



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

Parish Council

Minutes from Meeting – November 21, 2009

Meeting was convened at 9:15 a.m.

Members present: Fr. Ken, Dave Dwyer, Carmen Lane, Barbara Tucci, Paul Tartabini, Shorty Melendez, Mary Chapman, Bill Collins, Linda Wahlert, Tina Wandersee and John Lockwood

Fr. Ken's Updates:

- Columbarium is about 98% done. We have received the Occupancy Permit and are waiting for the fence to be completed. The benches have arrived and need to be put together. We will be able to begin interring after Thanksgiving. The Dedication of the Columbarium will hopefully occur upon completion by the 1st of the year, probably after 10:00 Mass on Sunday.
- Financial reports provided to the Council. Rationale: In order for the Pastoral Plan to be effective, the financial picture needs to be accessible.
- Town meeting is scheduled for January 14. Dinner menu to be determined.
- We need to form a Parish Retreat Planning Committee

Old Business:

- 1) **Parish Council/Staff Liaison Committee** is working on a new Parish Mission Statement. It will be presented at the Town Meeting. The Mission Statement needs to be short, meaningful and memorable. The next meeting is 12/9.
- 2) **Town Meeting** – Meeting will be on Jan. 14. The following advertisements will take place prior to the meeting:
 - 12/27 – Save the Date blurb in the bulletin
 - 1/3 – More detailed short paragraph in the bulletin
 - 1/10 – Personal invitation from Council members at all masses & a flyer in the bulletin with the agenda
 - Agenda items to include: Mission Statement, Needs Assessment and Building Needs, Facilities needs planning and Parish Retreat Opportunities
- 3) **Disabilities Committee** – Survey results were reduced. The committee brought a motorized wheelchair to the church to assess accessibility to all spaces. We have some areas that are not accessible. The committee will meet go over their findings.
- 4) **Columbarium** - 18 niches have been sold. Sales are consistent with needs. Total 270 available. The columbarium will sustain itself over time. This is not a profit-making venture. It is useful to us for its obvious purpose but also it is a prayer garden.

New Business

- 1) **We need to form a Parish Retreat Planning Committee** - We need to gather a team inclusive of Deacon aspirants to find ways to animate the community to experience their faith. Would like to provide options to have a variety of opportunities. Some suggestions were: Christ Renews His Parish and ACTS. Persons interested in collaborating may contact Dave Dwyer. A suggestion was made to include the Adult Faith Formation Committee in the invitation to collaborate.

- 2) ***We need a Building Alterations Committee*** –The committee’s function would be to assess and identify possible spaces needed. After some discussion it was determined that the first order of business for the Committee would be to interview the various parish groups to get input for what they see as a need whether it be disability, space, etc. The Council will develop a description of tasks for the Committee to facilitate the research and a future Town Meeting will address the results of the plan. Fr. Ken will appoint the chairperson. Volunteers will work over a 90 day period to meet with the parish groups who presently use the spaces and report back to PC with findings and points of contact. The Committee formation will be a Town meeting item on Jan. 14.

Ministry Updates

RCIA –We will be seeing more times in the year where people are received in full sacramental initiation. Each candidate or catechumen is being discerned at a pace suitable to them. 11/22, 2 members will celebrate full communion. There are about 15 new inquirers.

Adult Faith – Theme is Advent. There are some changes in environment with new Christmas trees in Commons, new Advent wreath.

Liturgy & Worship – waiting on minutes from the meeting. There will be new openings and meditations with candle lighting of the Advent wreath at Mass.

Doughnut Ministry – People are happy. They feel a welcoming atmosphere.

People of Faith – some feel that once a month is not sufficient. There are concerns for the Junior Youth Group and some parishioners have stepped up to help.

Hispanic Ministry – On Dec. 12, the Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at 7:30. It is a great opportunity to experience the Mexican culture in worship as many come dressed in their cultural clothing. Also, there will be fellowship after Mass with typical Mexican fare.

Welcoming Committee – Would like to have pamphlet holders in pews for “Welcome/Info” cards. These would be more like “Are you interested in being contacted?” introductions. Fr. Ken said some can be placed in kiosks in Commons area.

School Board Openings – There are 2 openings for members to the OLMC School Board. Fr. Ken would like recommendations to be given to him.

Freelance Photographer – John Lockwood continues to be “Johnny on the Spot” by attending many parish events as well as Diocesan events and keeping a pictorial record of these stories.

Parish Council Christmas Gathering will be on Friday, 12/4 at 6:00. Dave will send a reminder. Our Guatemala visitors will be present.

PORT was a successful endeavor even with electricity challenges. Thanks to all for the support provided to this ministry.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30. Next meeting 12/5 - Rafael–prayer; Linda/Barbara/Bill C.- food.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Chapman, Secretary

