

MINUTES

St. Bridget Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—March 16, 2011

The St. Bridget Parish Council meeting was called to order by John Smith, Chairman, on Wednesday, March 16, 2011. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February meeting be approved.

Present: Msgr. Carr, John Smith, Charlene Bechely, Joe Jowaisas, Augie Keller, Mike Kozak, Paul Sinclair, Fr. David Stanfill, Mark Sweeney, Marie Swider, Donna Weber.

Absent: David Anderson, Tim Corbett, Elizabeth Martin, James Melvin, Kay White.

Stewardship Report: Terry Anderson gave report and handout on status of stewardship drive. As of 3/15/11 777 pledges received in the amount of \$1,150,588. As compared to same 3-4 weeks into campaign, in 2010 \$1,067,000 pledged. Average pledge is \$29/wk. Second letter will go out in April. Phonathon will be in April also.

Some questions asked:

Q. Are numbers in line with what was expected?

A. Yes.

Q. How did the “In-Pew” solicitation go?

A. About 30 pledges were turned in “in-pew”.

Q. How many pledges went unfulfilled last year?

A. About 23%.

Census Report: Paul Sinclair reported that the phone call campaign is going slowly. K of C helping with phoning. 1418 families signed up thus far. Plans to finish census in 2 weeks.

Finance Committee: Mark Sweeney reported that offertory is down \$49,000 YTD from last year. Expenses up \$4000 over last year. Budget due to Bishop by 5//15/2011. Finance Council had independent test to make sure there were proper controls in place for offertory collection monies.

Parish Council Elections: John Smith said that PC elections will be weekend of 5/14 & 5/15. Committee formed: Marie Swider and Elizabeth Martin. Suggested that we get profile of what we are looking for in P.C. member. Also, must ask person before submitting name.

Liturgy Committee: Liturgy committee mindful of new Mass. New hymnals will be needed. Parish will need to be educated. Pew cards with responses will be needed. Summer Mass schedule will be in effect again this year from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

St. Bridget School: Charlene Bechely reported that on festivities planned for St. Patrick’s Day. EOM testing in place. 10,000 miles around the world continues! 6th graders will be helping out seniors at the Mass for Healing.

Paul Sinclair suggested an Annual Parish Committee Meeting. Would have presentations from all parts of parish; PC, Finance, different ministries and groups of the parish. This meeting would discuss and set the direction and priorities of the parish. It would explore the basic value of a Catholic parish. It would aim to focus the energy of the parish on what the group decided our parish should and wanted to be about. Then we would know where to put our time and talents and our money. It would make parish life more in tune with real life and with the mission that Christ calls us to. Paul said that it would take 6 to 9 months lead time and he would be willing to work on a format for the meeting. Discussion followed. It was suggested we continue to follow through with this suggestion.

John Smith brought up the flyer (inserted in bulletin) regarding unions and the Archbishop of Milwaukee Wisconsin. Said it was very controversial. Not good to have this in bulletin in the middle of a pledge campaign. Negative feedback received on it.

Mike Kozak said that there are certain issues that that a good Catholic can be on either side of, i.e. unions/vs. no union. This is not an element of our faith. Then there are some issues, like abortion, that are an element of our faith. Mike suggests that bulletin inserts on social issues be limited to those issues that are a matter of the Catholic faith.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Meyer
Recording Secretary

<p>Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center meeting room. See you there!</p>
