

St. Bernard Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2006

John Moorhouse opened the meeting 7:05 p.m..
Fr. David Reichling led us in prayer.

Attendees:	Dan O'Donnell	Absent:
Fr. David Reichling	Bob Murphy	Cathy Bealer
John Moorhouse	Patricia Thomas	Mandi Crable
Patti Dunbar	Brian Shea	Bruce Broswick
Roy Brown	Blake Jensen	Dan Gayvert
Dave DeBatts	Randy Heinz	
Robin Bender	Art Mulkey	
Mark Rheume		

The minutes of the November 2006 meeting were approved to be placed online.

Special Report on Haiti

Art Mulkey updated the council on what has been happening lately concerning the school at Desvarrieux and the parish at Mirabalais. See attached Appendix A, B & C.

Committee Reports

Education

Children: Bob Murphy reported things are going well and the teachers are good. The backpack project was successful. The children filled backpacks with materials for homeless people, expectant mothers and kids at the Friendship House. The Billings Gazette is planning to publish an article about the kids doing the backpacks. The "Jesse Tree," daily devotion, drug & alcohol seminar are going well. The 4th, 5th & 6th graders have a ski trip planned for January. The K-4 children are going to Chuck E. Cheese in January. The parts for the Christmas play are filling up quickly. First Communion information will be sent out after the holidays. There are approximately 40 altar servers who practice three times per week. There are 53 2nd graders studying for their Confirmation. The parent involvement has been improving. More of them are sticking around for CCD.

Teens: November has been a busy month with a Dodge Ball event for all Catholic churches. Thirteen youth went to the CMIP conference in Great Falls. They are also making and sending care packages to former members who are in college or working. They conducted a coat and blanket drive for the homeless and also helped serve a chili dinner for the homeless. Both events helped the Society of St. Vincent de Paul immensely during the holiday season. The youth also spent an evening at the church wrapping presents for the SVDP Christmas present drive. They also have been offering High School Bible study on Thursdays. Two ski trips and broom hockey are also planned. Discussions with Sheldon Hanser, Billings Central Catholic High School principal, are ongoing to ensure the SEARCH will be held in the spring.

RCIA: Kris Nelson reported via e-mail.

"All is well with RCIA. We have added a new catechumen. Other than that business as usual."

Adult Bible Study: Attendance is high averaging forty to fifty each week. Randy reported Glen and Randy were discussing what to offer next year and one option was to continue to studying the theology of salvation history. Fr. Dave said he would like to offer both the course we are offering this year, biblical history, and the theology of salvation history.

Billings Catholic Schools: The next board meeting will be held December 19, 2006. The Bishop's Task Force will meet on Dec. 20, 2006. The January board meeting has been moved to February at St. Bernard. Fr. Dave's replacement on the BCS board may be Deacon Mel Melius. An interview on Community 7

with BCS Board President Harold Olson discussed the state of the schools and curriculum. The Primary Christmas program was broadcast on Community 7. There are three Montana students on the National High School Choir and one of them is from the BCS.

Parish Fun

Mandy Crable reported via e-mail.

“Turkey Bingo was a success – about 200 people attended.

Christmas party coming up on Saturday – had a really hard time finding people to help despite multiple phone calls and a sign up sheet. People want fun stuff to go to, they just don’t want to help with the work involved.

Any ideas?????”

Liturgy

Worship: Decorating for Christmas will be 8:00 a.m. Saturday and the trees and sage have been collected. Gayvert’s have provided poinsettias. CARENET and Haiti weekends are coming up shortly. Sixty – eighty names were traded for Kris Kringle. There was a discussion about the use of hand sanitizer by Eucharistic Ministers. It was decided to continue using it.

Social Justice

Parish Nursing: Pricilla wanted to thank everyone for all their help throughout the year. This includes medical people as well as non-medical people who return calls and respond to requests to help with rides to church, visits, meals, prayers and taking communion.

Haiti: See Art Mulkey’s report above. Pat Thomas also reported the Detroit group wants a member of St. Bernard’s parish to be on their Haiti board. They will communicate via e-mail and teleconferencing.

Pro-Life: The committee is planning to bring a pro-life priest April 28-29 or May 5-6. There will be a mass, rosary and continental breakfast.

Interfaith Hospitality Network: We are hosting the week before Christmas. There are seven in the program.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: Randy Heinz thanked Brian and his youth groups for all they have done for SVDP.

Communications

Fr. Dave spoke of wanting a way to communicate with parishioners via e-mail to disseminate news and others items of interest. Randy will set up a separate e-mail address to be used for this purpose.

Finance Committee

The finance item in the bulletin reflects a \$792 deficit. The parish’s finances are looking better but we are still not out of the hole. Sharon O’Donnell is retiring 15 Dec 2006 and Mary Strauss will replace her.

Parish Groups

Council of Catholic Women: no report

Knights of Columbus: Christmas tree sales are going well. They are still waiting for their bingo license to come through from the state. January 7, 2007 will hold a pancake breakfast for FOCUS.

