

MINUTES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK IN ARMONK

Monday, October 5, 2009

The following individuals were present at the meeting: John Tartaglia—Council Coordinator, Joan Zaborowsky, Theresa Perna-Parish Trustee, Lynn Watson, Barrie Watson, Anita Cozza, Cathy Mitzian, Mary B. Ryan, Paul Zepf-Finance Chair, Diane McManus, Lori Schiliro, Jetta Magrone, Steve Fischer, Val Sprague, Father John Quinn. The meeting began at 7:30 pm with Vespers.

PARISH UPDATES:

Father Quinn asked for a correction in the minutes of August 3, 2009 in regard to “most” enjoyed daily Mass in the Lady Chapel. Additionally, Steve asked for a correction in the minutes to state “...There is a certificate of an additional named insured and we have...” Noted and will be forwarded to John Cummings, Jr. with correction. Father noted that he is working on his Spanish and that we are in week 4 of Religious Education and all is well. We have all teachers that we need for the time being. Pasta Night is fast approaching for October 17th. It will be a good time for all. Next June will be the 40th dedication of our church and Father would like an Anniversary celebration in tandem with our June Parish Barbecue around June 13th.

Council Coordinator—John Tartaglia announced to the council that he recently shared with Father that he will be moving and enjoying the next stage of his life. He has been very proud to help Father and serve his parish. Father will need to select another council coordinator. All acknowledged John’s dedicated, persevering service to the parish and thanked him for being such a wonderful advocate for our parish. Father thanked John for all he has done for our church community.

Mary Ryan—Business Manager--provided a detailed financial report on the parish. Several financial reports were created and are available through Mary Ryan. Mary handed out the '08-'09 Financial Summary and as of 8/31 we are in a fiscally sound position and in the black once again. We have more restricted donations for specific reasons. Our operating expenses were not up as much as our income and we were able to put some money away. A remote control system was added to the heating system in St. Francis Hall and we saved approximately \$2000. by taking this action. The new roof cost approximately \$30,000. The mortgage has been restructured and we are paying less in interest. Our maintenance needs are increasing due to specific areas of the parish that need repair and attention. The pledge to St. Francis Hall debt is less than \$100,000. Approximately, \$75,000 is still remaining on certain pledges made to the parish. Mary suggested that we have a Development Committee to work on fundraising. Mary further detailed the electrical problems we are having concerning a short that happened after a recent electrical storm. Additionally, we are looking into a Solar Plan to save \$216,945

over the next 25 years. John raised a concern about the risk of an increase in kilowatt hours—it was suggested that the Finance Committee meet with the solar contractor. A lengthy discussion ensued and questions were raised as to the cause of the short, etc. and how to adequately and safely address it as quickly as possible. Diane McManus offered to have her husband, John, look into it. Val Sprague clarified that John McManus will be so kind as to help us and the electrical contractor Guy M. will be contacted to further investigate the problem.

John Tartaglia—Council Coordinator--emphasized that there are other maintenance needs that must be addressed: the additional sections of roofing; HVAC system is 40 years old, our whole campus has 40,000-50,000 square feet and many things need repair and updating; parking lot, Carey and Walsh need to service our HVAC system and evaluate the system.

Steve Fischer—Parish Attorney-- raised a question about our incoming donations through envelopes. Mary stated that year to date we are up by \$2000. We only have 40 families on Parish Pay.

Religious Education--Diane McManus—Co-Moderator—Many people have asked for scholarships this year due to the economy and all were granted for the children. We have 60 teachers, but they are not parents of the students. We need parents of the students to help. We have a Crisis Management Report which is being updated for a Safe Environment. Allanna Hasselgren, Co-Moderator, of Religious Education, is handling all community service and registration. Theresa Perna asked if the level of scholarships set us back and Diane stated that it is several thousand dollars but a necessity for the parish community. Father added that we need to be conscious of placing religious education as a priority—while a family may pay up front in cash for CYO, and ask for a scholarship for CCD, we need to place more emphasis on religious instruction. Additionally, Father expressed concern, that while our religious education attendance is up, many are not attending mass. This sends an inconsistent message to children. When children were baptized, every parent was reminded that parents are the first teachers of children in ways of faith and hope. Anita Cozza suggested letting the parish family participate in a scholarship for a child and advising them of the need. Father said he would put it in the bulletin. It is \$205 per child with a \$600 cap for a family.

Project Embrace: Lori Schiliro, PE Co-Chair, said the 8th Graders sponsored the 10:30 Mass but it is much work and there is a need for more volunteers. The volunteers are doing much work. Theresa suggested putting all of this in the announcements to advise the parish. Lori and Val stated it is in the website and the parish calendar.

FIAT—Val Sprague—FIAT Co-Chair—provided an update on our Giving Trees for “Coats for Hope” for 200 of the poorest children in Yonkers. We will transition right into “Hope for the Holidays” with The Children’s Hope Chest to provide basic necessities for many children this Christmas. FIAT book discussion will take place Monday, October 26th, book to be announced.

Upcoming Dates:

1. Sunday, November 1st, 2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast for the Great Generation in St. Francis Hall at 9:30 am
2. Monday, November 2nd: Next parish council meeting at 8 pm after Mass for All Souls Day.
3. Sunday, November 15th—Holiday Boutique
4. Saturday, December 5th Christmas Party at Sir John Plaza for all participating in parish ministries

No New/Old Business

Meeting Adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Val Sprague.