



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

Parish Council

Minutes from Meeting – July 11 2009

Meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m.

Members present: Fr. Ken, Rafael Benet, Bill Collins, Tricia Meir, Beth Hines, John Lockwood, Shorty Melendez, Bill Burke, Lisa Jones, Veronica John, Tina Wandersee, Barbara Tucci & Mary Chapman

Fr. Ken's Updates:

- **New PC members' discernment** – Pat Novak will be here on 7/18 to facilitate the process. Names are being collected. We need volunteers from PC to speak at each Mass this weekend. Volunteers are: Sat. 5 (Barbara), Sun. 7:30 (Veronica), 9 (Lisa), 1 (Rafael) 4 (Bill B.). Presentation to include:
 - 2 minute maximum speaking with an invitation at the end
 - Info regarding meeting schedule of the Council
 - Brief overview of responsibilities: sub-committees for projects, active presence at parish events and Town meetings, participation in ClIFF
 - Instructions for nominations
- **Guatemala Update** – Francisco just returned. He checked on the scholarship recipients y the adult recipients. Fr. Ken would like to invite one or two of the scholarship recipients to come and give testimony of the impact the scholarship has made in their life. This is a cultural interchange and Fr. Misael is planning to come with them

Old Business:

- 1) **Columbarium** – New marble expected in about 6 weeks. Some niches have been sold and have received several phone inquiries. **Sales of memorial pavers:** will be handled through the Parish Store. Fr. Ken will make an announcement at the weekend Masses. There is a Catholic Update is available regarding the Church's position on Cremation. We need to translate this information and make it available in Spanish. For the Hispanic parishioners the face to face dialogue will be more valid. Many of our Mexican and Central American parishioners still ship the bodies home and the "Day of the Dead" is a strong cultural commitment.
- 2) **Stewardship Ministry Fair Report** – Planning committee meets August 3 @ 6 p.m. in Carmel Center. Plans are for having the fair in November (date will be determined in August). Will have forms available for ministry info and we can commit as our Advent gift to Jesus. Janet will speak and get updates from staff for information at tables. Would like to have a uniform format for all the ministries. Ministry list will be updated again prior to that.
- 3) **Disabilities Inclusion Committee** – Christa and Barbara attended a Diocesan Conference in Norfolk. There will be a dinner for fun and fellowship @ OLMC on Sat. 7/25 at SMH. We are looking to bring a speaker and gather resources regionally. Are looking to begin assistive technology for Mass (adaptive activities to experience the Mass). Many fall through the cracks and don't receive Sacraments because they don't realize we can try to adapt the preparation process. We need to be welcoming to all young & old. Facilities need major overhaul (bathrooms) for wheelchair accessibility. Christa is exploring grant possibilities.
- 4) **Welcoming Committee** – Kickoff event for Sponsor Family Program is Thurs. 7/23 @ 7:00 p.m. in the Commons Meeting Space. Fr. will speak of this at all Masses. There will be a committee meeting the week prior on Tuesday 7/14 @ 7:00. Request
- 5) **Parish Council/Staff/Finance Council Retreat Day** – Tentative for 8/14 however there is a conflict w/ the ClIFF Sock Hop. Rafael will check on the date and send out an e-mail.
- 6) **Feast Day** – 7/16 begins w/ Mass @ 6 p.m. followed by celebration @ St. Michael Hall. 50/50 Raffle to raise funds for TV monitors for the Commons area. Tricia and Tina will help. John Chesney needs help to set up and clean up.

New Business

1. **School Board Appointment** – According to By-Laws, a member of the Parish Council who does not have children at the school should be on the School Board (fresh set of eyes). Bill C. was nominated for this position and graciously accepted.

2. **Thank You to Retiring Members of PC** – we'll have a hail to new members and farewell to outgoing members Lisa, Tricia, Veronica and Beth at our next meeting.
3. **Fundraising Guidelines** – We need to establish these to have a format in place. We will discuss further at the next PC meeting. Bill B. is willing to assist in designing a model for fundraising. Some guideline input from Fr. Ken: 1) No fundraising in Commons Area. 2) Would prefer a larger ticket event vs. small fund events. 3) We need to form a committee to evaluate fundraising project requests so they don't overlap other projects. Info should include the purpose for the project. 4) All funds go through the parish.

Ministry Updates

1. **CLiFF** - Getting ready for the new year. The Core Team has been meeting. Sessions are to be called "People of Faith Intergenerational Gatherings". They will accept credit cards for registration.
2. **Liturgy & Worship** - The committee is looking to provide more fluidity in the Mass celebration. Changes to lectors: They will now sit in section 5 front pew as opposed to section 6 which will be reserved for parishioners with limited mobility. There is a shortage of Eucharistic Ministers and there is a need for better organization of ushers.
3. **Some staff changes** – Eileen will no longer be in charge of the bulletin, she will focus more on PDS and computer related duties. Donna Gauthier should receive bulletin announcements and Eileen should receive web page entries.
4. **School Gym Update** – The painting is almost done and they should begin installing the floor on the 19th or 20th of July. There is a 6 week window and they can put the new floor right on top of the old one.
6. **Public Service Announcement**- Radio station 88.1 FM has a Spanish segment. We need to correct the Mass time to 1:00 instead of 11:30. We should place an announcement to promote registration at the Parish school.
7. **Suggestion for Sr. to meet w/PC**. Fr. will invite her for September meeting.
8. **Pregnancy Solutions** –There are not so many screenings. There is an increase of baby clients. They are really short on clothing and diapers. They need general baby items. Look in the bulletin for specific needs. They assist w/ formula & diapers. They need a list of interpreters for their Spanish speaking clients. They normally have appointments 2 times a week.
9. **Migrant Ministry** – They will be visiting the work camps on Tuesdays in July. Departure from OLMC @ 4:30 and returning around 10 or 11 p.m. They will bring toiletries, food items and stationery items. Fr. Ken will celebrate a Mass each time.
10. **Vacation Bible School** – Good experience
11. **Spanish as a Second Language** to start again in September.

Heard It in the Pews

1. **"We can't hear!"** Some parishioners showed concern over not being able to hear announcements and song numbers in the pews. Space is not designed to have signs visible to all. Requests have been made to the announcers to speak slowly, clearly and to repeat the hymn numbers.
2. **Suggestion to improve the CLiFF gatherings at SMH** – When the group is partitioned off, you tend to lose a chunk of the group. They feel left out w/ a sense of lost continuity and connection so many have phased out. Tina will take this information to the next meeting. Also determined that a mixing of age groups is not successful (ex. Teens/adults).
3. **Blessed Sacrament Chapel** A/C unit being tampered with even though it has a lock.
4. **The Parish Web Site needs a lot of attention and updating.** The new and improved site will be up by end of July. The web site should show the life of the parish.
5. **1st Friday Adoration** – not a great commitment to fill the time slots. Fr. said that if the people aren't there it means they may be finding spiritual fulfillment elsewhere (ex. Friday night Rosary meditations). There are different needs.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45. Next meeting August 8. ****Each PC member present please come prepared with an introduction of yourself and what we're doing on PC and Ministry liaison.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Chapman, Secretary

