

Minutes of the December 15, 2008 Parish Council

Meeting called to order at 7:40 by Chairman Mike Burton

Those present: Jim Lacivita, Kevin Baudhuin, Bob Hicks, Dana Hayes, Anne Schank, Larry Ball, Marilyn Jansen, Kevin Shaughnessy, Art Olivera, Mary Fran Dolan, Kathy Heublein, Bill Lynch, Mike Burton, Erin Maiorca, Fr. Tom Hickey.

Absent: Char Sparrow

- Opening prayer offer by Kevin Shaughnessey
- Minutes of the November meeting were approved by consensus.
- Mike noted that the feedback he had received from members was to stay on target for meeting times-start and finish meetings on time.
- Mary Fran Dolan noted that PPC should follow up on the question of a proposed parking ban on Grove Street. Mike said he would follow up with Nancy or her new assistant to make sure that our parish concerns would be addressed regarding this issue.
- Kathy Heublein introduced the "Footprints" Task force and explained the initiative
 1. Time and talent of the task force was used wisely.
 2. Overall theme-"Our footprints"
 - Walk with parishioners as Jesus walks with us
 - This economic times initiative will address the smallest of needs to the most burdensome.
 - Hoping to have all ministries, communities, sections of our parish involved.
 - Kathy then asked each committee to report on their work
 1. Kevin B. met with Sr. Paulanne to see if we as a council could help to make her task of tending to the needy easier. We were asked to make awareness of help more available, and to try to help identify those who might have need and do not ask for help.
 2. Kevin S./Kevin B.-Communication-Series of communications have been developed
 - Fr. Hickeys letter in our Christmas bulletin will kick off the initiative-talk about the world situation today, going without, and what our parish is prepared to do.
 - A blurb(bulletin, website) to those who have need
 - A blurb(bulletin, website) to those who can offer time/talent/treasure
 - A blurb that will offer inspiration, hope, humor, or info about programs/event being offered to address these difficult times.
 - Future possibilities include a parish wide mailing and a blurb on Public TV.

3. Larry B. discussed the Prayer Tree Effort
 - Everyone can pray
 - 2 trees in church-1 upstairs on main altar, 1 in McDonnell Hall
 - Procedures will be placed in signage near the baskets at the back of church-fill out prayer card, put in basket; basket will be taken to the altar at the offertory, after mass, prayer cards will be placed on tree. Parishioners will have the invitation to take a prayer card off the tree and center their prayer efforts on that intention for 2 weeks.
 - School children and religious education will keep our footprints intention cards well stocked; information for parents will go home with children to explain responsibility of prayer intentions and what a teaching moment this could be.
4. Our vision is that our footprints will carry out to all areas of community
 - Hoping that youth ministry will join in.
 - Ministries will offer programs/events geared to make life easier for our people
5. Mary Fran D. gave a fingertip list of ministry contacts/phone number for the bulletin for people in need.—OLPH Care Links
6. Kevin B. showed the logos for the “footprints in the snow” and the Prayer Tree.
7. Erin M. talked about how we will invite communities to join us in this effort. A list or set of suggested ideas will be presented to each community. Liaisons will have a save the date card to send out in the next week that Erin will create. Erin also spoke about Community Liaisons/Mentors and that this will be finalized in the next week.
8. It was noted that we must walk by example-to perhaps be careful about how we as a council present ourselves in Economic times-that perhaps we scale back on the appreciation dinner and other events out of respect for our fellow parishioners who are in need.
9. Kathy H. spoke about the wonderful way this footprint initiative opens our community discussion and leads us to them. We are asked to open our conversations. It is important that we INVITE them to join us-not expect them to. Listen to their needs; walk with them in their needs. Encourage them to step forward if they know of people in need and notify Sr. Paulanne-she will make the communication to the family and set the wheels in motion to help them. We can't help if we do not know.
*Kathy also asked the question, “What is PPC willing to do as a program or effort as we are asking everyone else to step up”? A needs and deeds chart can be set up as a later project to help our seniors.

- Mike thanked the task force for their efforts and especially Kathy for chairing the effort. Our footprint effort not only looks to helping ways to help financially, but also spiritually and emotionally.
- The “Footprints” initiative was approved by consensus.
- Mike spoke about his letter to communities-it will be finished in the next week.
- Wednesday, February 18 is the Ministry Appreciation Dinner-Marilyn J. is chairing with the help of Char S. and Anne S. and Dana H. and Kathy H. Mass at 6:30 p.m. followed by meal in McDonnell Hall. Will use Footprints theme.
- The Council discussed when to convene the communities. It was decided that we would all have met by the end of January-before the appreciation dinner. Erin M. will prepare a “save the date” invitation to be given to the ministry leaders. Conversations should begin to find a date with your community. Kathy and Erin will prepare a “menu” of suggested topics/discussions for the community meeting.
- Mike talked about our priorities for vision for our parish, our Action Items and mentioned that we will get back to them in January.
- Father Hickey gave his report.
 1. The parish hosted all staffs of 11 parishes within our deanery. Discussion took place on the common-sense possibilities of sharing manpower for parishes to work cooperatively. The idea is that if we share resources of programs that attract minimal numbers of people, it might lead to a greater sense of community. These areas might include RCIA, and Youth Ministry as examples. Fr. said it is good to go across parish lines and get out of a “parochial perspective”. Fr. added that St. Catherine’s will have a new pastor named in March, and that it might be a good time to begin discussions along those lines.
 2. Fr. Hickey expressed his gratitude for our efforts of trying to forge a new model of parish government. He added that when we search to find sensible means, the needs of the parish are served.
 3. Our parish has been involved in seismic changes-he referred to “the silo” image of Religious Ed, Women’s Club, and Men’s Club—before it was an attitude of “individually do your own thing”-now we have become very cooperative in all of our efforts. We have put people in relationships with each other, and are respectfully cooperating for a common good. Father mentioned that “Footprints” will make a difference and offer our parish the experience in a parish relationship.
- Mike mentioned that the next meeting is January 19.
 1. Anne Schank will offer opening prayer
 2. Erin Maiorca will offer closing prayer.
- Mike visited St. John of the Cross to speak to them about our new parish council model. It was well received.
- The business part of the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. to a social hour. Mike toasted the members and the accomplishments of the 2008 Parish Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Heublein

Attach: agenda/action items/ /footprints initiative