

St. Robert Parish Council
Approved Minutes
December 15, 2009
6:30 P.M.
St Robert School Meeting Room

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

Members Excused: Chris Schorse

Guests: Claire Anderson, Sally Zale

1. Opening Prayer – Margaret Sankovitz
2. Introduction to the Revised Mass Texts – Father Dennis

Father explained how at the end of 2011, the Church will be going to a revised Mass Text. Catechesis to the entire congregation on the subject will begin with leadership and will subsequently roll out to the rest of the church body. The Roman Missal, a book all in Latin, served the Church well until English was introduced in the 1960's. A book referred to as the Sacramentary, was the book that replaced the Roman Missal. It was a translation of the Latin into English. The Sacramentary, like the Roman Missal, contains all the parts of the Mass that the Priest presides over including the congregational responses. The Sacramentary served us well and made the transition for us from Latin to English. In doing so it broadened participation and an understanding of the Mass. The Sacramentary, however, had its limitations and does not represent a very good translation of the original Latin. Latin is a very expressive language. It's hard to translate and this initial translation into the Sacramentary did not do the Latin justice. Hence, is the opportunity for the revised Mass Texts that are soon to be rolled out. This time around, more care has been taken to achieve a richer more expressive translation of the Latin. The New Roman Missal as it is called, will achieve a better connection between the Roman Missal and the lectionary – readings. Prayers are better connected to the Word. The language is more formal in style and is more faithful to the original Latin. Sentences in the New Roman Missal can be sung well and adapted well to music. Father will be walking leadership and in turn the whole congregation through the entirety of the changes before they are implemented two years from now. Stay tuned....

3. Approval of Minutes from November 24, 2009
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Home and School Report – Sally Zale

Sally reported that the Home and School fundraisers are doing okay. The rummage sale did \$5K more than expected and they were able to add in a 5th Grade Peace Retreat with the additional monies. The big budget item for Home and School this year was money for the Media Center. The Smart Boards came

out of the technology fund. Sally reported that some changes are planned for the Emerald Auction this year to enhance its fundraising potential. There will be a change in layout with dinner and dancing in the gym and the auction in Reilly Hall. There is the hope that an investment in hand held bidding devices (being rented) will yield more money in the bidding process. People can check their bids electronically all night long and bidding can continue throughout the night. They are seeking corporate underwriters to cover the cost of the devices. There is a mechanism whereby the underwriters can advertise on the device so it seems to be a win-win for all involved. This year they are seeking table captains who purchase a table and then invite friends. They hope to get more outside people to come to the event. There will also be new caterers this year as Pandls went out of business. Lastly, Home and School will look into advertising their Alterra Coffee sales in the Bulletin so more parishioners can purchase if interested.

6. Mass Attendance Letter Responses

Deb reported on the 5 responses that were received from the Mass Attendance Letter that went out. The five people who responded were very involved parishioners and several had been in the parish a long time. All five believe very strongly that the quality of some of the homilies is a major problem. There were a number of suggestions for improving attendance including publishing music selections ahead of time (so people can choose which Mass to attend), limiting seating to the front of the church when it is not full, and encouraging small social group activity such as card groups as a way to build relationships and community. A short discussion followed in which we discussed the diverse music tastes of our parish and how it's hard to please everyone musically. We also talked about how it's hard to tell people where to sit as some prefer the back of the church. Lastly we discussed having the 6-8th graders wipe down the pews. Many questions remain regarding how to improve Mass attendance. This discussion is ongoing.

7. Pastor's Report

Father Dennis reviewed how contributions for the last fiscal year were budgeted at \$1M and actual contributions were \$811K for a shortfall of \$188K. The impact of this is that everything can't be paid for. The parish put off paying its assessment to the Archdiocese. Some insurance payments were delayed as was payment to the lay pension. These delays totaled \$190K past due. We received a letter from the Archdiocese asking us to set up a payment plan to pay what's owed past and present. We are going to borrow \$100K from the capital reserves to pay the Archdiocese the week of Dec. 21st. We hope to end December with some extra money and the intention is to pay \$10K per month toward our assessment debt. We discussed how it seemed as though our assessment should be going down as the size of our congregation is going down. **Action: Father Dennis to look into whether our assessment should be smaller.** We are anticipating a bequest of \$230K shortly which we will use to backfill for the \$100K borrowed from the capital reserves. On a good news note, we have made up a lot of ground with collections. At one time we were \$41K behind in collections for the current fiscal year and now are only \$13.7K behind.

8. Elevator Usage

We discussed how we need an elevator accessibility plan. The elevator needs to be more accessible for events and is often found locked. **Action: Mary to engage Elizabeth, Lauren, and Peter in a discussion for greater accessibility.**

9. Closing Prayer – Joe O’Neil