

## Pastoral Council Minutes January 5, 2010

**Members present:** Jerry Mullen, Paul Vidonic, Beth Lohr, Laurie Weeda, Kevin Walsh, Joe Bickett, Marie Zajick, Jerry Clemmer, Luke Vercollone, Lolri Lowery, Jeanne Grandmont

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with prayer.

The minutes were approved.

### **President's Remarks**

Jerry pointed out that next year's budget process is starting. He requested that, this evening, the ministries please mention their major priorities that they most wanted funding for in the next year. There are no guarantees that it will get through, but at least get it on paper tonight.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> we are having a major meeting on the columbarium. It is very exciting to be getting this started. Father Randy is talking to some artists he knows to make sure there is something prayerful and artistic built.

The liturgy is going to be changing and the changes are coming from Rome. Fr. Randy is making sure the order of worship will have everything in it. Our parish can struggle with change and it needs to be proactively educated about this. Council needs to do some homework to be prepared for any questions or comments. There is a link from the Epiphany website you can click on to learn about the changes.

Jerry then opened the discussion to everyone for comment on the fulfillment of the parish mission by the parish.

It was point out that the mission statement that was copied recently will get hung very soon in the Commons.

Paul said that an RCIA member thought that they needed more sponsors. He asked that council members be a networking support to help fill this need. *Please get the word out for more RCIA sponsors.*

Jerry commented that this should be on the Time and Talent forms that people fill out once a year.

Beth pointed out that someone brought up that RCIA needs to communicate better as to why and how things have changed in the program. People need to be educated on how the process works, perhaps in the bulletin, like the artnotes are.

Jerry said that people are in different parts of their journey. Some people have learned a lot already, others have many details to take care of.

Beth said that people perhaps get confused by all the different processes occurring through the year, who gets baptized or not, who gets confirmed or not.

Lori said that Christian Formation spends a lot of time talking about how to fit all these different people in. A note in the bulletin with the Church's official teaching on the different rites would be helpful.

Jerry said that Catholic.com or Catholic.org probably has info on this. Perhaps someone can investigate and we can do a blurb on it.

Laurie had some general comments regarding the parish mission. She thought Miracles from the Manger was fantastic and show we are fulfilling our mission. The Banana boxes are going out in January. It was a much more detailed process than we first realized, but something Epiphany should be proud of. There is a lot of interaction between Christian Formation and Outreach which is good.

Jerry pointed out that the Cursillestas are here in the morning and evening and that the Christmas liturgies were beautiful.

## **Updates**

**Christian Formation:** Lori Lowery reported that there was no meeting in December.

Youth Confirmation Retreat is on MLK weekend. 53 students and 30 team members will be attending.

Outreach for the Jan. 10 classes will be CCC/Pregnancy Resource Center and for the Jan. 24 classes will be medical supplies for Crossover ministries.

Jan. 8 is Middle School Movie Nite. This has been very popular this year!

Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> graders will help with the 9:15 Mass. Year Two Confirmation candidates will be recognized and will sing some Retreat songs.

Jan. 30 is Wintergreen Night Ski, more of a family event this year.

Family Ministry: CARITAS is Jan. 16-22. Additional sign-ups for food donations this weekend. Year One Confirmation will be helping with entertainment.

"Colleen and Friends", a young adult group with disabilities will be performing a prelude on Saturday, Jan. 16 before the 5:15 Mass as part of Respect Life celebration.

*Budget Priority*

Each ministry suggested something less critical that they could cut, but Fr. Randy said he would not cut anything that defined us as Epiphany people. Our next budget meeting will address the budget priorities.

**Finance:** Joe Bickett reported that in November we took in 2.6%, or \$12,900 less than budgeted. We actually disbursed 1.4% or \$6900 more than we received. We borrowed money from savings to pay the bills through the end of November. When you look at our total income through December 31<sup>st</sup>, we have actually received 2% more than we budgeted YTD, or \$10,000. Our Total Expenses YTD through December 31<sup>st</sup> are 4% favorable to budget. So we had a great end of the year which made up for all the expenses in November.

**Youth:** No report

**Young Adult:** Luke Vercollone reported that they had a early December gathering at his house in which about 10 people came. It was very nice with good fellowship, games and eggnog. McKinley started a Facebook club for the Young Adult Club.

Jerry said that Luke should remind McKinley that he needs to invite people to be a FAN so they can log on.

Luke said that the next meeting is tomorrow evening at 7 PM at the church. He is hoping to reach the college students before they return to school.

#### *Budget Priorities*

We haven't been spending much, just some food and drink whose expenses he and his wife have been picking up. We could do some special speakers, but it is such a small group.

Jerry said that he should look at the YAM website which meets in Williamsburg for a youth retreat. Maybe his travel expenses could be covered.

