

St. Robert Parish Council  
Approved Minutes  
January 26, 2010  
6:30 P.M.  
St Robert School Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Father Dennis, Father Robert, Adam Kessenich, Deb Scheid, Rob Frediani, Lorre Inda, Greg Kaftan, Chris Schorse, Lisa LaVine, Mary Linn, Margaret Sankovitz

**Members Excused:** Nancy Knight, Kathy Wyatt, Joe O'Neil

**Guests:** Claire Anderson, Elizabeth Cleveland, Patrick Kessenich, Lisa Lesjak

1. Opening Prayer – Lorre Inda
2. Revised Roman Missal – Introductory Rites – Claire Anderson

Claire explained how the opening prayers are being retranslated to emphasize a more transcendent God (meaning a God beyond us, above us). The Council then reviewed the new wording for the Introductory Rites. Liturgical musicians are working on resetting the new words to music. It is not certain yet how the new prayers will be taught to the congregation. One idea is to have practice Masses. We will continue to discuss the translation changes as an ongoing topic of discussion in the 2010 Parish Council Meetings. Stay tuned....

3. Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2009
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Finance Report – Elizabeth Cleveland

Elizabeth explained that the cumulative deficit for the first six months of the fiscal year is \$23K. This deficit is expected to grow by another \$30K as of the end of January. At this point it looks like the fiscal year will end with a shortfall. We had the worst December for collections in 5 years. We are ahead on tuition income meaning that March and April will be lean months as the money has come in early. Later this year we are going to account for FIOF separately from the Parish Financial Statement. Good news is the pension bill has been paid off and we might be able to pay a significant portion of the insurance bill. The Arch. Diocese assessment will be paid with a bequest we are expecting.

6. Stewardship Report – Lisa Lesjak and Patrick Kessenich

Patrick shared that 300 units have pledged commitments for 2010. There is a follow up stewardship letter mailed 1/25 that will go to the balance of our approx. 800 units. Treasure phone calls are planned and will target three groups: people who pledge historically who haven't done so yet, new families, and school families. They will not be calling the zero givers and the "no pledge" people

(those who give at year-end but who do not like to make a pledge). Historical numbers show we get about 400 pledgers and 650 givers. So at this point we are expecting at least another 100 or so pledges. There are some ideas for making stewardship more visible. They include: presentations on the ministries, bulletin inserts, and witness talks. One idea is to use the hospitality time as an opportunity to give presentations on the ministries. Next year we plan on having one letter/ mailing that discusses time, talent and treasure together. We have received 73 responses to date on the talent survey. Deb is looking for an admin person if possible to enter the talent surveys and distribute the “lists” of volunteers to the ministry leads. Later, as a Parish Council, we will follow-up with the ministry leads to make sure people were contacted.

#### 7. Election Committee Appointments

There are several seats up for election this year belonging to: Lorre, Mary, Nancy, Margaret and Adam (the youth seat). **Action: Deb, Greg, and Chris agreed to be the committee of three people to work on the elections.**

#### 8. Mass Attendance Liaison Reports

Deb shared three new letters received from parishioners regarding Mass attendance. Ideas included: praying for Mass attendance and conveying the importance of Mass attendance in the sermons. One letter suggested ways to improve the pace and inspiration of the Mass, largely through music ideas. This letter went to all the relevant ministers so they are aware of the suggestions. The last letter explained frustration when parishioners are encouraged to take political action in accordance with decisions of the bishops.

Deb is additionally working on revising the Inspire newsletter and ultimately the goal is to have it mailed electronically. She needs help identifying volunteers to write articles. Suggestions are welcome. Reports from the various liaisons were as follows:

Greg – Athletic Committee – He is working on getting teams to go to church as a group before their Sunday games.

Mary – Human Concerns Committee – Hospitality is going great. Thinking of doing some Saturday night dinners in a few months with pizza and pasta and a cash bar for beer/wine. She also plans to acknowledge anniversaries, and baptisms at hospitality.

Chris – School Advisory Committee – The school is conducting “Pack the Mass” events periodically.

Lorre – Lifelong Faith Formation – Children’s liturgy of the Word will be introduced at the 11:00am Mass. At the Lenten Religious Ed. Program she is going to have the kids sign a banner that will be on display in the church, encouraging families to come view it. There will also be an effort to try to get the religious ed. classes to come to church as a group. Another idea is to have religious ed. kids as greeters.

Rob – Liturgical Ministry – There will be an announcement at 4:30pm Mass for the need for ushers. There is a Stations of the Cross event planned for 3 Friday

nights: Feb. 19, March 5 and March 19. An outline of the Stations will be given followed by soup and salad in the gathering space.

9. Pastor's Report

Father Dennis discussed two areas that he would like us to be involved in as a Parish Council this year: Mass attendance and Stewardship (Time, Talent, Treasure). The work on Mass attendance is ongoing: we sent out the letter as a Parish Council voicing our concerns and soliciting feedback, we've started hospitality and the Children's Liturgy of the Word. We'll have the Good Shepard Program for 3-year-olds this fall. We have pack the Mass Sundays once a month. Gail is reminding parents in her notes about Mass attendance. There are multiple initiatives and it is a difficult task. Father urged us to keep a sense of hope and humour about us as we tackle this issue. Changing people's habits takes time.

He'd like us to think about stewardship and how to approach it as Parish Leaders. We'll have to lower our revenue expectation for next year from \$925K which is currently unrealistic. There will be a change to the budget process for the school next year. The school will receive 20% of actual collections (and a minimum of \$150K) for next fiscal year. So the more people give to the Parish, the more money the school gets. We hope this will encourage greater contributions to the Parish.

10. A brief discussion took place regarding the mention of Rev. Weakland in last week's homily.

11. Closing Prayer – Greg Kaftan