

St. Bernard Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2006

John Moorhouse opened the meeting 7:05 PM.
Fr. David Reichling lead us in prayer.

Attendees:

Bob Murphy
Robin Bender
Brian Shea
John Moorhouse
Fr. David Reichling
Kevin Holland

Roy Brown
Mark Rheume
Dan Gayvert
Randy Heinz
Grace Reif
Coreen Glen

Absent:

Blake Jensen
Patricia Thomas
Cathy Bealer
Mandi Crable
Patti Dunbar
Bruce Broswick

Committee Reports

Education

Bob Murphy, **Children's Education** head, told the council that 1st and 2nd grade students have increased while 3rd and 4th grade students have decreased. The initial conclusion is once the children receive their sacraments the parents no longer feel a need to have the children attend. Bob is planning on sending a letter to the parents of the children no longer enrolled to encourage them to have their children attend past the 2nd grade. The CCD classes have decreased by 30 students from last year. Bob also emphasized that the lower numbers are also due to children moving and other factors, not just apathy on the part of the parents.

Dave DeBats from the Billings Catholic Schools commented they are trying to encourage their religious education students attend their parish CCD classes and be more involved in their parish youth groups.

The CCD program is going well and the teachers are doing a great job.

Brian Shea reported all of the **Youth Groups** are growing and the kids are getting a lot out of them. On 4-5 November 2006 five to ten high school students will be going to Great Falls to attend a "Catholic MIP (Montanans in Prayer) Conference." Jesse Manibusen is the scheduled featured speaker.

17-19 November 2006 is the SEARCH for Juniors and Seniors at Central High School.

Brian turned the boiler room in the church basement into a "catacomb" and the kids really learned a lot from that.

RCIA is doing well and RCIC begins on Sunday.

There are some concerns about the Adult Bible Study that if you miss an evening you will be lost and won't know what is going on in the course. A couple of people in attendance who are attending the ABS tried to allay those fears and encouraged everyone to attend.

TEMPUS will be holding a class about other religions of the world soon.

Billings Catholic Schools – Dave DeBats reported there were about 20 parents at the "State of the Schools" meeting. Dave took that as a good sign, if there aren't a lot of parents concerned about what the schools are doing then they must be doing things right.

A religion class is planning a trip to Rome this summer so they are fundraising. Accreditation is moving along smoothly. Blue Ribbon Certification for No Child Left Behind (Private School Certification) should be completed soon.

The total students in the BCS system are over 1000 students. The preschool has the highest number of students ever enrolled.

The BCS board is asking what the schools can give back to the parishes. Encourage students to attend Religious Ed classes and youth groups.

Brian expressed concern the BCS board does not try hard enough to keep Wednesday evenings open for family and parish events. The public schools work hard to keep Wednesdays open but the BCS does not.

BCS would also like to perform the music at Masses as a thank you to the parishes.

Parish Fun

Kevin Holland said the Halloween party is coming together. He has the hayride, pumpkin decorating and other activities set up. The Boy Scouts are setting up the haunted house. John Moorhouse will contact Mandi Crable to see how the games are coming together. The party will be Saturday, 28 October 2006.

Liturgy

The committee will be decorating for the holiday this Saturday at 8:00 a.m.
The Music Committee has met.

Social Justice

Haiti Committee – Chair Mary Koelzer submitted: “Haiti Sponsorship has collected \$10,400.00. That means we have sponsored 104 students so far. We are a little over half way to what we collected last year and it is Haiti weekend again this weekend. Our committee is discussing joining with the Detroit group. We would still sponsor students at Desvarrieux and the money would still be sent to Fr. Faublas. We believe joining with Detroit would make it easier to communicate with our parish and get feedback they have Haitian’s in their parishes and an executive committee goes to Haiti twice a year and a large mission group goes once a year so we would be able to send one person or several people to go with them. We will report more about that in time.”

Pro Life Committee – Chair Linda Lee spoke to RCIA and the committee meets on the 3rd Monday at 7:15 a.m. They will hold a rosary at Planned Parenthood this coming Sunday.

The following Sunday the Montana Catholic Conference, the lobbying organization of the Catholic Church, will be holding a candidate information seminar.

Interfaith Hospitality Network – We are hosting this week. There are four families. One family has found a home today so they are out of the program. The council would like to do an evaluation of the IHN, now that we have completed over a year in the program, to determine if it is meeting our expectations. We need to decide if we want to continue, make some changes in the way we participate or drop out.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference – The conference is meeting on the 1st & 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and are still performing home visits. Ozanam training will be held 21 October at St. Thomas.

St. Bernard’s SVDP Conference members are:

Mary Jo Michals, President
Ken & Kay Danielson
Wayne & Ruth Masin
Randy Heinz
Harry Merchant

Laynn & Reggie Chase
Hodi & Cheryl Ikeda
Tom & Patti Dunbar
John Williams

Communications

The BCS is looking to revamp their website and they want to have reciprocal links with the parish website. Roy Brown will contact the group in charge of the school’s website and have them contact St. Bernard’s webmaster.

Finance Committee

The parking lot sign has been erected and the bills have totaled \$10,684 with the North Western Energy bill yet to come in.

Rest room signs are up. The roof is half completed and hopefully will be finished soon.

Parish collections are running ~\$5,000.00 short.

A new tax is coming from the diocese for the “Clerical Benefit Association” to fund clerical retirements.

New Business

Coreen Glen, the diocesan chair of the Council of Catholic Women, told the council about voter information booths at 28 March 2007 in Helena. The CCW is hosting a Harvest Dinner on 22 October 2006.

Bob Murphy asked Robin Bender of CARENET for a list of what to give new mothers to be placed in backpacks.

KofC bingo license is still in the works but until then the council will still have bingo but will not charge for cards.

The council is looking to do it as a social event. Roy Brown offered the idea of BCS “script” as a possible prize to be given to bingo players.

The minutes of the 14 September 2006 were approved to be placed online.

The meeting ended in prayer, led by John Moorhouse at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Randy Heinz