

Parish Council Minutes **Monday, September 8, 2008**

Present: Fr. John, Fr. Keyes, Bill Dolan, Joan Thompson, Bill Callahan, Diane Demoulas, Susan Haltmaier, Tom Ippolito, Maryann Marinelli, MaryAnn Nawrocki, Chuck Papalia, Mary Alice Rock, Ted Snell, Jim Wefers

Absent: Fr. Jerry, Brian Norris, Joe Smith

Special Guest: Rick Blain

Minutes: Tom Ippolito

Meeting called to order at 7pm by Bill Dolan

New members welcomed as well as special guest Rick Blain.

Opening Prayer: Mary Alice Rock

Seton Center:

Mary Alice spoke on the building project as a prelude to Rick Blain and relative to fund raising for the Seton Center. She gave a background on the convent and past usage of the building. She also said the current status physically was not at all good and offered very little in possible re-hab or rework. Conclusion of all who have worked with the development of the center was to tear down and start over.

After all needs were analyzed and weighed, and all considerations and costs were combined, it turned out that a facility to satisfy all requirements would be on the order of 36 thousand square feet. After much re-work and paring it was cut to 17 thousand square feet with 12 meeting rooms, a 30 seat conference room, a retreat/youth room and an entrance court yard which will offer many opportunities as a gathering space for special prayer services, meetings, and social events connected with the center or the church. In addition, the parish hall will be updated to include new bathroom facilities, and a caterer's kitchen.

Some additional happenings would be relocating the existing adoration chapel to the day chapel, and converting the altar area of the old church to a storage facility for chairs and tables to support the parish hall.

Mary Alice asked Rick to talk about fund raising.

Rick discussed the basics of the fund raising program. Plan was to introduce the program in a series of phases. By using separate phases well planned and executed allows for a buildable success effort where one successful phase adds to the momentum of the next. The concept that success breeds success is viable.

The fund raising program will be chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Conte. Rick explained that the first phase will be a quiet low key phase where we will build

based on 1-on-1 or 2-on-2 successes – small continued success builds a large program of success leading to success.

Rick introduced a bar graph showing the results of a national study on donation giving which showed quite clearly that giving through we are in difficult times, is definitely on an up curve.

Rick and Mary Alice then showed a video locally produced, on the expansion program – to be used before groups and in peoples homes. Rick looks to being through a public phase of the program by Thanksgiving.

Mary Alice commented that this program as it is developing will definitely make people grow together.

Fr John: We will have a larger meeting with all the groups who have participated in the program including the architect and the Parish Council to look at the whole program and put everyone on the same page.

Parish Picnic:

Mary Alice talked of the outstanding success of the Parish Picnic, the celebration of the Anniversary of the Vicariate was a great success, with great volunteer participation.

ARISE:

This is a 6 week program. Several groups are involved to support it – WINGS, St. Michael's Men's group, and many others!

6pm Mass:

Fr. John reported that the 6pm Mass is coming back to life after a brief break. The whole process worked well. Also, Fr. Beausoleil will continue to help from time to time as well as a number of other priests.

Parish Leadership:

Priests: Fr. John and Fr. Keyes both talked about the friendship the 3 priests have and how well they work together. They spend a lot of quality time together discussing the needs of the parish and its well being.

PPC: Bill Dolan suggested in the future for Welcome Sunday Masses, perhaps all PPC can attend the same Mass together. 7:30am for one week, 9am for the next Welcome Sunday, etc.

Fr. John reminded the council that they can be the eyes and ears as necessary to bring the concerns of the parishioners to the council.

Awards Night:

Susan Haltmaier: Who is going?
Mary Alice: The staff will have a table.

Other:

Jim Wefers: Will there be Advent books available again?
Mary Alice: Yes. That effort will be in place again.

Ted Snell: Some Masses seem to be running 5-10 minutes shorter. These have had a significant impact on the parking change over between Masses, so many leave before the next Mass group arrives.

Fr. Keyes: Could Tom Ippolito have people from St. Vincent de Paul Society come to next meeting to discuss St. Vincent activities with particular emphasis on utilities with regard to heating (the general problems we are seeing relative to the high prices of heating). Also, Bill will have people at same meeting to present "keep warm keep safe" program!

Next meeting is October 6.

Meeting adjourned.