Luke said that he had not used any of the budgeted amount.

Beth pointed out that all he had to do was to circle the relevant items on his shopping receipts and fill out the form to hand in and he can get reimbursed.

**Community Life:** Beth Lohr reported that there was no December meeting. They are still working on the Valentine's Day dance on February 13<sup>th</sup>. They found a DJ, a new one that will play the music that they requested. Tomorrow's First Wednesday Dinner will be spaghetti.

#### *Budget Priorities*

Community Life is a self-supporting ministry, but they would love to see a picnic pavilion built on the church property for their use. They don't know how much to request for it, but it could be built with volunteer labor. It would be nice to place near the columbarium. Beth also offered her help with the columbarium committee.

**Human Concerns:** Laurie Weeda reported for Kevin Walsh.

#### *Banana Box Project*

We presently have enough banana boxes and other materials to fill the shipping container. We are presently processing the inventory lists with Karen Hubbard of Bless the Children so that the container will pass Jamaican customs. We won't be able to plan on the shipment until the custom's process is completed and we can work through the Food for the Poor shipping procedures. Once we have been notified that the shipment has been approved, they will bring the container to Epiphany for loading. Unfortunately, that will be during a week day and we will only have a few hours to fill the container. (It means the high school kids won't be available. If we have to bring everything back to the church, we can't do this during Caritas or religious ed. It would be ideal if we could load directly from storage, but don't know if the truck could fit in there.) We are presently storing the completed boxes in SouthPort. The space is \$180 per month. This avoids bugs in our classrooms and frees up space here. There is also the cost of several thousand to send the container. While we have received \$1,580 in donations for the shipping, we will need to raise at least another thousand.

Paul mentioned that Powhatan Storage might lend us their UHaul truck. Jerry said that we could simply rent a UHaul for a day or two.

Laurie said that there is no ramp for the container and that some way has to be found to get a piano in it.

Jerry M. offered to help build a ramp if someone could get him measurements.

*Fair Trade Bazaarr* was on November 21 and 22 in the Commons. Sales of products at the Bazaar and of Bless the Children cards was approximately \$2500 at the Fair. Those funds all are passed on to the charities as Epiphany doesn't take out any profit or cost margin, only reimbursement for the shipping.

*Shed Project for Freedom House* had been completed due to the generous help of a number of parishioners who did the carpentry work. We received specific donations of approximately \$800 to help pay for the Shed.

*Miracles From the Manger* had almost 400 tags that were given out and returned with gifts for the various charitable groups that we were helping with gifts for Christmas. The net result was that at an average of \$40 to \$50 per gift, the parish helped to make the season brighter for number of less fortunate children and adults by nearly \$20,000.

*Habitat Build in Powhatan* is scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup> and February 20<sup>th</sup>. The initial date was December 5<sup>th</sup> which was cancelled due to bad weather. We presently need volunteers who will offer to prepare lunches for the group. Typically, 10 lunches consisting of a sandwich with fruit and dessert.

*Praying Hands Ministry* was honored by MCV for their work with patients. I can personally comment that the shawls have a positive effect on those who have illnesses.

The youth group is to become involved in a number of other projects of Human Concerns over the current year.

*Catholic Advocacy Day* at the General Assembly of the Virginia Legislature is Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM.

### *Budget Priorities*

Paul had a suggestion for the Human Concerns budget. It involves getting deer meat to the hungry. A local processor that he personally uses is interested in donating deer meat, specifically burger and sausage, to help feed the hungry. This past year he donated 20 deer which was 700 lbs. of meat (about 35 lbs. per deer). He would need \$50 per deer for expenses. Paul hoped to see if Epiphany could donate \$1000 to help with this work.

Jerry asked how much control the church would have.

Paul said complete control. This processor just wants to have people fed. We could pick who we wanted to help.

Laurie pointed out that this is exactly how ministries get started.

Paul said that hunt clubs have gotten extra permits to thin the deer population, but because they don't have any freezes space left they are going unused.

Jerry said he should get an information package together for the church regarding details like packaging and licensing.

Laurie said that Human Concerns is having a meeting next Monday on the budget. The grant decision meeting is scheduled for February.

**Liturgy:** No report

**School Board:** No report

**Building and Construction:** Jerry Mullen reported that the church needs 3 new heating units in the Education Wing which is the most efficient way to deal with the current problems there. We are in the process of getting estimates. Our budget is set by the Finance committee.

## **Open Issues**

Jerry asked how the Christmas ornament sale was going. Beth said that people are forgetting to pick their ornaments up, but people can order new ones indefinitely (with or without engraving) since we own the mold. It is a quick turnaround.

Jerry thanked council members for carrying the gifts over Epiphany weekend masses.

He also reminded everyone that money is just the means to help people in need.

The meeting ended with prayer at 8:11.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanne Grandmont