

Minutes of Parish Pastoral Council Meeting 4/1/08

Present: Mary Sue Howlett, Bill Dolan, Diane Demoulas, Rick Chasse, Mary Alice Rock, Joan Thompson, Fr. John Delaney, Bill Callahan, Maryann Marinelli, Kathleen Gorman, Susan Haltmaier, Joe Smith.

Excused: Bob Scanlon, Honey DiNuccio, Jim Wefers, Tom Ippolito, Sue Reidy, Sue Rogge

Mary Sue Howlett called the meeting to order. Prayer followed.

The meetings of the meetings of January 8 and February 5 were accepted.

PPC welcomed Rick Chasse, St. Michael's high school youth minister. Rick reported:

Confirmation: 122 students had already been confirmed with 70 more students to be added on April 6.

There were 4 retreats for the students at which the Peer Ministry team was "phenomenal" in organizing activities and helping in any way. They are older students in grades 11 & 12. St. Michael's can be very proud of their youth. Peer ministers also dramatized the "Living Stations of the Cross" during Lent which was very powerful for those who attended.

Youth Council: Grades 9-12: They serve at Cor Unum twice per month. They are planning a Habitat for Humanity trip the week of July 20 in Portland, ME. The students must be 16 years old. 12 students can attend.

The middle school youth council is planning outings to Six Flags and laser tag.

Plans: Rick hopes to get into the community more in the spring, getting to know students and parents through high school sports and cultural events. It was suggested to Rick that he consider taking kids to serve at the Hancock projects this summer.

Catholic Appeal/ Finance Update:

Catholic Appeal: Parish made a greater attempt to publicized the Appeal this year by broadcasting Cardinal's Sean's homily at each Mass and by the priests' personal testimonies of how the Appeal has affected their lives. As of Friday, \$42,000 had been collected from 227 households. Last year's total collection was \$74,000 from 499 households. A letter will be sent from the 3 priests to the lybunts of our parish soon.. This year's goal is \$129,500. The appeal should be complete by July 1, 2008. Fr. John added that in the future, all parishes may be taxed over and above the appeal.

Easter: Offertory sent to Boston to support the Archdiocesan priests retirement and health benefits plan. St. Michael's is the largest contributor of the archdiocese.

Finance Council: Seeing a leveling off of offertory donations, despite rising numbers of parishioners. In May and June they will try to appeal to the parishioners to increase their giving or to begin giving. St. Michael's is experiencing rising costs of fuel, utilities and services, just as every American family is. Snow plowing, for example, was

\$22,000 so far this year. It was suggested that the appeal be concrete, like add \$1.95 per week, a medium coffee.

Mary Alice Rock reported:

Bicentennial: Renew's ARISE is a diocesan wide spiritual renewal process that all parishes will implement over the next 2 years in honor of the Bicentennial. It consists of 3 seasons of 6-week sessions of small groups meeting together to pray, listen to the Word of God, and share their faith. There will be a workshop at St. Michael's April 12.

Parish needs organizers of publicity, data, table leaders, etc. There will be more workshops over the summer. Parishioners will sign up for a small group in September and begin their sessions in October.

Also to celebrate, the greater Lawrence vicariate will celebrate Mass and have a picnic here, at St. Michael's on Sept 8. The planning team is very enthusiastic. Each parish will offer a symbol of their ministry, a banner, a history, music and entertainment.

Fr. John reported:

Seton Center: There was a joint meeting of the building and fundraising teams. We hope to build a structure that will cost \$4-5million. We already have \$1million in hand from bequests. There will be a quiet phase of fundraising over the summer and then the general public will be encouraged to participate in the fall. There are concerns over the economy and going into too much debt, but all indicators say that the campaign should be successful due to the enthusiasm of the parishioners. It's suggested that everyone tour the convent to highlight the need for a new structure!

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Alice Rock