

Parish Council Minutes – January 6, 2010

Vicki Hawkins opened the meeting with a scripture reading and faith sharing.

Neighborhood Evangelization: Sylvia Caballero and Alicia Sandoval described the Neighborhood Evangelization project being initiated in our parish. This project is working closely with the Faith Formation Office. The Neighborhood Evangelization Project is based on the idea of the importance of community, and making connections to feel more a part of the larger parish community. It will involve identifying neighborhoods in our parish boundaries and having a team of parishioners from both the English and Spanish speaking communities going door to door to make personal contact with individuals to invite them to church or welcome them back to the church. Those who are a part of the Spanish community will be invited to a gathering in their neighborhood while those in the English speaking community will be invited to church to be welcomed and obtain information about our parish. At this time there are 53 volunteers who will embark on this task. They will be identified by the yellow shirts they wear symbolizing the light of Christ. There will be a ceremony at Mass to symbolize their being sent into the community.

Vicki Hawkins then shared that Nativity Parish will be hosting the National Conference for National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring as Communities July 22-25, 2010. This organization seeks to promote the concept of Small Christian Communities. The conference is hoping to draw 200 participants from several states and countries outside the United States. Vickie Hawkins also reminded the council members that the Faith Formation office would be hosting a showing of the video, *Posada, a Night to Cross All Borders*. This is a video on the timely issue of migration during this week which the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates National Migration Week.

Pastor's Report: **Youth Center-**Father Proulx shared with the council that a considerable amount of thoughtful time has been spent focusing on the ministry related programming and activities that will occur in the new youth center and keeping those activities in mind when planning the building. Father shared pictures of the interior of the building as well as a virtual tour of the Youth Center and Gymnasium. This virtual tour will be shared with the parish at a later date.

Father expressed his thanks to our neighbors Bell Shoals Baptist Church and First Baptist Church in their openness to view their facilities for ideas to explore for our own youth center. He expressed his appreciation for the guidance and assistance provided by Richard Kolhoff the Executive Director of the Construction Department for the Diocese. The money from the campaign *Of One Heart* is being used wisely and we are on target. The debt for the church renovations will be paid. We need to keep in mind that at this time the building does not include extras. There is a "wish list" should funds become available. We pray for the continued success of the campaign.

7 Steps to Financial Freedom – Father expressed thanks that Brian Holtz had done such a successful job of undertaking this class and providing the opportunity to the parishioners on such a timely topic. He then told the council that this class would be in the very capable hands of Ed and Jeannette Kochik who would now be facilitating this class.

Meeting- Due to scheduling conflicts it was decided the Pastoral Council meeting scheduled for the first Wednesday of March would be held Monday, March 15th.

SCRIP- Sue Mokris reported that we are now ready to expand the scrip program to the parish. We are very excited about the potential this program has for our parish. Our parish school has earned approximately \$2300 in scrip rebates. Sue discussed and addressed the importance of making the parish aware of this program and the ease of being able to provide additional revenue to the church by planning regular purchases using scrip. Information will be available in the bulletin and in the social hall where plans include setting up a computer to assist in educating parishioners on the use of scrip. It was suggested that a presentation be made to the Women's Guild and parents of students in the Faith Formation Program. The scrip program will go through the Church Development Office.

Career Workshop: Linda McCarroll stated she is in the process of planning the next career workshop and honoring the request that it target college students and young adults. To provide for maximum participation the discussion centered on the best time (spring or summer) to conduct this workshop. After discussing the pros and cons of each time it was decided Linda would be in contact with the Youth Minister and possibly access the college students' data base to dialogue with possible participants via Face book as to when it would be best to schedule this workshop.

Roundtable:

Discussed was the possibility of Eucharistic Ministers recommitting to the ministry on line. Suggested we speak to Rob about this.

Linda Mc Carroll offered her professional services and will be in contact with the Food Bank.

A gentleman from the US Census office has contacted Linda and is looking to hire temporary workers for the 2010 Census. These positions are available to both English and Spanish speakers and require a test and background check.

It was asked if an event like *Shop till You Drop* might be extended past 4:00 on Saturday. It was decided it could be with the only concern being the handling of the traffic for both the Masses and the event.

In closing, Father offered sincerely thanks and appreciation to Antonio Cartagena for his service to the Parish Council and also his faithful service to our parish and the Hispanic community.

Antonio and his wife will be moving to Costa Rico.

Meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

In attendance: Father Proulx, Antonio Cartagena, Linda McCarroll, Gary Rabenold, Art Barlaan, Jim Ussery, Sue Mokris, Kirven Speed, Arturo Rivera, Virginia Baum, Janet Caraballo

Excused absences: Dee LoPresti, Jo O'Brien