increase in membership and enthusiasm is important to parish growth.

School—Julie reported a change in staff at the school. Kevin Porter is the new P.E. teacher at St Mary's. Julie also discussed the Tuition Assistance Program. Currently 17 families, 43 students, or 1/3 of the student body, are receiving tuition assistance.

Faith Formation—Jessica discovered that The Diocese of Madison has a model for a Religious Ed. Board. Other R.E. Directors in Rock County, with whom Jessica spoke, did not have such a board. Julie sent the School Board Guidelines to Jessica. Jessica said this will be helpful. Jessica reported that currently there are 88 students enrolled in Religious Education.

Evangelization—Tom and Father Steve reported that Father Emmanuel Acheampong of Ghana is coming to the parish in December. He will be staying for a few weeks. Details will be made public when available. It is hoped that Father Emmanuel will be reporting about the Donkey Project.

GIFTS—Dave covered some last minute details before our first week of the GIFTS program. The week begins on November 22.

Fundraising—Sharon reminded the council that the *Gifts From Near & Far Sale* is on Nov. 21 and 22. Sharon thanked Bob for his work to cover the event in the local media.

Pastor's Report—Father Steve reported that Joan Sterk will work with Andrea Morse as St Mary's representatives to ECHO. Father shared his work on the job description of a new position at St Mary's. The position is Director of Pastoral Outreach. The Parish Council shared ideas with Father on the job description.

New Business

Parish Council decided to change the time of meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This change will begin with the December meeting.