

Church of the Holy Spirit

Parish Council Minutes

September 16, 2008

Present: Karen Adams, Vinny Amuso, Adam Calcagno, Irene Calendo, Josie DeBruyn, Chris Gaudieri, Fr. Helfrich, Jim Isaac, John Marchand, Chuck Mertz, Tom Salamida

Absent: Grace Costich-Schlageter

Guests: Fr. Costanzo, Mary Frumusa, Deacon Brian Mahoney, Alice Winter

Called to Order: 7:20 PM

Opening Prayer offered by Fr. Helfrich

Introduction to and welcome of Deacon Brian Mahoney to the Staff of Holy Spirit Church. Deacon Brian shared some information about himself and expressed appreciation to be here at Holy Spirit Church.

Fr. Helfrich welcomed all members to the start of a new year of the Parish Council.

Jim Isaac was introduced and welcomed as a new Parish Council Member.

Parish Council Members introduced themselves and gave a brief bio.

Chuck Mertz, President, provided each member with a folder containing evening's Agenda, Guidelines, Constitution, and Sister Parish Activities/Projects. Guidelines were read in full.

Suggestion Box/Open Forum:

Two suggestions/comments were covered:

- One commented that the Church was too cold. Discussion included the opposite comments from other parishioners. Concluded that some areas of the Church are colder than other areas, and it is more feasible to add a sweater/coat for comfort or move seating to a warmer area.
- The second comment was regarding the time of the monthly Latin Tridentine Mass. Some parishioners prefer it at 9:00 A.M., and some prefer it at 8:00 A.M.. More input is welcomed for consideration.

Fr. Costanzo discussed plans of a document, signed by the Parish Council, officially making Our Lady of Africa our Sister Parish, then having it signed by the Sister Parish.

Father Costanzo also defined monthly projected plans: September - Holy Spirit Banner has been sent (Alice pointed out that it was made by Maryann Schonning, with the help of Kayla and Stephanie); October - Scrapbook, to include notes of prayer and good wishes from our parishioners. It will be in gathering area for anyone to sign; November – Christmas ornaments to be sent to Sister Parish; December – A card is being created for parishioners and Parish Council Members to sign, dedicating one holy hour of Adoration. The card(s) will then be sent to Fr. Seka and his parish.

Fr. Costanzo would like to plan a group of people from Holy Spirit Church to go to Sister Parish in Ivory Coast of Africa sometime within the next two-three years. Also shared with council how his mission to have a Sister Parish came to be.

Chuck accepted Vinny Amuso as Parish Council liaison person for Fr. Costanzo and Sister Parish.

Fr. Costanzo also stated he will be celebrating our Divine Mercy Sunday Mass celebration for us again next year.

New Business:

Chuck expressed interest in having an organized list of “greeters” at all Masses. Adam volunteered to recruit, and Deacon Brian volunteered to make up list. Looking to have two greeters at each Mass, with rotation of weekends.

Irene suggested to have an article in the bulletin regarding welcoming new parishioners. Additionally, Chuck questioned if we had a ‘Welcome Kit’ to give to new parishioners and John Marchand volunteered to prepare one.

Fr. Costanzo requested that consideration be given to receiving Holy Communion in both species at Mass at least one time per month. To be addressed next month.

Vinny Amuso would like to address a catechesis issue, having more teaching for our parishioners. Will discuss next month.

Father’s Report:

Father ‘motioned’ and Parish Council ‘agreed’ to Ron Maggio being appointed to the position of our new Parish “Trustee”.

Father mentioned the car accident of 8/21, at the corner of Plank and Hatch Road, in which Olga Colon was killed. He said it is a dangerous corner and caution should be taken there. Father mentioned that he went to the Funeral at which time the Family shared with Father that Olga had one of her wishes fulfilled that day. Olga had desired that when she was ready to go home to the Lord, that she would be here with her Family when she did.

Father's Report Cont'd:

Our new full-time Custodian has allowed for many various building improvements: Moving the Office from the Rectory to the Church Building (eliminating steps); had Guard Rails by Altars in Church installed, painted and sealed; silenced banging doors, painting of restrooms, repairing of plumbing. Additionally, the Parish Center Refrigerator has been fixed, again, and floors will be restored.

The Lenten Parish Mission is still in question. However, Fr. Habinger, a Benedictine from Natural Family Planning, will be here Sunday, October 26th through Wednesday, October 29th. Catechisms, based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church, have already been ordered for the Mission.

Father was pleased with the good response to Fr. Costanza's St. Paul sessions.

Father Helfrich is open to and requesting suggestions/ideas to enhance the observance of the Year of St. Paul.

Father Helfrich and Alice met with the architect for new handicap entrance renovation project, and he would like to start it as soon as possible before price increases. Hope is to have project done before snow comes. Project has been modified to keep cost closer to funds available from Partners in Faith Donations.

General Discussion:

Karen questioned if a Stained Glass image of the Holy Spirit could be placed above the new entrance doors when renovation takes place. Father and Alice stated that could be done at a later time. Another parishioner, Joe Iocolano, shared same interest in the stained glass image, as well.

The Pictorial Directories will be arriving soon.

Father was very happy with the response for the Parish Picnic. A good time was had by all.

Karen gave update on our Prayer Gazebo: it will become a reality within the month or by Spring. We are grateful for the special donations and bequest that has allowed us to upgrade our facility.

Next Month's Parish Council Meeting will be held at Chuck's house due to a Parish Center scheduling conflict.

Closing Prayer offered by Deacon Brian

Adjournment: 8:50 PM

