

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Bridget's Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brad Parno. Deacon Larry Hennemann led an opening prayer. Everyone then said the Parish Mission Statement.

The following is a list of who was present at the meeting:

Meg Andrea, Larry Hennemann, Alan O'Neill, Deb Wulf, Kerri Nelson, Gene Mulhollam, Tom Carroll, Brad Parno, Fr. Jerry Harris, Diane Brady, Roxanne Lovell-Olson.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: The minutes from the October 4, 2011 Parish Council Meeting were reviewed and needed one change. On page 2 in the Spirituality/Stewardship Committee paragraph, the fifth line should read: "We have received a total of \$467,000 as a memorial from Joan Shepard with \$427,000 as the current balance." Gene Mulhollam made a motion to approve the October 4, 2011 minutes as corrected. Tom Carroll made a second to the motion. The Parish Council unanimously approved the minutes. The agenda for tonight's meeting was reviewed and one correction needed to be made: The School Committee meets at 6:30 p.m. the 1st Tuesday of each month (not 2nd).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Religious Education/Faith Formation Committee: Meg Andrea gave a report for this committee. They discussed expansion of the committee because there are only three people currently on the committee. They would like to add a couple of people. Religious Education classes are going well with 100 – 120 kids attending on Wednesdays. Tessa and Diane feel the meal served before class is going good. The Middle School and High School groups are doing a great job. The concert raised \$755.60 for the NCYC trip. Tom asked about Wednesday night parking and if there are any problems. Nobody has heard anything negative and there seems to be plenty of room. The marriage enrichment seminar committee has met and worked on the program.

Social Justice Committee: Diane Brady gave a report for the committee. There is \$1,370 available in the tithing fund. There were three tithing recommendations.

A request from R.M. for the St. Bridget's Giving Tree. Recommended amount of \$850

A request for the Free Inside Outside Ministries which provides a chaplain to help people in jail. Recommended amount of \$500

A request from P.D. for the Hill Murry School who has a group going to Kentucky to help the poor.

After discussion, it was decided to put the Hill Murry request on hold to find out further information on what date they are going. The other two requests had a more immediate need.

MOTION: Deb Wulf made a motion to approve the tithing recommendations for St. Bridget's Giving Tree and Free Inside Outside Ministries. Kerri Nelson made a second to the motion. The Parish Council unanimously approved this motion.

Diane reported that Jim Miller has put together a tithing worksheet showing how much was given to whom and when it was given. The committee also was wondering if anyone knows where the Fair Trade Coffee Poster is – it seems to have disappeared. Nobody knew where it went. There will be an event held one night in January called Extending The Link which will be discussion about the documentary made on slave and sex trafficking.

Liturgy Committee: Kerri Nelson gave a report for the committee. There will be a Power Point presentation to inform parishioners about the Missal changes. They questioned if having the changes up on the projection screen is enough and everyone thought we will do that to start with and see how it goes. The changes will start on the 1st Sunday of Advent, November 27th. There will be a Thanksgiving mass at 8:00 on November 24th. There will be Communal Penance Service in River Falls on Tuesday, November 29th at 7:00 and at St. Mary's on Monday, November 28th at 6:30. The Feast of Immaculate Conception will be celebrated December 7th at 6:30 p.m. and December 8th at 8:45 a.m. Christmas masses will be as follows: Saturday, Dec. 24th 3:00 p.m. with the Youth Choir; 5:00 p.m. at Hammond; 7:00 p.m. Life Teen; and 10:30 with Adult Choir. Sunday, Dec. 24th at 8:30 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. at Hammond. New Year's masses will be on Saturday, Dec. 31st at 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, Jan. 1st at 9:30 and 11 a.m. The committee is discussing having a retreat for ministries.

Finance Committee: Alan O'Neill gave a report for the committee. The weekend collections are up due to there being 5 weekends in October. All of the fund raising has been and continues to be successful. We have collected about \$27,420 for the DSA and our total assessed is \$98,000. The subsidy is at 17.17% which is very good due to tuition collection.

Spirituality/Stewardship Committee: Gene Mulhollam reported for the committee. A women's retreat is taking place on November 14th. Anne Schwalbach is doing follow-up on the Life in the Spirit seminar to be held in January. There will be a speaker on the topic of "Respect Life". Adult Faith Formation is going good. The Parish Mission went well. Barb Kelly, who organized the church library, is moving to California and a couple other people are leaving the committee. They discussed how they need more members for their committee.

Kerri asked for people's advice on how to get more people on the committee's. Fr. Jerry will put a notice in the bulletin but people respond better with a personal invite so it is best to talk to people you know. Meg offered to talk to the adults that come for faith formation on Wednesday nights.

School Committee: Deb Wulf reported for the committee. The teacher incentive plan is going forward and the committee is glad that funds become available for it. Sue went to a Strategic Planning Workshop. She is reviewing our plan based on what she learned at the workshop. Sue will start with the teachers and get their goals, thoughts, etc. and then bring a report to the council meeting. She suggested they might want to revise enrollment numbers for the future. They would like to shift from our state goals to national standards. The goal is to come up with base lines and then compare them year to year. They would also include expectations for what the coming year will bring. The new standards would be in place by 2014 and there would not be any major changes. Also, we would control the grading policy. They wondered about us having a school alumni drive since most schools have a contact list for alumni activities. For example, we could send alumni information about the upcoming school Gala. The Gala committee reported they might be increasing the ticket price for 2012. They would want to make sure people know the reason for the increase and that all proceeds go to the school. The Magazine Sales Fundraiser will start on the 14th and be held online. Deb reported on ideas they discussed regarding the cluster goals. One idea is, would the Hammond parish be interested in hearing about our school and upcoming school activities. Deb asked about getting landscape assistance and if there are volunteers to do upkeep around the school. Fr. Jerry said that yes, we have volunteers that take care of areas around the church grounds and he will see if they would be willing to help around the school. Tom asked about what the plan would be for alumni. Deb said they would have a committee that plans events and keep alumni connected with the school.

Facilities Planning Committee: Tom Carroll reported they did not meet this month. Tom asked Fr. Jerry if there was something that needed to be done with the furnace. Fr. Jerry said that it is still the original furnace and needs to be looked at and evaluated for future repairs, maintenance, etc. and what overall condition it is in.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Joint Meeting With Hammond Parish: A tentative date of January 23rd is being planned for a joint meeting between St. Bridget's and St. Mary's Parish Councils. Everyone check their calendars and let Brad know if that date will work.

Goals for the Cluster: Brad opened the discussion asking each committee if they discussed ideas to make the cluster a continued success. Kerri suggested we invite Hammond members to any of our committee meetings. They have similar committees as us for liturgy, finance, etc. When we have retreats for ministries, we should invite and include the Hammond members. Brad and everyone liked these suggestions and said they are open to any ideas that we can share between us. Deb asked if we should invite their committee members to our meetings and Brad agreed that yes, that was a good idea. The Faith Formation committee added that the structures are different between the two churches but we can still invite members so they feel included with our parish. Another area to work on is the confirmation program so that we have consistency between the two parishes. Brad said he would talk to Stacy from the Hammond parish about these ideas and including them in our meetings.

Gun Law: Fr. Jerry updated everyone on the new state gun law. It is basically backwards from what you would think. We are safe and not liable if we don't post anything for the public to see.

The next Parish Council Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. Any agenda items and tithing requests need to be into the church office by Friday, November 25, 2011. The meeting was concluded with a prayer led by Fr. Jerry.

Please Note – There will be a group photo of the Parish Council taken at the December meeting for the new parish directory.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Lovell-Olson
Recording Secretary