

Church of the Holy Spirit
Parish Council Minutes
January 20, 2009

Present: Karen Adams-Secretary, Vinny Amuso, Adam Calcagno-Vice-President, Grace Costich Schlageter, Fr. Helfrich, Jim Isaac, Deacon Brian Mahoney, John Marchand, Churk Mertz-President, Tom Salamida, Brian Sheba

Absent: Irene Calendo, Josie DeBruuyn, Chris Guadieri

Guests: Shari Magagnoli, Mike Piacentino

Called to Order: 7:20 PM

Opening Prayer offered by: Father Helfrich

Review of Action Register:

Chuck reminded council members to wear their Name Badges when at Church.

Chuck and Karen responded to writers of last month's comments/suggestions.

Karen prepared and distributed Annual Trustee Meeting Minutes and Communiqué.

Vinny gave an update on our Sister Parish. He presented to Council a Certificate of Recognition that, once signed, by Fr. Helfrich and Fr. Seka, will make Our Lady of Africa Church officially our "Sister Parish". Fr. Helfrich informed us that Fr. Seka sent matching Stoles to all of our Parish Priests, as well as a Sister Parish Banner that is displayed in Church. Vinny also mentioned that the initial 2009 project is Pen Pal writing, in which Vinny's daughter, Kate, will be assisting with any French translation needs.

Chuck gave update on the Greeter Program and noted that out of the 750 Greeter Program Forms he distributed, only 8 parishioners responded. With such a low and slow response, it was agreed to put a hold on this project for now and give time for more people to respond.

John and Deacon Brian gave update on the New Parishioner Packet Program. After discussing items to be included in the packet, Shari pointed out that these items are already included in the current Welcome Kit she provides to newly registered parishioners. Chuck mentioned that after he had moved into the area, he was approached at home, by another denomination, and the focus moved to developing an "*Introduction Packet*". Adam Calcagno said he could obtain a list of families that have recently moved into the area. The list of families to be contacted would be obtained from a local real estate agent. Deacon Brian offered to visit these people and give them the Packet.

Grace, Vinny and Deacon Brian gave update on Communion under Both Species. Again, it was well noted by all that when one receives only Consecrated Bread, one truly receives the glorified body and blood, soul and divinity of our Savior Jesus Christ, and that it is neither necessary nor mandatory to receive under Both Species. However it is allowed and is a preference and request of some of our parishioners that it be made available. Father Helfrich mentioned that one of the reasons it hasn't been offered so far is the lack of Ministers and accommodations. After much discussion, noting pros and cons, a pro-unanimous Council vote, and subsequent approval by Father Helfrich, it was agreed to begin receiving under both kinds a try. Emphasis was given to Catechesis on how to receive in this form, prior to starting the trial time. Deacon Brian said he could give instructions and become Cup Minister. The Center Altar aisle would be the Station for receiving in this form, and would be offered whenever Deacon Brian was available during this trial period. Comments from our parishioners are welcomed.

Suggestion Box/Open Forum:

Karen read signed suggestions and it was agreed that one unsigned form submitted could not be addressed due to lack of a signature and phone # to respond to.

The first suggestion mentioned having an extended overhang cover on the new handicap entrance. Father said that would be a good suggestion for the old but not the new entrance. Alice is going to look into an extended covering. Chuck recommended Koehler Awning.

The next suggestion was regarding receiving Holy Communion under Both Species, which has already been addressed.

It was suggested that Parish Council Members should consider making an hour of Eucharistic Adoration weekly/monthly for guidance in council matters. Most already do and another is planning to do so.

Another writer asked what happened to the Library. Shari informed us that the Library is organized and is available weekdays during office hours.

The last suggestion suggested having pro-life teen fundraising to take a bus to the March-for-Life in Washington, D.C., enlightening their faith. Will follow up with Peggy Fraysier for next year, since this wasn't submitted in time for this year. It was also suggested that we have *regular* Pro-Life Teen Events.

Chuck will respond to all writers of this month's suggestions/comments.

Old Business:

Mike asked for status on the Pictorial Directories and Marie Pelligrino will be contacted for an update and distribution timeframe.

Glasswork is the next phase of the New Handicap Entrance.

New Business:

Vinny and John to coordinate with Father Helfrich in planning Fr. McMahon's 50th Anniversary in June.

Mike requested and volunteered to put a HSC Event Calendar on our Website, noting all of our planned events including bake sales, classed, speaker, etc. Promotion of the Website was also requested.

Father Fred's Report:

Lighting in entrance area to be improved, and lighting in Church to be reviewed.

Gathering area speakers may be permanently mounted for better reception.

A number of favorable comments were received regarding the New Year's Eve Party. One said it was the best one yet.

Father Helfrich noted good stewardship in response in helping to set up and take down Christmas decorations.

Also noted that Christmas collections had increased this year.

Efforts have been made to start Masses on time, and there will *not* be any changes in actual Mass times.

Tony Ferrara met with Bishop Clark regarding a WPCC vocation event for youth. On Wednesday, March 4TH Bishop Clark will be at St. Rita's Church to meet with 4TH, 5TH, and 6TH Graders for catechizing, vocation awareness and a Q&A session. Also, this year's Confirmation date has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 26TH at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The next meeting will be February 17TH.

Closing Prayer by Father Helfrich: 8:40 PM