

Minutes for Parish Council Meeting on 11 MAR 08

Members present: Fr. Matt Pawlikowski (pastor), Bro. Carlos (webmaster), Eileen Kowalski (president), Meredith Baxter (music coordinator), Jay Sclafani (youth ministry), Cindy Ragsdale (DRE), Lorraine Wigger (EMHCs), MaryBeth Hurley (parish administrator), Vince and Kim McDermott (retirees), Rich Arnold (altar servers), and SPC Bradley (chaplain's assistant)

Christopher West AAR

- Already looking at coming back in October. When Christopher West is in Manhattan on a Saturday, he will come up to West Point on that Sunday for morning and afternoon seminars plus an evening lecture
- CH Mallard has offered to split the cost with us for this next visit
- DOIM's most efficient organization does not support religious activities, so we would have had to pay a private videographer to record the lecture. Before this lecture, we couldn't see how the parish would benefit from this expense. Afterward, Eileen Kowalski got a comment from a parent whose child attended the lecture. Videotaping the lecture would allow parents to see and hear what their children saw and heard. We can get limited rights from Christopher West.

Celebrate Marriage AAR (Vince and Kim McDermott)

- Sustains: caterer, brief good speaker, facility, publicity, time frame, hors d'oeuvres/mixing
- No feedback about childcare—people found adequate childcare on their own. The parish will not provide childcare next year, either.
- Improves:
 - DJ was good but volume after dinner inhibited conversation. Next year, negotiate better compromise between dancing volume and conversational volume.
 - 18% gratuity was a surprise from caterer. Get a written estimate to avoid forgetting to ask what the caterer forgets to mention.
 - Herbert Hall needs a deposit and a contract before the event.
 - Donations covered cash bar, but suggested donation could be \$20 per couple and still be a good deal
 - Have a script or order of events for evening. For example, Archbishop Broglio could have spoken during dessert and coffee.
 - Invite couples up to altar during Mass to renew their vows.

Pottery Retreat (Brother Carlos)

- Only 4 families, compared to 15 last year; small size allowed potter to let children make a pot on his wheel
- Potter had bowls and new reflection; perhaps not everyone realized that this year's retreat was different from last year's
- Big publicity that weekend for Christopher West and Celebrate Marriage
- Lorraine Wigger suggested we invite the potter to the parish picnic in the fall

Youth Group (Jay Sclafani)

- World Youth Day
 - Have \$22K, need \$6-7K more by 15 April
 - 11 April Bingo night at Sacred Heart
 - Angela DeLong helping with spiritual preparation; attended World Youth Day twice
- Dead Theologians' Society (Jack and Angela DeLong)
- Soup & Stations at MHT Friday, 14 March at 1700 (early start for O'Neill play)
- Living Stations at Sacred Heart 22 March
- Planning rafting trip 9-10 May. Stay overnight Friday, raft Saturday then come back. Hoping for faster current than last August.
- Trying new meeting times
 - Moving middle school group from Fridays to Sundays (4:00-5:15)
 - Teen group meets 5:00 – 6:30 on Sundays
 - Meeting times overlap slightly for pizza and ice cream
 - Meeting every week to eliminate confusion about which Sundays are meeting days
 - Fr. Matt brought forward a concern he had heard about kids never being home for dinner Sundays with their families. This led to a discussion of possibly meeting on Saturday evenings. For now we will see how meetings go and adjust if necessary.

Pope's Visit

- Jay Sclafani—youth have tickets for youth rally on 19 Apr; all youth who asked for a ticket got one
- Bro. Carlos—some tickets for cadets in campus ministry as well
- Fr. Matt—asked AMS for tickets, but those would be for the Pope's visit to DC
- (post meeting update: the Archdiocese asked Fr. Matt for names on 12 Mar 08; they need the names by 13 Mar 08. The tickets would be for the Mass on Thursday 17 Apr 08. For security reasons, tickets will be issued to individual people and not transferrable.)

Liturgy Committee (Fr. Matt)

- Liturgy committee consists of priests and ministry heads for music, art/environment, altar servers, ushers, lectors, and EMHCs. Keep Jay on distro in case the youth groups try to serve at a Mass.
- Ministry heads would go to this meeting instead of the parish council meeting
- Meet quarterly and plan 6 months out
- Pastor is the head of the liturgy committee
- First meeting 13 Apr 08 at 1500 in rectory

Suppers with the BOSS

- Four soldiers, four cadets, Fr. Matt, Bro. Carlos, Deacon Mark, 8 parishioners (3 kids)
- Good mixing among soldiers, cadets, officers; good opportunity for cadets to interact with soldiers and serve them

- Hold this dinner on the second Sunday of each month (Mother's Day is second Sunday in May. Most cadets and soldiers will be away from their mothers that day, so we decided to hold the dinner anyway.)
- Needed better publicity and coordination this time; regular date for event will help that for future dinners

Parish Appreciation

- Trinity Sunday weekend, 17-18 May, after all Masses
 - Parish feast day
 - Weekend before TEEs; cadets and families
 - Recognize volunteers at Mass with certificates or prints; still working those details out
- Scheduled as fellowship weekend; have special food that weekend
- Replaces dinner (cumbersome to plan, expensive); not sure that dinner makes people feel more appreciated than recognition at Mass

Grounds Ministry (Dan Ragsdale via Cindy)

- Spring clean-up of St. Therese's garden on Saturday 29 March at 9 am
- Planting on Friday 9 May at 1700 and Saturday 10 May at 1300
- Parish will provide flowers
- Families who want to maintain a plot can contact Dan
- Dan will make an announcement to go in the bulletin

Expanded contract for Brother Carlos (Fr. Matt)

- Develop and maintain parish database
- Oversee bulletin formatting
- Publish electronic bulletin
- Get him limited access to parish website; precedent for this at cadet chapel

Next meeting is Tuesday, 29 April at 5 pm in the parish rectory.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eileen Kowalski

Parish council president