

Parish Council Minutes - September 2, 2009

If you have any questions or concerns for the Pastoral Council, you can contact the Council at the link found on our parish website: nativitycatholicchurch.org.

Meeting was opened by Fr. Proulx with a Scripture reading and reflection. Janet Caraballo welcomed all our visitors

Ministry of Presence---Claudeen Boyd

Claudeen outlined the role of this ministry which operates under the umbrella of the Bereavement Ministry. A representative of the parish meets with the family of the deceased and helps the family plan the funeral liturgy. Members are contacted and asked to share their presence at the funeral or simply pray with those who grieve. The ministry is involved with the 100 or more funerals that take place at Nativity each year. Since most of the funeral Masses take place during the week, it is difficult for the working members of the ministry to attend these funerals. Thus the ministry would welcome all parishioners who might be able to help. Once a year, on or around All Souls Day, a Memorial Mass is offered for all who have died in our parish during the past year. The families of those who died are invited to attend. While the name of each of the deceased is read aloud, a candle is lit. This Mass is a great comfort to those in attendance. Everyone in the parish is welcome to attend this Mass as well.

English Lessons – Illeana Russell

Illeana reported that the classes were going very well. They meet two evenings a week and have approximately 20 students. They have made steady progress and are comprehending conversations and reading paragraphs. They are also learning important life skills such as writing checks, guarding against identity theft, using the internet and podcasts to improve their English. The students are enthusiastic and looking forward to when they can become American citizens.

The Year for Priests – Fr. Clement

Fr. Clement summarized and reviewed the "Year for Priest" suggestions that were sent in or brainstormed by the council at a recent meeting. These suggestions include presenting videos at Mass (which has been implemented) Adoration, personal testimonies of priests, seminarians and parents. Profiling the priests and seminarians in the weekly bulletin, spiritual adoption by praying for our diocesan priests, recognizing Fr. Clement's parents at Sunday Mass and exploring a presentation at a Generation of Faith event. Fr. Clement also commented on the fact that the priests at Nativity have over 150 years of dedicated service to the church of which we are very thankful. He also shared that it is a responsibility of parents to encourage their child if they have been called to a religious or priestly vocation. It was decided that Father would form a committee to include parents of some of our seminarians to see how best to honor the priest and strengthen vocations in our own parish.

Fr. Proulx's Report

Youth Center – Meeting with Contractor's – update will follow. There is a good chance we will be able to begin June 2010. The Youth Center will be smaller but house the gym and a room for the youth director. Registration for That Man is You is going well. There are 22 committed team members.

The Emmaus brochure looks good. More details will follow for the women's spring retreat...

The Bishop is at home and is doing well.

Dr. Mark Taylor, our acolyte, is being ordained as a permanent Deacon on October 3rd at St. Jude's Cathedral at 11 o'clock. All parishioners are encouraged to attend. Dr. Taylor has been very helpful and continues to be a pleasure to work with.

Scripp – Gary Rabenold

Gary and Sue met with Rob Martin to discuss how this would work when it is implemented by the parish. It was decided the Pastoral Council would be responsible for pioneering the project at next month's meeting.

Novemberfest Update – Dee LoPresti

All the committees are already working. There is a need for someone to shadow the current plumber, the food chairperson also needs assistance, and a chairperson is needed to head the Sponsor Committee. One very important area that is need of help is the Medical team. The woman in charge will be unable to do as much as she has in the past and needs help from qualified people who are trained as EMT, LPN, RN and Doctors. The Adult Ed building is set up like a mini clinic. Last year they had to go out and purchase more cots due to the number of people who needed help. The Volunteer Committee that sets up the schedule of workers is ready to start signing up parishioners. They will be in the social hall starting in October after Masses. Mail outs for the Raffle tickets will hopefully be ready mid September. The Entertainment Committee also needs more groups to participate. New ideas are being implemented by the Fun and Run group. The current communication equipment is inefficient and they are looking into obtaining a better system that is not too costly.

Career Workshop – Everything is ready for the next workshop.

Janet reminded everyone of the Retreat on Oct.31st at the Bethany Center and the Food Pantry Warehouse trip Oct. 17th. Along with all the other events that are taking place during Sept and Oct.

Roundtable: Virginia Baum and her husband will be participating in the 7 Steps to Financial Freedom. It was discussed on what would be the best way for our parishioners to know when a member or family member of Nativity has died. It was suggested that a sentence be added to the current Funeral Notice form. to include names of organizations that they might want notified. Dee will get with Claudeen to see if this can be implemented. It was also noted that parishioners have commented on the church and chapel either being too hot or too cold.

Meeting was adjourned with a prayer. Attendance: Virginia Baum, Janet Caraballo, Gary Rabenold, Dee LoPresti, Jo O'Brien, Kirven Speed, Haydee Rivera, Art Baarlan Excused absences: Linda McCarroll, Sue Mokris, Jim Ussery.