New Business

None

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for 11 January 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Randy Heinz, SFO

Appendix A

Presbyterale school of Desvarieux Haiti

Sunday, December 03,2006

Dear good friends of the community of St-Bernard.

With pleasure, we the students of (Presbyterale) school of Desvarieux would like to say good morning.

First of all, we would like to say thanks for all of your financial supports to the (presbyterale) school of Desvarieux which help the school worked perfectly. To the (presbyterale) School of Desvarieux, they teach us how to love in order to love others, to inform us in order to inform others, to teach us how to fight selfishness, and how integrate into the life of our community.

To be sure that we have a good success of the school, we put an execution "changing ideas" to be able to facilitate a total formation for all of the personnel of the school. We have daily meeting, quarterly, monthly, and yearly meeting. And all of the students have a hot meal every day.

The quarterly meetings concern all of the personnel of the school, this is where we have planned and the methods used to this point to discuss with the teachers.

The monthly meetings of the teachers are done as a group or grade.

The daily meetings address concerns between the principle, teachers and students.

All of these are to administrate the school of Desvarieux and to build a sense of responsibility, initiative and raise this spirit of the community.

The community of Desvarieux constantly gives thanks for allowing us to provide a quality education for our students and hope for the future for the students, families, and community. We humbly ask that you keep us always in your prayers and continued financial support.

Your servant in Christ,
Fr. Faublas Louis

Appendix B

Report 2005 - 2006 Desvarrieux

End of year school report 2005- 2006

Presented by
Father Faublas Louis
Founder and Director

School year 2005-2006

Subject: End of year school report

Dear good friends of the St Bernard community we are pleased to give you the report for the school of Desvarrieux for the year 2005-2006.

First of all, we need to tell you that education in Haiti is a big challenge that caring educators have to face if they are to provide quality education for all.

We are greatly honored to present to you the end of year report of the school year 2005-2006.

In the beginning of the first quarter, the N. D of Altagrace school of Desvarrieux had a total of 355 students. Between January and May, we lost 15 students bringing the total student body to 340 at the end of the school year.

Results for the end of year exams;

The Altagrace school of Desvarrieux has a total of 340 students who underwent the end of year exams where they will be promoted to the next grade if they passed the exams and 10 of them took part in the official exams for the 6 grade (Those exams are administered by state).

On this note, let's look at the following tables:

Class	# Students Tested	# Students Passed	# Students Failed	Percentage Passed
Kindergarten	60	56	4	95.5%
1 st Grade	65	62	3	95%
2 nd Trade	63	59	4	94%
3 rd Grade	53	51	2	96%
4 th Grade	49	46	3	94%
5 th Grade	40	37	3	93%
6 th Grade	10	10	0	100%
Totals	340	321	19	94%

The overall results of the student exams were very satisfying and all who have had a part of these students education should be pleased.

P.S. The 19 students who did not pass the exams are scheduled to re-take the exams in September of 2006.

The budget for school year in funds which were collected (at least in part) from the parents is as follows;

1. Enrollment fees (340 x \$HT 5)	\$HT 1700.00
2. Exam fees (340 x \$HT 2)	\$HT 680.00
3. Tuition fees (340 x \$HT 100)	<u>\$HT 34000.00</u>

Total \$HT 36380.00

These fees also cover books, school supplies, uniforms and school lunches.

A total of 155 full scholarships were awarded this year because of financial hardships within the families.

It is thought by having the parents pay at least a small amount of the cost of a student attending school that they are more likely to encourage their child to attend school every day.

Expenses;

1. Construction of the teachers lounge	\$HT 25000.00
2. Construction of the sports pad	\$HT 10000.00
3. Scholarships awarded	\$HT 2500.00
4. Chalkboard repairs/replacement	\$HT 1000.00
5. Building maintenance	\$HT 3600.00
6. Activities (Field Trips)	\$HT 3450.00
7. Other Expenses	<u>\$HT450.00</u>

Expense Totals \$HT 46000.00

Accomplishments;

1. Mass for the HOLY SPIRIT
2. 3 Parent meetings
3. 2 Student committee meetings
4. 3 Class conferences
5. 3 Parent/Teacher meetings
6. 3 Administration conferences
7. Valentines day celebration
8. 2 Teacher conferences
9. Recreation day

Despite all, this has been successful year. And this success is possible thanks to the collaboration of various school committees established within the school: teachers committee, administration committee, parents and students committee.

We would like to thank the benefactors of the community of St Bernard for the 9,990 dollars in financial support that they have sent in as of October of 2005. Your participation, commitment and collaboration of all kinds including prayers are greatly needed, welcomed and appreciated. One more time, THANK YOU.

