

St. Robert Parish Council
Minutes for October 27, 2009
6:30 P.M.
Teachers Lounge St. Robert School

Members Present: Deb Scheid, Lorre Inda, Nancy Knight, Greg Kaftan, Kathy Wyatt, Mary Linn, Margaret Sankovitz, Chris Schorse

Members Excused: Fr. Dennis, Fr. Robert, Adam Kessenich, Joe O'Neil, Rob Frediani, Lisa LaVine,

Guests: Claire Anderson, Deacon Carmello Gaudio and Mrs. Gaudio

Handouts: Human Concerns Ministries, Parish Council Liaison Mass Attendance Areas of Responsibility, Difference between top donors of 08 and 09, Stewardship Calendar Oct 2009-July 2010, Human Concerns Committee, St. Robert by the Numbers, parishioner letter

Note: In the absence of the pastor and associate pastor, the meeting was advisory only

1. Opening Prayer – Deb Scheid
2. Minutes from September 22, 2009 approved
3. Agenda approved
4. Deacon Carmelo Gaudio arrived to discuss his Role with us

We suggested that one way to be helpful to the priests would be catechesis of children in the religious ed and school programs.

He's been a deacon at Holy Family for 4 years, where he thinks his strengths are preaching and working with kids. He met with the young people there to ask them what they think of the church. He also has a job and is completing a PhD program in May, so he is very busy.

He will meet with Fr. Dennis and if they both agree, will sign a covenant at the holidays for 1-3 years.

He has the faculty to preach, to witness marriage and baptize. He said preaching preparation takes many hours and he would not be able to preach very often. He likes to present the petitions as he feels that is a way of connecting with the community.

He wants to be introduced at all Masses. December is convenient for him.

While he is open to our ideas and those of the pastor as to how he can be helpful, he has his own ideas, based on his training and experience, about what is best for him to do. He described that we are beginning a journey and laying a foundation. He likes to focus on: faith, hope and charity, and making a liturgy of love our pastoral goal, connecting liturgy with life, looking at consumerism, the newness of life in love and action, the baptismal gift of all Christians, the Beatitudes and service to the poor.

Action

Send him a list of all ministries involving kids and young people and the contact person involved (**Lisa**)

Make note of his contact info: cgaudio@sbglobal.net (**Lisa**)

Continue brainstorming regarding best ways for us to work together (**Deb**)

Invite him back for feedback 2-3 times/yr (**Deb**)

5. Ostdiek Reading Reflection – Greg Kaftan

A discussion followed regarding Mass attendance and what factors might affect it.

6. Mass Attendance – Deb Scheid

Numbers seem to be declining, especially at 11 AM. 5:30 is now our most popular Mass. A discussion followed about what we might do to increase attendance. The problem is two-fold: we have high expectations about what we want to see at weekend liturgies; from preaching to welcoming to music, but we also bear responsibility for our own participation and attendance. As an immediate effort, we will use volunteers to increase the number of hospitalities offered after Mass – the current hospitality program run by Mary Johnson, Evie Beyer and Meg Fox will continue on the second Sunday at 8:30 and 5:30. Mary Linn will be responsible for hospitality after 8:30 Mass every Sunday except the second. When established, we would like to move the hospitalities to Reilly Hall. Volunteers gratefully accepted to help with hospitality.

Claire gave a handout of further statistics on Mass and sacrament statistics. We discussed the decrease in weddings in particular, since that is a time when young people are seeking something from the Church and can be a welcoming point to begin a new adult relationship with the parish. We discussed wedding policies at St. Robert.

7. Human Concerns – Claire Anderson

Handouts from Claire printed from the website, an outline and a brief discussion of HC ministries. One of the ministries, St. Vincent de Paul at St. Robert, experiences continued requests for home visits; many of the requests are from long term contacts with difficult issues and there are not a lot of volunteers who feel called to do this. The committee is exploring the best way of continuing the ministry. Human Concerns is a small group that accomplishes a great deal of good for the poor, and more volunteers in all ministries would be helpful. The meal program, first Thursday of the month, is looking for more volunteers to prepare chicken for drop off or pickup.

8. Pastors Report – given by Deb Scheid

Fr. Dennis gave the Stewardship Calendar thru July 2010 and defined the top 62 donors. Statistics include: 67 top donors who pledged toward the parish also

donated to FIOF, the top donors of 09 pledged 101,299 less in 09, 33 of the top donors were school families, 42 of the top donors also gave to the school Annual Fund

Our March will be March 16th not March 23 as there is a conflict.

Changes in the current budget:

Change: Lisa Lesjak - \$10,000 of her salary to be paid by the parish because of new responsibilities of parish stewardship added to her responsibilities.

Decreases in spending:

Priest Mass assignment due to Fr. Dennis and Fr. Robert taking more Masses from Fr. John Mary and Fr. Augustine 1,000

Evangelization 750

Heating and leftover oil 5,000

Capitol expenditures out of operations budget and into capitol reserve budget 55,000

Adult Formation 500

Prayer and Worship decreases including 600 sheet music and decrease in Live Nativity funding with hoped for donor replacement.

Donations: 15,000 from one family, 5000 from other parishioners.

The group asked questions regarding the staff input and discussion in the budget development process.

9. Closing Prayer – Nancy Knight

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 Respectfully submitted by Mary Linn