

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK IN ARMONK

Thursday, September 11, 2008

The following individuals were present at the meeting: Father John Quinn, John Tartaglia-Council Coordinator, Vincent Greco, Stephen Fischer, Nancy Fischer, Lori Schiliro, Paul Zepf, Donna Myers, Pat Cummings, Allanna Hasselgren, Val Sprague.

The meeting began at 8:30 pm after our Peace Vigil.

Father Quinn thanked everyone for the wonderful Peace Vigil and the new Welcome Sign for our parish. He asked if there is a spare key for the sign—Val has one and will provide it for the rectory. Thanks were given once again to the Guiliani family for their generous underwriting of the sign. This was an effort by our Welcome Committee of Project Embrace.

Lori gave a Project Embrace update:

Pasta Night is back by popular demand for Saturday, October 18th after the 5:30 Mass in the Parish Center-- many thanks to Cheryl Lynch and the Events Committee of PE.

The Pull out program for the Family Mass at 10:30 will begin on October 5th for all children who have not yet received Communion.

Father indicated that Respect Life Month is October and we will have the Blessing of all new parents and parents to be at the October 5th 10:30 Mass also.

Additionally, we will be scheduling something with the blood bank once again this year.

Val gave a brief update on FIAT: now that our Peace Vigil touched so many families we will move onto our poverty initiative once again and address the need of Coats for Hope with The Children's Hope Chest and our Giving Tree in Wallace Hall. After we collect 200 new coats we will change the Giving Tree for the Hope for the Holidays program with The Children's Hope Chest. The need is increasing for the working poor. Additionally, we will have our Pancake Breakfast for our Great Generation (our seniors) on Sunday, November 2nd at 9:30 am in the Parish Center.

Father updated the Council on the common fund which is organized with 24 area churches to help those in special need and each parish contributes. In the past each parish contributed \$500 to meet the needs of the working poor. Very sadly, this is not enough and a special collection will be taken on Sunday, October 5th as part of our parish's contribution to help those that need it the most. This is a sign of our economic times. The collection is being taken right away so we can act in an expeditious manner. Father will publish in the bulletin.

Father also discussed the trying time of having enough CCD teachers to cover all CCD classes for all parish children. The program has grown tremendously and we are in need of more parental and parish support for this wonderful program. Allanna further addressed the need and how we are trying, but we need more parishioners to respond to this calling. First grade enrollment is light this year. Our Confirmation class of 9th graders is at about 50 children.

John discussed the need for the requirement by the Diocese of background checks on all individuals in the CCD program who work with the children. This is part of the Safe Environment Program and we need the cooperation of all teachers. It requires training and a video for orientation by each teacher and can be done in a group setting. Diane and Allanna need cooperation and help with this by all involved adults.

Everyone was very excited about the Welcome Sign and how it will welcome all and encourage participation and attendance at Mass. Val was if we could enlarge the letters for the Mass times. She explained she would make adjustments, but we are restricted by space and the letters available. Additionally, changing the letters is time consuming but she will happily take on this task and see how we could adjust. We will begin with a welcome to all and the beginning of CCD and then post Coats for Hope and Pasta Night. This will be wonderful for our Parish Community!

John addressed our Going Green efforts for our FIAT initiative and how changing the light bulbs around the parish can help us conserve energy and not be wasteful and save money.

Meeting Adjourned: **Next Parish Council Meeting will be on Monday, November 10th** at 7:30 in Wallace Hall. All are welcome.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Valerie Sprague.