

St. Robert Parish Council  
Preliminary Minutes  
September 22, 2009  
6:30 P.M.  
Church Basement

**Members Present:** Father Dennis, Father Robert, Adam Kessenich, Deb Scheid, Rob Frediani, Lorre Inda, Nancy Knight, Greg Kaftan, Kathy Wyatt, Lisa LaVine, Mary Linn  
**Members Excused:** Margaret Sankovitz, Chris Schorse, Joe O'Neil  
**Guests:** Claire Anderson, Lauren Beckman, Tom Zale

1. Opening Prayer – Mary Linn
2. Approval of Minutes from August 25, 2009
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Discussion of Deacon Carmelo Gaudio's Role

We discussed additional ideas for the role that Deacon Carmelo might play at St. Robert. One idea was to have him focus on creating a youth-oriented Mass. The group discussed the Life Teen Mass that will take place twice a month during the academic year. It will begin at Holy Family this fall and then transition to St. Robert second semester as the 5:30pm Mass. There was a general consensus that this was a starting point for more specifically targeting young people. Another idea is for the deacon to do weddings (Word services) and marriage preparation. Lastly, we discussed him validating marriages that have taken place outside of the Church (i.e. destination weddings). **Action: Deb to report these ideas back to Deacon Carmelo.**

5. Pastor's Report

Stewardship - Father Dennis reviewed the stewardship corner in the Bulletin. A running tally of any deficit will continue to be shown weekly. For the first two months of the fiscal year (July and August) we have a \$55K deficit. **Action Council: we agreed that as a council we would try to bring a consciousness of Stewardship to the Parish.** Whenever we have an opportunity to bring it up with fellow parishioners, we should. A stewardship letter from Father Dennis and a return envelope will be going out shortly for Q3 2009.

Construction - Father confirmed that the construction projects for FIOF remain on budget.

Closing of the Books – Due only to bequests, the Parish finished the last fiscal year \$335K better than budget. Father then explained the deficit in school tuition from last fiscal year. \$41K and \$72K were initially applied to the wrong accounts instead of school tuition. This has since been corrected. The remainder of the deficit was due to families leaving the school and families experiencing financial hardship. The school has worked with several families to devise a payment plan and some of the lost tuition will still be recovered.

6. Committee Report – School Advisory Board and Principal

Lauren Beckman explained the detailed process for formulating the school budget. This year's budget projection for enrollment was 330 students but actual enrollment is 316. This enrollment gap has set the budget back \$50K. The parish had budgeted \$140K to subsidize the school and actual dollars needed due to the enrollment shortfall is \$190K. There is nothing left to cut to offset the shortfall without eliminating programs. It is going to be difficult to find the \$50K but they are going to try to do it through increased revenue. On a positive note, the school's budget of \$1.6M is almost entirely self-funded. It is subsidized at approx. an 8% level by the parish where as most other Catholic schools in the area are subsidized at the 25-35% level. Lauren ended by describing all of the exciting things that the school is engaged in this academic year. She reviewed the use of technology in the classroom, today's classroom structure, successes of the math curriculum, and the forthcoming accreditation process. The school is off to a good start for the semester with the exception of the budget issue. She asked that we keep her in our prayers.

7. SCRIP

Kathy Wyatt described the process for ordering the SCRIP gift cards. Two times a month, there will be a SCRIP table at the back of the Church. Parishioners can order and pick up their gift cards in person these two weekends a month. The rest of the month, the gift cards will be available for pick-up at the Parish Office. Order forms will be available at the back of the church, the Parish Office and the school. They can be returned to the office, left in the collection baskets or turned in at the back of the church (twice monthly). Orders received by the weekend will be processed and returned by the following Friday. Announcements kicking off the SCRIP program will be made at Mass this weekend. We hope to earn between \$20K -\$60K annually through the program.

8. Ostdiek Reading Reflection – **Action Greg to lead discussion at next month's meeting.**

9. Mass Attendance – We moved our discussion to October's agenda in the interest of time.

10. Closing Prayer – Lorre Inda