

St. Robert Parish Council
Approved Minutes
August 25, 2009
6:30 P.M.
Church Basement

Members Present: Father Dennis, Father Robert, Adam Kessenich, Deb Scheid, Chris Schorse, Rob Frediani, Lorre Inda, Nancy Knight, Greg Kaftan, Kathy Wyatt, Lisa LaVine, Joe O'Neil

Members Excused: Mary Linn, Margaret Sankovitz

Guests: Claire Anderson, Elizabeth Cleveland, Carmelo Geudioso

1. Guest Visit by Deacon Carmello - Deacon Carmello of Holy Family introduced himself and announced that per Father Dennis' request he will soon be serving as the Deacon for both Holy Family and St. Robert. He plans to start serving at St. Robert hopefully by the Holidays, but for sure no later than January. Father has chosen some assignments for him but he would also like Parish Council input as to what his role at St. Robert might be. Per Father's direction he will assist with: preaching, baptisms and visiting the children at school. **Action: Deb to add him to next month's agenda. Action: Council to bring any role suggestions to next meeting.**

2. Pastor's Report

Father Dennis gave the group a guided tour of the construction of the media resource center, school elevator and lifts. The elevator shaft is complete up to the roof and should be operational by mid to late October. The media resource center should be complete by the Tuesday after Labor Day. There is a lot of tidying-up to do prior to school starting next week but all of the construction that needed to be accomplished in the students' absence is complete. Father was pleased with the progress to date.

3. Opening Prayer – Chris Schorse (read by Nancy Knight)

4. Scripture Reading – Deb Scheid

Deb summarized the main points of the article, "Liturgy as Catechesis for Life" by Gilbert Ostdiek. We discussed the significant formative impact of the mass in terms of how it deepens our relationship with God. The fact that we gather as a group, that the altar has been turned around, that the mass is presented in English, all of this is very powerful and if we listen to the words we can make a lot of connections between the liturgy and everyday life. Deb suggested we might focus our efforts to improve Mass attendance on the formative impact of Mass. In lieu of doing scripture readings at the start of each Parish Council meeting, we agreed to read articles that have to do with Mass attendance.

5. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2009

6. Approval of Agenda

7. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee – St. Robert ended the fiscal year with a surplus but only because of a bequest. In the absence of the bequest the budget would have ended in the red due to several factors: envelope collections were down, there was approximately a \$170K error in the school budget, and it was a difficult winter with a lot of snow removal costs. The new fiscal year budget has been adjusted for these factors and there is a good deal of confidence that the new budget is realistic. Going forward the new budget contains: a reduced contribution level, cuts in office expenses, head count reductions from the school budget, cheaper health insurance, a retired maintenance person replaced by a part time person, and some shared staff with Holy Family. Parish council requested that Lauren Beckman and Tom Zale be invited to our next meeting to talk about the school budget deficit. **Action: Deb to extend invitation.**
- b. Faith in Our Future - A bequest that came in has been used to get started on the elevator and media resource center. The bequest will be repaid as the FIOF cash flow comes in (FIOF spending remains capped at it's original level.) No cash flow problems are anticipated.

8. Other Business

- a. Parish Council Officers for the new fiscal year are as follows;
Chair Person – Deb Scheid
Vice Chair Person – Greg Kaftan
Secretary – Lisa LaVine
- b. Claire summarized the outcome of the Lifelong Faith Formation meeting that had taken place to discuss where to go post In-Light. Those running existing programs (religious ed., Dogma and Donuts, etc.) felt we are not currently staffed to pull off big events like In-Light. For this fiscal year the various groups are just going to do what they already have planned. In-Light will be dropped.
- c. Several changes were made to the list of parish council liaisons to the various ministries: These changes were made to even out workloads. **Action: Nancy to take Evangelization, Rob to take Prayer and Worship and Lorre to take faith formation.** Lisa will have no liaison responsibilities due to her role as secretary. **Action: Deb to revise list of Mass attendance assignments.**
- d. There is a need for catechists for religious ed.
- e. The school has dropped SCRIP but Kathy Wyatt has agreed to be the coordinator of SCRIP for the parish.

9. Closing Prayer - Rob Frediani