

St. Bernard Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting Minutes
8 November 2007

Bitsy Merchant opened the meeting 7:00 p.m. and led the opening prayer.

Attendees:

Brian Shea
John Moorhouse
Jamie Gauer
Kris Nelson
Fr. David Reichling
Mary Strauss
Bruce Mueller
Patricia Thomas

Kim Alveraz
Kimberly Haaland
Mark Rheame
Randy Heinz
Roy Brown
Bitsy Merchant
Mary Koelzer
Dan O'Donnell

Absent:

Patti Dunbar
Bruce Broswick
Bitsy Merchant
Dan Gayvert
Robin Bender
Jennifer Brown

The minutes from the 11 October 2007 meeting were approved with one correction.

Committee Reports

Education

Children: We currently have 155 students in CCD. 33 in Sunday School and 10 in RCIC.

First Children's choir Mass will be this Sunday at 11:00 Mass. Jamie practiced with the children during CCD. We are hoping this will encourage more participation.

CCD students are working on a service project for the Billings Food Bank. The last couple weeks we have been collecting food, and this next week we will be decorating the boxes, making placemats to put in the boxes (that will be colored by younger students), then on Wednesday the 14th we are going to load the boxes with food and mark Agar is going to transport them to the Billings Food bank.

2nd graders are continuing in their sacramental preparation – Reconciliation Retreat is scheduled for the 26th & 28 during CCD. And 1st Reconciliation is scheduled for Dec 8th at 11:00. We will have 47 children making their 1st Reconciliation.

Next Tuesday – Mark Rheame and Kimberly Haaland will be putting the newly purchased TV/VCR/DVD combo machines in the four main classrooms.

Christmas play sign-ups will be this Saturday.

If anyone needs Virtus – Mary Macki is doing a Virtus training for some CCD teachers on the 6th of December at 7:00 here in Daly Hall

Teens: Jr. High attendance lower than last year but the 5th & 6th grade group is larger. Prayer worship, Night of Evangelization and movie nights are some of the activities planned. They will be discussing Advent and the Early Church. They have 25 students. Four members of the St. Bernard Youth Group attending the last SEARCH. The next SEARCH is scheduled for March 1st.

RCIA: There 19 candidates but sponsors are still needed. Rite of Welcoming will be 9 Dec. 9:00 a.m. at Sts. Cyril & Methodius and 11:00 a.m. at St. Bernard.

Adult Bible Study: Average attendance is 45 people. Going well.

Catholic Schools: No Report

Parish Fun

The Halloween party went well. Will work with the KofC to coordinate Turkey Bingo.

Liturgy

Worship: We have 2 new Sacristans; one for the 11 a.m. Mass and one for the 5 p.m. Mass. Five new lectors, three have been trained and still trying to set times for the other two before they are scheduled to read.

We have twenty-five new ministers. Training has gone well.

Deb H. reported she has been able to train most the servers. She will be at each Mass to make sure all the servers whom have signed up have been trained prior to serving at a Mass. Deb believes things are going well. She has received a lot of positive feedback from the parents.

Between now and Advent: Melanie will order the loaves of bread from Stella's and pick them up for Thanksgiving Mass. There was a discussion of bringing the bread machines again this year and it was decided not to do it this year

The next decorating day will be December 1, 2007 at 8 a.m.

Liturgy Workshop: Sara stated it was helpful. Mary S. reported about 50 people attended. There was a discussion of how the breakouts went very well. Betty Mae stated her session went very well and some people who were there had good input and Sara did a very nice job in training. There was discussion about bringing sister Marilyn back again

Music: The music area of the Sanctuary was re-organized and seems to work much better. Practice for the Children's Choir has been changed to during CCD. There are new members in the Praise Band. Eight new microphones with switches have been ordered. We will try to sell the old microphones on eBay to help recoup the cost of the new ones. Adult Choir practice, Wednesday and Sunday morning. Everything is going great with Brenda in charge.

The Folk Group will play the 1st Saturday of the month. The Choriki Family will perform the 3rd Saturday of the month. Advent Penance service will be 19 Dec at 7 a.m.

Social Justice

Parish Nursing: The current project is funeral prep.

Pro-Life: The pro-life at St. Bernard's made roughly about \$950.00 on the bake sale. Thanks to all who helped through baking, prayers, and purchases. \$200 has been donated from that amount to Young Lives, a group that caters to the young people who kept their babies. It brings God to them in a very caring and loving way which includes a monthly group dinner for parents and children. It also helps them with formula and diapers.

Life Chain took place on Oct. 28th with over 100 people lining the streets and holding signs against abortion, while quietly praying for one hour. It was really moving and quite impressive.

Our next St. Bernard's meeting will be on Tues., Nov. 13th at 7 p.m. in Daily Hall. We will also have a community meeting with the other churches on Tues. Nov. 27th at Heights Baptist Church. It will begin with a prayer service at 6:30 p.m. and continue with the meeting at 7 p.m. That meeting will include a selection of a new board and officers as well as a formal group name and outlined purpose. We will be set up as a non-profit organization.

Interfaith Hospitality: Our upcoming weekend is 9-15 December 2007.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: They have a good core of conference members who are doing home visits.

Haiti: Seed money was used to keep the clinic running. Expenses are about \$2,500 a month. Pat Thomas attended the Haiti Outreach Mission (HOM) board meeting on 14 Oct. They decided to help parents buy uniforms for Our Lady of Grace School. The parents paid 50% and Fr. Faublaus paid 50%. Fr. Faublaus runs the orphanage sponsored by Episcopalians.

Communications

Web site: Moved to new server

General: The council spoke to members of the parish in the past month about improving communications and everyone seemed to be satisfied with the status quo. Folks like Fr. David's commentary, Brian's column, listing of newlyweds & baptisms and the prayer chain in the bulletin. Mary Strauss is doing a good job with the bulletin. The parish newsletters haven't been updated in quite a while on the website and Randy Heinz will work on getting that rectified.

Parish Groups

Council of Catholic Women: Pam Worthington and Mary Ann Kostkas are the new co-chairs in charge of the council.

Knights of Columbus: Will be selling Christmas trees after Thanksgiving until they are sold out.

Finance

Parish finances are looking good. We are behind on donations but that is normal for this time of year.

New Business and Council Member Input

The recognition of Fr. David's ordination was well received.

Linda Randash is reading to children at the Gateway House and she is looking for kids pajamas.

Closing:

The meeting closed at 8:13 p.m. Roy Brown closed with prayer.

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for 13 December 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Heinz