

# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

## Parish Council

Minutes from Meeting – August 8, 2009

Meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m.

Members present: Fr. Ken, Rafael Benet, Bill Collins, John Lockwood, Shorty Melendez, Tina Wandersee, Barbara Tucci, Mary Chapman, Tricia Meier, Beth Hines, Veronica John, Dave Dwyer, Carmen Lane, Linda Wahlert, Paul Tartabini and Scott Wood

### Fr. Ken's Updates:

- **Introduction and Welcome for new members and farewell of outgoing members**
- **Establish Liaison Committee** to meet on regular basis with staff for synchronizing schedules and events. Committee is to meet once a month to compare notes, coordinate calendar, etc. Barbara, Bill C. and Mary will be the PC members on the committee.
- **Combined Parish Staff/Parish Council Retreat Day** – Books have been ordered could be used for this retreat. The Staff/Council Liaison Committee will meet and determine. Barbara will set up the Liaison Committee meeting.
- **PC minutes** should be forward to certain staff members. Mary to contact Janet for the list.

### Old Business:

- 1) **Columbarium** – We're at a point to be able to invite parishioners to visit the Columbarium area for a walk through. Though it is not landscaped we can give a good idea of the vision. Fr. Ken will invite the parishioners for a tour during all the Masses this weekend. Volunteers for special announcement and to conduct tours are:
  - 5:00 Mass – Barbara, Tina
  - 7:30 - Tina, Dave
  - 9:00 - Scott, Linda
  - 1:00 - Mary, Dave
  - 4:00 - Shorty, CarmenFr. will speak on Church's position on cremation. Catholic Update's on this topic to be available. Dave will draft an announcement and forward to representatives. Emphasis on the Columbarium not just being for ashes, but also as a prayer garden.
- 2) **Stewardship Ministry Fair Report** – Confirmed for weekend of 11/7-11/8. Fr. would like the committee to revise the plan for alternative ideas. Request to make more "user-friendly" and strategize a way to reconnect with the community. Also make it kid-friendly with more opportunities for fellowship after Mass. Tina will meet with Fr. Ken to revise the vision of this project.
- 3) **Disabilities Inclusion Committee** – Barbara (Education Prong) – Bill C. (Accessibility Prong) under Christa's direction. 15 persons attended the fellowship dinner and enjoyed the festivities. The committee met and would like to insert a survey in the bulletin to identify parishioners in need of services. Bill and Hart will meet with a parishioner with motorized wheelchair to test accessibility in the Worship Space. Christa and Bill are looking into grant possibilities to renovate the bathrooms, etc. They are in need of volunteers with grant writing experience. We want to be a parish that is welcoming to **all** people. Send the message that this is a welcoming parish no matter who you are or what your individual needs are. If we are aware of the needs we can adapt. Suggestion made that survey should also be on the web page. The survey is ready to go and will be sent out in September. Donna to send notification to the list-serv.
- 4) **Welcoming Committee** – next committee meeting is 8/13 @ 7:00 p.m. in Carmel Center The ministry information night was not well attended though it was promoted at the Masses the weekend prior by Fr.
- 5) **Fundraising Guidelines** – All sales go through parish store. Fr. encourages events that raise larger funds (ex. The school has an auction). Fr. would like to see some dinners after 5:00 p.m. Mass or even Sunday after 4:00 p.m. Mass. Fundraising for youth events go through Steve. Fr. expressed a desire to have some of our youth attend World Youth Day next year.

## New Business

1. **E-Giving** – There is a link on the web page for online tithing. For people without computer access, plans are to provide online access at church.
2. **Parish Mission** – scheduled for March. It will be facilitated by 2 Redemptorist priests of which one is Spanish speaking. There will be simultaneous sessions in English and Spanish.

## Ministry Updates

1. **Hispanic Ministry** – Family Fiesta night scheduled for February (Tacos & Tamales after 5:00 Mass)
2. **Adult Faith Formation** – Summer book club went well. Next book club begins 8/26 with the book “How Big is Your God?” by the same author as “Just as You Are”. The Nationals baseball game was well attended. It was a good game! Sock Hop is August 14. Kickoff for People of Faith.
3. **People of Faith** (CLIFF) - Sessions begin in October. Registration in September. May register online. This year’s theme is “Sacraments”. They are looking for groups to sponsor gatherings. For example, Parish Council could host November and participate as servers, cleaners, etc.
4. **PORT** – in November
5. **Welcoming spirit** – Parish Council members need to be greeting people before Mass and make sure you wear your name tags. We need to do what we expect others to do – *participate*.
6. **RCIA** – team is evaluating the progress and success of the various level groups.

## Heard It in the Pews

1. **“When do we stand and when do we sit?”** – There is a conflict of opinion of appropriate times to stand and sit during Mass. Need clarification. This may be a good question for the question box in the bulletin.
2. Concerns over the quick exodus of parishioners at end of Mass. How do we keep people from rushing out?
3. Question regarding condition of baby changing table in the bathroom. It will be checked and fixed if necessary.
4. People are missing the sounds of the organ. It’s a nice organ, let’s use it.
5. **When are Parish Council meetings open?** Council meetings are open forum from 9:00-9:30. Will add this to the announcement in the bulletin prior to the meeting.
6. **Feast Day bilingual Mass concerns – Feast Day bilingual Mass concerns – some people did not care for the bilingual Mass. Concern raised over the children losing focus because they do not understand. Some people don’t come to Holy Day celebrations because they feel they’re only getting half the message. They want separate Masses on Holy Days.** These concerns prompted a passionate discussion by the Parish Council and numerous perspectives and thoughts were discussed. Fr. Ken stated that he is willing to listen to concerns, but stressed that folks should provide solutions, not just complaints. He suggested that the council may want to further consider the issue at the upcoming parish council/staff retreat.
7. **We need more Senior oriented activities!**
8. **Why don’t we have doughnuts anymore?** The doughnut ministry needs to be self-sustaining. An idea Fr. suggested is to have different ministries sponsor it.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 and members proceeded to the Columbarium area to check on progress. Next meeting Sept 19.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Chapman, Secretary*

