

St. Robert Parish council
Final Minutes
January 18, 2010
6:30 P.M.
St. Robert School Meeting Room

Members Present: Father Dennis, Chris Schorse, Robert F. Frediani, Julia Killian, Deb Scheid, Greg Kaftan, Corrina Schaefer, Kathy Wyatt, Bill Kovalchik

Members Excused: Adam Kessenich, Margaret Sankovitz, Joe O'Neill, Nancy Knight

Guests: Claire Anderson, Mary Johnston

1. Meeting Opening: "We are Called: a prayer Service"

Leader: Rob Frediani

Reader: Rob Frediani

Deb Scheid asked what our choice for next month's reflection was and it was decided to revisit How We Worship: The Eucharish, the Sacraments and the Hours

2. Approval of Minutes of December 21, 2010

Kathy Wyatt approved, Rob Frediani seconded

Approval of Agenda

Chris Schorse approved, Kathy Wyatt seconded

3. Evangelization Workshop-Mary Johnston

"Kitchen Table Evangelization is scheduled for Saturday, March 5 and is cosponsored by Holy Family and St. Robert Parishes. It will be held at McCormick Hall, Holy Family Parish. Father Marty Pable will lead the workshop. The cost is \$15.00 and includes a continental breakfast, lunch and workshop materials. This is a workshop for people uncomfortable with the idea of evangelization and is meant to help people develop their own style in their approach to helping others.

Information for the workshop is currently on the website and will be published in the bulletin on 2/19 and 2//20. A pulpit announcement will be made as well.

Mary urged us to pass the information on to others who may be interested.

4. Human Concerns Report-Claire Anderson & Julia Killian

Claire Anderson reported that the website is updated frequently to report the activities of the Human Concerns Committee.

- A new Habitat for Humanity group is being formed at St. Robert. Patrick Williams is spear heading this endeavor and is very excited. This is launching March 19 and 20.
- SVdP is doing well. New members are being integrated into the group. There are 2 times as many members now as a year ago. Approximately \$100-\$150 is raised every few months. St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program seems to be going well.
- There is still some delay in getting money turned around to organizations.
- Shoreline Interfaith, outreach to older adults, really needs volunteers and funds.
- Human Concerns has had the last four Fifth Sunday collections specifically asked for—we have not had to look for organizations to donate to.
- The Milwaukee Ladies of Charity is under the capable leadership of two St. Robert parishioners, Mary Domer & Mary Johnson.
- Outreach to Uganda is going well; communication between Fr. Augustine's sister & Fr. Augustine & Claire is good. Progress on the school is going great.
- Respect Life: group got together over the summer (4 or 5 people) and decided that they would initiate the Rosary for Life (first Sunday of each month after 8:30 am Mass) and that Claire would simply continue publicizing other efforts going on in the Archdioceses.
- Bereavement Ministry: needs a complete revitalization after the departure of Mary Lynne Collins. Needs chairperson. Will need to work with Kathy Presti to find a new chairperson and additional members. Perhaps volunteers from the Martha Ministry may be interested?
- Senior Ministry: essentially four branches/components: yearly dinner & picnic, (coordinated by Shari Young and sue Casper), Shoreline Interfaith (we have two parishioners on the Board plus Cathy Presti), invitation to Holy Family events through Cathy Presti, and homebound visits (Cathy Presti and volunteers).
- Twinning with St. Marin de Porre needs to be strengthened; possibly with a liaison to work between parishes. Kathy Wyatt suggested Lisa Fetherstone for such a position.

Deb suggested a monthly Inspire article which would feature a group or a person involved in the Human Concerns Committee.

5. Mass Attendance Report-Claire Anderson

Three month report—Mass attendance is holding steady. Children's Liturgy of the Word at 11 am seems to be going well; may be expanded.

Deb Scheid asked that a yearly average of attendance be added to the report.

Greg Kaftan asked that weekly totals of all masses be added as well.

6. Pastor's Report

The Parish Budget process begins in February.

- Father felt that the talk by the archbishop regarding the Archdiocese Bankruptcy was handled well.
- Chapter 11 proceedings: A debtors meeting will be held on February 11 at the Federal Courthouse. Attorney Tom Shriner has been retained to represent parishes. It is thought that plaintiffs will try to go after parish money but we will know more in April. Wisconsin laws are pretty strong and clear in regard to this. Each district will have one pastor to represent district parishes. Tom Shriner will meet with these pastors to keep district parishes informed. According to Tom, the Archdiocese Stewardship appeal may be vulnerable.
- Baptism at Masses: After Easter, Father Dennis will do all the baptisms in order to stay within an hour mass schedule. We will move baptisms to the break rather than the back of church.
- Mass Schedule: We will keep the same mass schedule for the time being.
- Presentation of Gifts: Families will sign up to bring the gifts to the altar. We will start with the families of First Communicants.
- School Survey: Parish questions were added to the survey sent to school families in regard to mass attendance—Which mass is attended? How often does your family attend mass? Why do you attend mass at St. Robert? If you attend mass elsewhere, why?
Some information gleaned from the survey: Masses are not family friendly; Parents are returning to church because of their children; respondents would like to see homilies more inspirational; more targeted to everyday life.
We will expand mass attendance questions to the rest of the parish. Father feels it is important to give the rest of the parishioners a voice and gather a cross-section of opinions.
- Staff discussed roping off back pews in an effort to bring people closer together and closer to the altar.
- Contributions: December collections were good (+\$9,355.00). We still have a large budget to achieve. There is a concern that people will stop contributing because of the Chapter 11 proceedings. People may not understand that contributions to parishes cannot be touched.
- New Parishioner registration: Father indicated there may be a change in new parishioner registration. The idea of registering new members after Sunday mass is being explored.

Mary Linn would like to see a personal follow-up with new parishioners after registration.

- Mary Jorgenson is retiring this summer.

7. Election Committee

Parish Council spring election: Three council members' terms are up. Those of Rob Frediani, Chris Schorse, and Deb Scheid. Rob and Deb can run again.

Cory Schaefer and Chris Schorse volunteered to be on the Election Committee. Deb will give Chris a timeline.

8. Closing Prayer

Greg Kaftan

Meeting dismissed at 8:30 pm

Next Meeting Tuesday, February 15, 6:30 pm