

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Bridget's Parish Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brad Parno. Fr. Jerry Harris led an opening prayer. Everyone then said the Parish Mission Statement.

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

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

Approval of Minutes and Agenda: The minutes from the September 6, 2011 Parish Council Meeting were reviewed and needed no changes. Gene Mulhollam made a motion to approve the September 6, 2011 minutes. 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: This report is taken from notes sent via email by Meg Andrea. The Faith Formation Program has 437 youth registered for PreK – 11th grades with registrations still coming in. There are 64 youth that will receive First Reconciliation in December. Classes start tomorrow night (Oct. 5th) and it will be exciting to see how all the space is being utilized, including the new lower level area. They have heard a lot of positive comments about the adult education offered, community meal, and the combined location and time. One concern is that because of the later ending time, parents with younger children might choose not to participate and do an at-home program. Then there is the concern that they might not be as committed to follow through. The NET Retreat was this past Sunday and went very well. There were 30 youth in attendance including 2 from Hammond. Lifeline started last weekend with 7 people from St. Bridget's attending and there will be more when marching band is over. Amy (the new Faith Formation Staffer) is doing well preparing the HS Life Night program. She only needs three more leaders. Tessa has 97 students signed up for the Middle School Program. More help would be nice but what they have should be okay. The NCYC trip will be in November with 17 people attending. There was a meeting tonight with the leaders from the Bishop Hammes Center, and from River Falls and Hudson to discuss the trip details. There will be one more fundraiser for the trip on October 22nd of an a capella group from UW Madison called UWRedefined. The group has some local performers in it so we are hoping for a good turnout. Rachel Scheide and Justin Marita will be the opening act for the concert and will do it for free.

Social Justice Committee: Diane Brady gave a report for the committee. There is \$1,440 available in the tithing fund. There were two tithing recommendations.

Amicus – a program that helps released prisoners get back into society with finding a job, etc.
Recommended amount of \$400

Adoray Health Care – a hospice center in Baldwin. Recommended amount of \$900

MOTION: Deb Wulf made a motion to approve the above two suggested tithes. Kerri Nelson made a second to the motion. The Parish Council unanimously approved this motion.

Diane asked about the St. Bridget's web site and if there can be a link set up to tithing requests and info right from the home page. There is a link but then it takes a few more clicks to get to the actual tithing page. It will be looked at.

Diane asked Fr. Jerry if St. Bridget's church does already give to Our Neighbors Place every month. Fr. Jerry said that yes we do.

Liturgy Committee: Kerri Nelson gave a report for the committee. They talked about the Roman Missal changes. There will be a booklet about the changes available the weekend of October 22nd and 23rd. Fr. Jerry will also make announcements about the changes during masses. The new songs will be practiced the weekend of November 2nd. The changes will take effect November 27th. November 1st is All Saints Day and there will be masses at 8:30 and 5:15. There will be a mass of remembrance for people that have died during the past year on November 8th at 7:00. There will be Communal Penance on November 28th. We will not be having an ecumenical Thanksgiving service this year but there will be one in Hammond. They are looking at putting together a retreat for all ministries.

Finance Committee: Alan O'Neill gave a report for the committee. We are within budget by about \$5,000 and overall doing very good. Deb commented that at the School Committee meeting, Sue talked about the teacher reward salary program. It was voted to go ahead with it but after looking at the budget, there was no money set aside for it. They are wondering what happened to it? Alan said that by mistake it was not included in the budget like it was thought. The adjustment has been made and funds are available for the program to be implemented by November 1st.

Spirituality/Stewardship Committee: Gene Mulhollam reported for the committee. The committee met last week. The first Adult Faith Formation program was set up by the subcommittee and there are 75 people signed up. The Small Christian Communities will be active again this year. There will be a Life in the Spirit Seminar held in January. They put together a calendar for the year. The Joan Shepard committee got together. We have received \$427,000 as a memorial from Joan Shepard. There is currently \$16,247 in her memorial checking account. It will be used to pay half of the liturgical position (\$15,000) for this year, \$1,000 will be used for the mission, and \$1,000 will be used for the retreat. There will be \$15,000 put back in the checking from a CD that is due and will not be reinvested. There will be a scholarship set up in Joan's name but it has not been decided how to do it yet. Sister Julie will be painting an icon for the chapel and will be discussed at the next meeting. Gene reported they have used \$1,000 for the music license and \$3,500 for retreats, etc. They have used \$1,389 for adult faith formation booklets and materials but will get some of that back from a free will donation asked for.

School Committee: Deb Wulf reported for the committee. The committee discussed upcoming events. The Gala committee met and set the date for the event for February 18th with the theme of Mardi Gras. They are working on budgets and other things to get ready for the Gala. Grandparent's Day will be October 14th and they are expecting close to 400 people. The Celtic games and dance will be on October 21st. This is planned and implemented totally by the middle school kids. They run the whole thing. Last year there was \$750 made and donated to Our Neighbors Place. People are impressed with the lunch program, commenting on the health options, low cost, and the good job they are doing. They raised the price by 25 cents but we still do not charge as much as the public schools. It is a challenge to keep the meal cost at \$1.53 per meal/per child but it is being done. Brenda Dierks is doing a great job with the technology class and the kids love it. Alumni Day was September 18th and there were about 150 people that toured the school.

Facilities Planning Committee: Tom Carroll reported they did not meet this month. The Lower Level is completed and it turned out very good. Diane is working on paint for the area. It has many multi purposes. Tom gave a thanks to all the volunteers that helped make it happen. A question was asked if the lower level will be open for public use. Fr. Jerry answered it depends on the request for use – it has to fall within our Mission Statement.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mass of Remembrance: There will be a mass held Tuesday, November 8th at 7:00 p.m. This is to remember all the people who died this past year. Families will get a personal invitation to the mass.

Goals for the Cluster: Fr. Jerry reported the goal of St. Bridget's and St. Mary's working together during the cluster of parishes is going good. St. Mary's has now started a Scrip Program and set up electronic donations. It was asked if we want more joint meetings. This was a possibility. Fr. Jerry said that there are more things that need to be addressed at Hammond. There is a possibility of having some joint ministry retreats that St. Bridget's could help with. We will be having a joint meeting again in January at Hammond. There has been sharing among the committees between parishes. Hammond has been looking at us for structure. Would it be helpful to have a liaison between the two parishes – someone come to our Parish Council Meeting and someone from here go to the Hammond meeting. This will be thought about. The Hammond Faith Formation program has a different structure than ours. They have about 250 kids and limited space to work with. Someone asked if we should get together more than two times a year but it was decided that for now, this is working. Brad wrapped up the discussion by asking people to go back to their individual committees and brainstorm for ideas on how to help both parishes.

Deb Wulf had one more question for Fr. Jerry from the School Committee. Can the projection system in church be used for showing pictures of school activities and help promote the school? Fr. Jerry answered yes, it can be used and it should be given to him by Thursday for use on the following weekend.

The next Parish Council Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. Any agenda items and tithe requests need to be into the church office by Friday, October 21, 2011. The meeting was concluded with a prayer led by Fr. Jerry.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Lovell-Olson
Recording Secretary