Faublas LOUIS, Pastor
Director

Appendix C

Haiti Outreach Mission December 2-4, 2006 fact finding trip to Mirebalais, Haiti

Travel team: Roger Matthews, Bill McNeece, Jim Schairbaum, Jim Ponder and Art Mulkey from St. Bernard's Catholic Church** in Billings, Montana

There was a threefold purpose for the trip:

1. To review the status of the various ongoing projects involving the clinic, orphanage, orphanage bakery, schools, and computer labs. Determine current needs and begin preparation for our May '07 mission trip.
2. Have a clear understanding with our main contacts in Mirebalais, Fr. Faublas and Fr. Jeannot, the importance of timely and regular communication to the success of our mission work.
3. Meet with the Mirebalais Rotary to discuss the status of the Mirebalais Water Project and reinforce the importance of their role in successfully planning and completing the Project.

Fr. Faublas - Another objective of the trip was to see firsthand the medical condition of Fr. Faublas. In September he broke/fractured his foot and lower leg in four places while working on an iron gate. His leg is in a cast, as it will be for another four months. He is now getting around on crutches or with the aid of a walker. He says he is not in pain and is in good spirits... and appreciates everyone's prayers.

Ongoing Projects:

- **St. Pierre Clinic** - Is operating on a daily basis. Monthly operating costs are \$2,800. In the last 6 months 2,331 adult medical patients have been seen; 453 dental patients; and an estimated 20 students per day from St. Louis and St. Pierre schools as well as all other schools in Mirebalais area, all of which are seen free of charge. The Doctor has been retained for the next year, while a new Dentist has been hired to replace the old one and is from Port-au-Prince. She will work at the clinic 2 1/2 days a week. The new diesel generator has been installed. The Clinic is in need of toilet facilities for the patients; we are seeking funding. Various maintenance items were identified for action. Including interior and exterior painting.
- **St. Blase Orphanage** - There are 33 children in the orphanage. 25 boys and eight girls. The orphanage as now structured will accommodate a maximum of 45-50 children, not the 100 as previously thought. The 100 number can be attained only with the addition of the second floor. The cost per child in the first year (20 children) was \$585. The projected cost for this school year with 33 children is \$390. The children look happy and the orphanage and grounds are in good condition. The orphanage is in need of exterior paint. A garden has been planted to assist with food needs.
- **St Gerard Orphanage Bakery** - The bakery structure is complete and awaits necessary baking and related equipment. Fr. Faublas is confident the bakery can be a money-maker for the orphanage. With Fr. Faublas, HOM will develop a Bakery Business Plan in early 2007. The Bakery will be a major HOM focus in 2007.
- **St. Louis and St. Pierre Schools** - Reconstruction of the four St. Pierre School rooms that were burned has been completed as well as new roofs for three additional classrooms. While there, we funded construction for desperately needed toilets for the St. Pierre school.
- **St. Louis and St. Pierre Computer Labs** - The labs at both schools are operating. Art Mulkey worked on the computers and systems in both schools to make them more efficient. Art brings a

real talent in this area. We will continue to support the labs and pay for satellite service to both labs. Consideration is being given to installing wireless connections to attach both rectories to the school satellite dishes.

Communications with Mirebalais - Improved communications with both priests has been a strong HOM desire for some time. It is critical to our ability to understand needs in Mirebalais and provide necessary help. It was agreed that a four times per year communication plan will be put into place. Negotiations are underway with a local translator to help implement this plan. Reporting will consist of:

- Two quarterly reports based on verbal interviews with Fr. Jeannot and Fr. Faublas,
- A report during the May Mission trip, and
- An annual comprehensive written report from Fr. Jeannot and Fr. Faublas which outlines accomplishments during the last year and plans for the coming year.

This information will in turn be shared with HOM membership via email and/or on the HOM internet website.

Mirebalais Water Project - On Sunday afternoon, we were guided by two Rotary members on a rigorous three mile hike through the Mirebalais countryside to the Mahotiére Spring, the source of the new Mirebalais water supply. This was an exhilarating experience, and a rare and valued opportunity to be up close to rural Haitians. By the time we reached the spring, we had accumulated an entourage of 30 or so area children and young people who accompanied us on our hike.

HOM has agreed to take the lead on the Mirebalais Water Project with respect to administration and oversight. The Mirebalais Rotary has provided all the engineering and construction studies. On Sunday evening we met with the officers of the Mirebalais Rotary to discuss the importance of our partnership and the need for timely completion of necessary paperwork and requirements. The target date for the groundbreaking is early May 2007.

The Water Project will build a new reservoir and piping system, while repairing and up grading the old system, (the old system is only serving about 8,000 people). The two systems together will provide clean potable water to some 80,000 people in Mirebalais area, thus eliminating sickness due to bad drinking water. This project will lead us to new relationships, and opportunities of involvement with the people in Mirebalais. HOM has committed to raise \$40,000 to support the Project, which will be a challenge to complete by March 2007.

In summary - This was a very quick, but a very informative and successful trip. Considerable time was spent with both priests and we visited all HOM projects. Our working relationships with Fr. Faublas and Fr. Jeannot are strong. We came away feeling good about the progress being made and confident that communication with Mirebalais will be much improved. We look forward to preparing for a successful 2007 Mission Trip to Mirebalais on May 4th thru 11th, 2007. And we look forward to our partnership with the Mirebalais Rotary, working together toward successfully completing the water project, our most aggressive undertaking thus far.