

St Bernard Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
12 January 2006

Present:

Kathy Marsh
Dan O'Donnell
Harry Merchant
Cathy Bealer
Mandi Crable
Patricia Thomas
John Moorhouse
Dave DeBats
Stan Starr
Mark Rheume

Robin Bender
Brian Shea
Blake Jensen
Jamie Gauer
Fr David Reichling
Randy Heinz

Absent:

Kevin Holland
Roy Brown
Patty Dunbar

Fr David opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and the only change was Patricia Thomas should have listed as absent.

Fr David wants to get a complete list of committee meeting times. So far he has the following:

Liturgy – 1st Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Social Justice – before the council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Haiti – before the council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Education - before the council meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Communications – meet via telephone and e-mail

Pro-Life – 1st & 3rd Monday

Finance Committee Report: This past summer the parking lot was repaved and seal coated. Four windows in the rectory were replaced. Basement restrooms were remodeled. A light will be erected in the back parking lot within the week. A new sign will be erected in the front lot to replace the letter board sign now in use. The bids on the roof that was accepted was for \$18,000.00 Because of the expense the roof will be replaced in sections. The committee will meet again in April 2006.

Fun Committee: Mandi Crable reported the Staff appreciation dinner is being scheduled for sometime this spring. The graduation breakfast this May is in the planning stages. They are also working on the welcoming luncheon for new church member after the Easter Vigil Mass.

Religious Education:

Youth Education: Brian Shea reported the Jr. High and High School Youth Groups are going on a ski trip to Red Lodge Mountain on 23 January. The 5th & 6th Grade Youth Group is scheduled for a ski trip on 12 February. The Youth Mass will be on 29 January. Brian also reports he is having overcrowding problems with the youth rooms. With the groups averaging 40-45 youth Brian is open to any ideas on how to relieve the overcrowding.

Adult Education: Stan Starr spoke about the successful Adult Bible study being taught by Glen Gauer on Tuesday evenings. He also reminded the council about the adult education classes on the 3rd Thursdays on the month. The upcoming film will be about the Shroud of Turin and February's film will be "The Song of Bernadette."

Billings Catholic Schools Update: St. Bernard's representative, Dave DeBats, handed out the annual report of the Billings Catholic Schools. There are 950 students in the system and 980 are projected for next year. St. Bernard students in the Catholic school system include 15 pre-school students, 59 in grade school and 41 in high school. St. Bernard contributes \$101,900 to the school system. The next school board meeting will be at St. Bernard's on 17 January at 6:30 p.m. The last week in January is National Catholic Schools Week. 7 March is "Discovery Day" where prospective students and their parents can learn about Catholic schools. 4&5 March representatives from the school board will visit the parishes. In April an awards brunch will be held at St. Vincent's Hospital to honor those who have contributed to Catholic schools. There will be an all school Mass for grades 1-8 on 26 May at St. Bernard's. The school board is also trying to locate a preschool/daycare in the Heights. They are looking for suitable locations. A new fund raising program called "Scripts" is being utilized to help raise money for the school system.

RCIA: No report

Communications Committee: No Report

Liturgy: Blake reported we are in need of a lead for the ushers and greeters for the 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 9:00 a.m. Sunday Masses. He reviewed the Advent and Christmas seasons. They will decorate for Lent on 26 March after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Blake will contact various groups about Soup and Bread and Stations of the Cross. He spoke about possibly going to artificial flowers during the holidays since fresh flowers die so quickly in the church.

Social Justice:

Pro-Life: There will be a CARENET fundraiser in May.

St. Vincent de Paul Conference: They are training to help the Charity Office with home visits to the needy.

Women and Families Shelter: Late February or early March St. Bernard's Social Justice Committee will host a Sunday afternoon dinner.

Interfaith Hospitality: Just finished their host week and it went well. The next one will be in March.

Haiti: "Haiti Weekend" will be this weekend. \$17,400.00 has been sent to Fr. Fablais. The Social Justice Committee will sponsor two children.

Music Ministry: Jamie reports all is well.

Knights of Columbus: The Christmas tree sale went well. The council ended up in the black which is very good for a first year sale. The extra equipment needed has been purchased and will be reused in the following years. There was no negative feedback from the parish about the tree sale.

Fr. David closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Heinz, SFO