

Parish of Saints Joachim and Anne

Parish Council Minutes

Tuesday, December 10, 2013, 7:00 pm

Council members Present: Father Peter Wittman, Greg Stoks, Don Beno, Brenda Henning, Brian Kane, Kathy Kupfer, Donna Lane, Diane Lee, Brian Luce and Jim Weiler.

Trustees: None present.

Absent: Mark Bury, Jim Fiedler, Marco Soto, Dick Stoks and Fred Jurewicz.

Guest Speaker: Deacon Bill Heiman

Opening Prayer: Father Peter Wittman

Approval of Minutes: Donna Lane motioned to approve the minutes from November 12th, 2013. Brian Kane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Greg Stoks: November Comments: Garrick Comeaux agreed with the council's recommendation to announce page numbers for the readings at Mass, as the new hymnals no longer contain calendar dates. Although this communication has not been consistent, members discussed that it would take several more weeks for the practice to become permanent. Donna Lane stated she received several concerns that New Year's Day masses were earlier than previous years. Brian Kane expressed concern regarding the Common Core Curriculum being offered by the federal government, which the Archdiocese is reviewing. Diane Lee said this curriculum is not being implemented at this time.

Archdiocese Disclosure of Sexual Abuse:

Father Wittman and Diane Lee agreed that the open letter from the Archdiocese regarding the sexual abuse cases would be useful in answering parishioner questions. It was suggested that excerpts from this letter be used to create a communication item for the bulletin. Diane noted the issues were affecting parish staff to a greater extent.

Action: Father Wittman and Diane Lee will direct the creation of this bulletin article.

Guest Speaker: Deacon Bill Heiman - Ministries Update

- Explained his position within the parish and thanked Father Wittman and Diane Lee for allowing him to step out of the administration area and into the ministry area.
- Discussed past and present activity related to the sacrament of marriage. Since he joined the parish, there have been 78 marriages, with some families now requesting the sacrament of baptism. There are 53 marriages, 6 annulments, 5 validations and 8 anniversary blessings currently scheduled. Cathy Wideman was hired to assist with marriage related activities. This level of activity is a testament to the strength of this sacrament in our parish. Deacon Bill is forming a newly married group in January to further strengthen this ministry.
- Deacon Bill is also heavily involved with Hands of Christ, CAP, FISH, Loaves and Fishes and with Scott County regarding the homeless. Baptisms, funerals and RCIA are now being handled by Father Wittman and Father Merrill.
- Bible study continues to move forward.
- A seven week Lenten program entitled "Life in the Spirit" is currently in the planning stages.

- Sister Antonice is currently involved in nursing home visits and grief counseling.
- Prayer groups are on-going; Deacon Bill continues to preach at masses when opportunities arise.
- The parish had a good response to the request for aid to the Philippines. We continue to need additional resources to support social justice programs like Habitat for Humanity and efforts at the international level. There is a Fair Trade sale scheduled for this weekend which represents a step in this direction.

Greg Stoks asked Deacon Bill how he is prioritizing his current activities given the limited resources available. Deacon Bill replied that sacramental offerings take priority followed by adult education. Additional lay leadership and marketing/communication resources would greatly benefit these ministries.

Action: The need for Marketing/Communication resources has been expressed numerous times over the last number of months. The council agreed to discuss this further at the January meeting.

Communication Log: Kathy Kupfer

Kathy reviewed the current council communication log and noted the following:

- The parish website needs to be updated with the new parish council members and their contact information. Photos need to be resized.
- The council needs one more member; a notice will be placed in the bulletin again.
- Revisions to the bulletin to make it more personal continue. We should include the names of new parishioners, marriages and baptisms and parishioner accomplishments. We will likely need to initiate this process and then request input from the parish community.
- The process to create permanent parish signage is in progress.
- There is a need for a part time professional to manage the website and the marketing needs of the parish. Diane Lee is looking at a job description and the option to share resources with other parishes.

Administration Updates: Diane Lee

- Attended the first GROW meeting. Demographic information was distributed at this meeting, which Diane shared with the council. She also provided an overview of the GROW process which includes a parish wide survey. Diane noted various methods will need to be available to assist parishioners in completing this electronic survey.
- The Vicariate visit was in October; the report has not yet been received.
- Marystown steeple project is running slightly behind schedule due to weather.
- Calendar fundraiser: So far, sales are up slightly from last year with a deadline of 12/31/13.
- There are continuous boiler problems with St. Mark's building. A structural engineer will be engaged to assess options for this building. Diane Lee will outline a summary of current building use. Bob Pulk will submit a prioritized list of building issues to assist the parish in creating a unified vision for the building.
- The heat went out in the rectory; this has been fixed.
- Diane lee distributed a statement of our current financial position.

Future Business:

- Potential agenda items for January and February: Liturgy update; discuss the need for a Marketing/Communication resource; invite festival chairpersons to discuss distribution of festival tickets and/or a potential ticket committee.

Closing Prayer: Brian Luce

Meeting was adjourned.

Council members welcome any interested parishioners to attend parish council meetings at St. Mark's at 7 PM on the following Tuesdays:

- January 7, 2014
- February 4, 2014
- March 4, 2014
- April 1, 2014
- May 6, 2014
- June 3, 2014
- July 1, 2014
- August 2014: Summer break