

MEETING MINUTES
ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, 1/26/10
RECTORY – LOWER LEVEL – 7:30 PM

ATTENDANCE

	P	A		P	A		P	A
Pastor			Business Manager			Vira Schmidt, 3 rd yr	X	
Fr. Gerry Reinersman	X		Lee Kessen	X		Joe Butts, 2 nd yr	X	
Associate Pastor			Board of Ed President			Missy Hickman, 2 nd yr	X	
Fr. Josh Lange	X		Jay Rottinghaus	X		Daryl Orth, 2 nd yr	X	
Director of Religious Education			Council Members			Christine Whelan, 2 nd yr	X	
Sr. Julaine Middendorf		X	Amy Hatfield – President, 3 rd yr	X		Raymond Donnelly, 1 st yr	X	
Deacon			Chuck Pettit – Vice President, 3 rd yr	X		Beth Halderman, 1 st yr	X	
Tim Schabell	X		Susan Bradtmueller–Secretary, 2 nd yr	X		D. Michael Moloney, 1 st yr	X	
Principal			Chris Ampfer, 3 rd yr	X		Garren Parker, 1 st yr	X	
Melissa Holzmacher	X		Jeanne Pettit, 3 rd yr	X		Joan Zai, 1 st yr	X	

P=Present and A=Absent

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Moved by: Jeanne Pettit

Seconded by: Missy Hickman

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

PARISH REPORTS

PASTOR’S REPORT - Fr. Reinersman

- We reviewed the article “Bringing Inactive Catholics Back” by Frank P. DeSiano, C.S.P. Question for conversation: “What could happen at St. Joseph to strengthen identity with the parish and reverse the trend of ‘episodic’ Mass attendance?”
 - Promote more “meat-and-potatoes” spiritual groups such as CRHP. Maybe more scripture study groups.
 - Need to strip ourselves of cares/concerns of life to make the spiritual connection at Mass. Sometimes we let our worries override the purpose and celebration of Mass.
 - We need to showcase our assets more (e.g., have Father give announcement at beginning of final Bluejay Classic games).
 - It’s difficult to serve different needs of parishioners: some prefer the quiet/reflection, while others prefer a more overt celebration.
 - We need to look at the children to sustain the Church’s spirituality – what can we do to instill identity with the Church and parish in our next generation(s)?
- Father Reinersman wants parish council members to share future articles with the group for similar discussions.
- Parish raised \$10,000 for Haiti victims in an unplanned collection.
- CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
 - Taken a very positive turn lately; will be announcing status in next couple of weeks.
 - There will be an opportunity for matching gifts for new and increased contributions.
 - About 475 + households are currently participating.
- STEWARDSHIP
 - Bereaved families are always so grateful for the help they receive at a difficult time in their lives. The planning of the funeral liturgy, singing of the Resurrection Choir, help of altar servers at Mass, and coordination of the reception after the funeral are ways parishioners shoulder some of the tasks of burying a loved one. Sylvia Uebel, Ella Hill and Mary Lou Heck head up this wonderful ministry.

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- FAITH ENRICHMENT

- *Theology of the Body* will take place from 7-8:30 pm on the Wednesdays of Lent (Feb 24-March 17). Speakers will discuss Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Location is Kelley Hall. Childcare will be available for the sessions.
- *Women's CRHP* weekend will take place on March 20-21, 2010.
- *Men's CRHP* weekend will take place on April 24-25, 2010.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - Melissa Holzmacher

- Children donated \$1500 for victims of Haiti in school collection.

- School had a successful Community Open House on Sunday, January 26, 2010. Students led tours, and we received many compliments on our wonderful students.

-- Twenty-six (26) families toured our school. Sixteen (16) are currently registered parishioners/families; eleven (11) are not currently registered parishioners.

-- Grades of interest among the families that toured the school:

19 Kindergarten 2010-2011	4 First Grade
1 Other	3 Unknown
2 Kindergarten 2011-2012	

-- Families were asked how they heard about our school:

9 Parish	6 Community, neighborhood or friend
8 Family or alumni	4 Unknown

- Registration for new students is Saturday, January 30, 2010, from 9-11 am in the library.

- Catholic Schools Week is Sunday, January 31 through Friday, February 5, 2010.

-- Saturday/Sunday: 8th grade students will share their Catholic Schools essays at all Masses.

-- Sunday, January 31: Mrs. Schwegmann, Mrs. Blank, and the school choir and musicians will perform music for the 9:30 am Mass. They will also sing at the Foresters' Pancake Breakfast.

-- Monday, February 1: Student Day

-- Tuesday, February 2: Parent Day

-- Wednesday, February 3: Community Day and Mass at the Cathedral

-- Thursday, February 4: Faculty and Staff Day

-- Friday, February 5: Spirit Day, All-School Mass and Student/Faculty Volleyball Game

- Confirmation practice is Thursday, February 11, at 7 pm. The Confirmation Retreat will take place at St. Joseph Heights on Friday, February 12, 2010, from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. The sacrament of Confirmation takes place at 7 pm on Friday, February 12.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT - Sr. Julaine

- See dates and times for Theology of the Body courses (in Pastor's Report) and sacrament of Confirmation (Principal's Report).

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT - Lee Kessen

- Financial statements are being sent to parishioners (1246 statements in total). Statements were sent by email last week for those with email accounts reported to the parish. Paper statements were mailed today (Jan. 26, 2010). A notice will go in the Bulletin stating that all financial statements for 2009 have been sent to parishioners. Envelopes have notice that return service is requested, to avoid concern that bulk mailing doesn't always ensure delivery to the household/person.

