



# Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

## Parish Council

Minutes from Meeting – June 13, 2009

Meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m.

Members present: Fr. Ken, Dave Dwyer, Bill Collins, John Lockwood, Tina Wandersee, Rafael Benet, Tricia Meir, Bill Burke, Veronica John, Shorty Melendez and Mary Chapman

### Fr. Ken's Updates:

- **Columbarium** – With the construction in process now there is a physical visual aid to the project. Fr. Ken will speak at all Masses and at Town Hall meeting regarding progress and sales. The niche stones will be engraved instead of having a brass plate.
- **Setting up Town Hall Meeting Agenda**
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### Old Business:

- 1) **Columbarium** – Dave & Hart to address expectations for dates, purchase opportunities. There is a slight delay due to granite stones. Engraving the stone will be much more economical. Maintenance will be easier because no oxidation changes as there would be with placards. The niches are in place; we are waiting on the marble. **Sales of memorial pavers:** will be handled through the Parish Store. They will begin to sell Father's Day weekend (we have 600 to sell).
- 2) **Town Meeting Agenda** (Pot Luck Dinner w/ PowerPoint of Parish Life running during dinner)
  - a. Columbarium - Dave
  - b. Welcoming Committee – Tricia
  - c. Disabilities Inclusion Committee – Bill C.
  - d. Guatemala
  - e. Feast Day Celebration
  - f. Staff Updates
  - g. Q & A
- 3) **Parish Life and Ministry Promotion** – Fr. Would like to have to flat screen TV monitors in the Commons area to have ongoing Slide Shows of Ministry and life in the Church so people will know what's happening in our parish on an ongoing basis. Slide shows could be on a 15 minute loop with a changing theme each week. It was suggested to have a 50/50 raffle at the Feast Day Picnic to help pay for the TV's. (Mary & Shorty to run the raffle)
- 3) **Discernment of New Members** – The By-Laws: Members are eligible for 4 yrs, then must go through another discernment process. Members must serve at least 2 years. Fr. will contact Pat Novak to set up the next discernment opportunity.
- 4) **Stewardship Fair Report** – It was determined there is too much going on in September with ClIFF starting. The Fair needs to happen in a different month so it won't get lost in the mix. Suggest closer to November and tie in with Advent (ex. "Gifts we give to Jesus" – ministry). Members of committee are: Tina, Lisa, Mary, Shorty, Barbara, Beth, Janet, Christa and Donna
- 5) **Disabilities Inclusion Committee** – Bill C. will work with Christa and Hart on the facilities and accessibility aspect. Dave and Barbara will work on Religious Education. They need to write a grant to help pay for major required bathroom reconstruction. Discussed using area in front of sections 2 & 5 in the Sanctuary as wheelchair areas. Would like to emphasize with ushers to recommend section 6 to the elderly (walkers, etc.) to make it easier for Eucharistic Ministers to access. Dave met with Christa regarding a special program for more long-term goals.
- 6) **Feast Day – Thursday July 16** – Bilingual Mass at 6:00 p.m. followed by picnic. Food and activities being planned.
- 7) **Ministry Appreciation Dinner** – consensus was that it was an outstanding event. Thanks for the great food. It was good to see more interaction between Hispanics and Parish at large which is a dramatic improvement from last year. Kudos to John Chesney for a great meal on a budget.

### New Business

1. **Altar Servers** – We have a school and lots of kids at OLMC school but many attend other parishes or don't attend Mass. We're still trying to figure out how to keep them. A suggestion was made to have a formal presentation at the school to recruit altar servers.

2. **Youth Program** - Bill B. suggested a Detective from VA Beach to do a workshop for Teens & Parents. Fr. has suggested that Steve Branning plan & implement a retreat on communication between parents and teens. The retreat would be for a Parent/Teen Day and would end with Mass @ 5:00. Hopefully should happen by spring of next year. The Intergenerational things with ClIFF really needs to be addressed with the teenagers – they are more receptive!
3. **Councils/Staff Retreat Day** – Date to be determined probably 8/12 or 8/14 from 12:00-5:00 p.m. Dave is working on finding a venue. The pre-discussed books are not fitting in with the vision for this event. The retreat will be taking a new direction. Determine theme for the day: Is it supposed to be spiritual or academic? This is a work in process.

### Ministry Updates

1. **Welcoming Committee** – Met on 5/4 and are moving forward on getting volunteers & making weekly announcements in the bulletin. Next meeting is on 7/9 @ 7:00. Plans are in the works for the Sponsor Family Orientation program kickoff on 7/23 @ 7:00 p.m. in Commons Meeting Space. Eucharistic Ministers to hand out tokens of Welcome which are obtained in Parish store. Committee consists of: Tricia, Lisa, Veronica, Shorty, Anton, Barbara. Mary, Tina, Hart & Fr. Ken. Christa suggested having umbrellas available for greeters to assist disabled, elderly and any others in need on rainy days. Contact cards created to put in pews, parish store and office. Visitors wishing to be contacted for more information about our parish may fill it out and drop it in the collection basket. Contact cards will be in Spanish also. Suggested providing a parish directory, welcoming by name in bulletin and pictures on a “New Faces @ OLMC” bulletin board.
2. **Hispanic Ministry “De Madre a Madre” (MOMS program in Spanish)** – 7<sup>th</sup> group finishing and we are celebrating the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion on 6/27.
3. **RCIA** – Rite of Welcoming set for 6/14. New group is preparing for Rite in November. The year round program is in place and functioning well. They are always looking for sponsors.
3. **Liturgy & Worship** - There is a specific First Aid box in a location not to be tampered with. Only Mass Coordinators and Priests are to know the location and accessibility information. Shorty will get this information to forward.

### Heard It in the Pews

1. **Sacramental Bread** – Some say the bread is too hard to chew. Eucharistic Ministers be more aware not to give out the tiny, hard end pieces. Could we use something different? There is a specific recipe that is followed. 2 elements required in Eucharist **grape wine & wheat**. Sometimes it needs to be frozen to be used during the week.
2. **Gluten Issues** (Celiac Disease) – There will be a separate cup provided for these special needs. This will be announced prior to Eucharist at all Masses every Sunday (we may have visitors).
3. **Do we have any kind of drug/prayer counseling?** Contact Jen DelCorso. If there is enough of a need, she could form a support group.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00. Next meeting July 10

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Chapman, Secretary*

