

St. Paul Parish Council Minutes
September 27, 2007 7:00 PM

Members present were: Fr. Bob Gosma, Mike Schoendorf, Bob Larson, John Morgen, Art Scheuber, Roger Varner, Lillian Miller, Pete McFadzen, Lucille Contorno, Deb Gresser, Lisa Bixby, Julie Davies and, Jim Dunlap. Excused were Al Kluz and Eileen Belongea.

Prayer: Lead by Roger Varner. The song "I know a well" based on St. John of the Cross was played and we reflected upon it.

Motion to approve agenda- Agenda approved.

Motion to approve July minutes-Minutes approved.

Voice of the People- None.

Our key topic was the declining enrollment in the Parish school. Linda Cooney and Beth McFadzen were kind enough to join us and give a presentation on information regarding enrollment. Two of the main reasons parents gave for leaving the school were (1) Socialization issues (i.e.) class size, isolation, acclimating to high school and (2) Curriculum either not advanced enough for the gifted or not tailored enough for the struggling learners. These top two issues were followed by teacher and administration issues and financial reasons rounding out the top four. Linda and Beth then shared with us several steps that were being taken to resolve some of these concerns. St Paul's has adopted a new guidance curriculum called sticks and stones, which is offered by DPI. This curriculum is delivered by classroom teachers to assist in peer to peer relationship problems. There is teacher in service training being held with the help of Donna Held and Deb Schnieder to address both gifted and talented students as well as meeting the needs of students with learning difficulties. Many other things have been put into place as well. Spanish is back, we have Art and Music, grievance procedures in place and more social settings are being worked on, like dances and such. There are also programs for parenting being offered like "Love and Logic". We all agreed that continued marketing of our school as the parish grows would be a good idea. Pete thought that older confirmation students could get service hours by helping monitor and be a part of after school activities like dances and other social events. It seems that offering more social events and engaging our young parishioners is going to be one of the keys to the growth and success of the school as well as the parish.

Thank you to Julie for the fabulous cookies and other treats, although we did not have ANY coffee. Thanks also for e-mailing the recipe for the cookies.

Secretary's Report – Lucille sent out the new Council roster, assignment list for prayer and break, and up to date committee and ministries flow charts. Thank you to Lucille for the time and effort of putting that all together.

New Business:

1. Discussion on the archdiocesan fund raising plan. Fr Bob feels that after attending more meetings, he is more comfortable with the plan, and besides we do not have much of a choice. We will hopefully have an opportunity to get the amount we keep increased when all is said and done by a review board set up by the archdioceses which would help us accomplish more of our debt reduction. Jan of 09 seems to be the best time for St Paul's to start our fundraising.
2. We now have about 3000 copies of our new mission statement, and how to share and get these to the parishioners was discussed. Many good ideas were shared, from the greeters handing them out, to putting it in the dedication booklet, etc. We will check with the transition committee for input.

Old Business:

1. A list of the current contents for the time capsule was sent out. Other good ideas were a current map of the area copies of current local papers etc. We may delay closing the cornerstone until after the dedication to include a video of it. We also discussed if a date should be set for first opening it, maybe in 25 or 50 years?
2. We will start planning for our new pastor right after the first of the year. Fr Mike and Fr Paul will be our main two priests for liturgies with Fr Gross from St Bruno's handling admin.
3. Our parish council retreat will be at Redemptorist retreat center and Donna will facilitate. The date is October 12-13th. It will start at 6:00 pm Oct 12th. We will be working on our 5-year planning as well as learning more about Eucharistic adoration.
4. The Eucharistic adoration planning is beginning to heat up. We will probably have some form of it occurring when the new church opens, with hopefully transitioning into full time. Mike will keep us updated.

Committee Reports – Annual Parish Meeting is Oct. 15 all reports on committees need to be given to Bill Pledl.

Pastor's Report- New church update. Fr Bob reports that everything is coming together nicely. Mr. Luterbach is really working hard on the garden area by the bell tower. We can see the walls going up. The bells have arrived, and will be dedicated October 6th at 10 am. One small problem is with the kneelers. They have been sent back to the factory and will not be installed for several more weeks.

Open Topic- Lillian brought up the "keeping Christ in Christmas" signs, that we should find a way to offer them to parishioners or make them available.

Lucille suggested we adjust three of our Council meeting dates to allow for more time between the common meeting night and the Council meeting night when the 4th Thurs. is close to the 2nd Monday. All agreed, Lucille will send all a revised calendar.

Motion to adjourn- approved

Meeting closed with prayer by Roger.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter McFadzen