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- We are working on the budget with the Finance Committee. There will likely be a percentage increase next year to offset some expenses. Also, some information has been shared in the Messenger on tuition rate possibilities for the diocese for next year.
- We may have a potential tenant for the house next door to help defray that mortgage payment. The paperwork is not yet finalized, but if this proceeds, the parish would likely have a tenant by July 2010.
- We included ACH forms with the financial statements. We are now offering the option of ACH payments twice a month (not just monthly).

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT – Jay Rottinghaus

- Catholic Schools Week is next week. We are preparing gifts for the teachers.
- The Board of Education is focusing on the website for the school. We will be able to migrate to a new hosting server without additional cost. This migration will allow the site to be more dynamic for the parish, school, drama club, etc. and will still promote one St. Joe's community. The new website should have video playing (upload?) capability, transactional capability, calendars, etc.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE REPORT (Missy Hickman, Jeanne Pettit, Joe Butts)

The Finance Committee assists the pastor and Parish Council in planning, providing, and supervising the parish financial resources for the current and future needs by utilizing solid and effective financial planning.

- The Finance Committee met on January 20, 2010. The focus was next year's budget.
- Tuition collection: \$44,200 outstanding (5%) at this point. These amounts are normal for this time of year.
- Tuition next year will have a minimum 2% increase, maximum 4% increase. We are looking at different options based on budget, etc. Likely recommendation to Father is to do away with the up-charge to tuition for non-parishioners, but address broader guidelines on parishioners.
- Committee discussed how to get more people involved in parish and collections. They are looking to form joint committee of parish council and board of education to create action steps, etc. How can we market the parish and its assets more?

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & MAINTENANCE REPORT (C. Pettit*, C. Ampfer, D. Orth, C. Whelan, G. Parker)

The Maintenance, Planning & Development Committee assists the pastor in developing, planning, and communicating the long term strategic plans of the parish to meet the present and future needs of its parishioners while effectively utilizing its resources to enhance and maintain the parish plant and facilities.

- Group met on January 9, 2010 (despite the incredible cold!). Shortest meeting in recent years, but very constructive and positive.
- All committee members received an email on Thursday, January 7, 2010, illustrating the two phases that will need to take place to complete the entire project. All agreed that if everything falls into place (financial and permission-wise), the phase one items will be completed this year and phase two items will be done in 2011.
- Entire committee will not meet again until February 27, 2010. At that juncture, the group will have a better understanding of financial status and further plans can be made toward completion of the 50th Anniversary Project.
- Each parishioner has a different opinion about what should and should not be done – and they share them. However, much good work and planning has been completed to date, and the final outcome should be wonderful.

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- Lee Kessen, Jim Pelgen and Chuck Pettit will probably meet in coming weeks to list "other" major issues regarding the parish grounds/campus so that these items can get back on the PD&M Committee agenda. The results of this work will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting.

- The committee is looking forward to the contributions of skills and experience that new members to the committee will bring.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS REPORT (Amy Hatfield, Ray Donnelly)

The Public Relations & Communications Committee promotes and develops the Parish Family Concept through the celebration of special events and activities that offer opportunities for spiritual growth, and keeps the parish informed utilizing available technology (website & emails).

- Ray Donnelly has taken over the Doughnut Sunday details. Joan Zai is coordinating the supplies. Ray is working with parish organizations to identify future hosts. Drama Club will host the next Doughnut Sunday, scheduled for February 14, 2010. Group also discussed whether to change the name to Doughnut *Fellowship* Sunday and then perhaps ultimately to Fellowship Sunday.

- Mike Moloney is helping with recruitment and elections. He is creating a flyer and coordinating the election efforts. The target date for elections based on the bylaws is 5/16/2010. Mike will partner with Jay Rottinghaus and the Board of Education on the election preparations/organization. Returning council members should be thinking about officer positions that will be open.

- The Carpenter's Connection is now being handled by Garren Parker. An issue was printed and circulated with the bulletin at Masses on January 23-24, 2010. Looks good!

- Helen Bailey was on the Channel 9 News this month, talking about the Interfaith Hospitality Network at St. Joe's.

SOCIAL ACTION & OUTREACH REPORT (Susan Bradtmueller*, Vira Schmidt, Chris Ampfer, Beth Halderman)

The Social Action and Outreach committee fosters a climate of openness and inclusion among the members of our parish (especially those that do not have children or extended families within the parish), reaches out to those in material and spiritual need, and increases awareness of the available support services.

- The Interfaith Hospitality Network at St. Joseph hosted two families from Sunday through Thursday am (Christmas Eve day) during the week of Christmas. The host families and individuals planned many events for the families to reflect the customs and blessings of the season, including decorating of a Christmas tree, baking and decorating Christmas cookies, caroling provided by the Children's Choir 8th graders, etc. The families were also included in the Jesse Tree program. Overall, the week went well and IHN at St. Joseph received a very nice thank you from the mother of one participating family.

- IHN will work with Carol B. to send a church bulletin announcement regarding "mentoring" opportunities for families who have been through the program and transitioned back to independent housing. IHN at St. Joe's will collate the names of interested persons/families and work with David Roeding at the IHN Center in Newport to help facilitate the mentoring program.

- IHN volunteers continue to work on the convent and the organization of the storage room for IHN weeks at the convent. Some of the bedrooms are being painted and other improvements continue to be worked.

- IHN at St. Joe's will host families again the weeks of February 14, 2010 and May 2, 2010.

- St. Vincent de Paul continues to be busier than in past years handling requests for financial assistance (rent, utilities, etc.) by families in the area. They have also been handling more requests from parishioner families than in the past.

