

Next meeting -
February 24th.

St. Therese Parish Council Meeting held Jan. 27, 2009

1. Opening Prayer - was led by Fr. Bill.

2. Attendance -

Present were: Fr. Bill Hoffman, Dcn. Patrick Whitcomb, Carlos Herrera, Barb Miller, Richard Schreiter, Nancy Bourassa, Jeff Steward, Freddy Orozco, Andy Somers. Excused: Joni VandenHeuvel, Laura Biskupic, Omar Chacon, Juan Huerta. Absent: Maria Huff. No rep at this time for Christian Formation or Stewardship.

3. Approval of minutes of Nov. 25, 2008 meeting -

Correction noted: it had been stated that we have a new company for the offertory envelopes, this is not correct. We are using the same company, but going to a different method of distribution: yearly rather than monthly. Also a clarification to the Warming Shelter information: we do not have to carry insurance, the Shelter committee has insurance.

4. Unfinished Business -

A. School building sale - Fr. Bill.

The economic situation is affecting us. Our realtor continues to work on this for us. The previously interested parties have backed off for now.

B. New building plan - Fr. Bill.

This is on hold until the school building sells.

C. Ministry to the Elderly - Dcn. Patrick

The core group of this ministry is Patrick, St. Anne Arthur, Sara Buscher and Michelle Malinski.

The diocese requires much training - 16 hours, plus VIRTUS, plus other training. Our group is currently looking at what the minimum is before the people can start visiting the elderly.

A rep from the diocese will be here at St. Therese on Feb. 6 for VIRTUS training.¹ (VIRTUS is a program to educate adults regarding appropriate behavior when interacting with children or at-risk adults.)

They will train people in our parish, and others. It will be open to the general parish membership also.

The Ministry group has decided that the required 16 hours of training will be split and inserted here and there. Michelle and Sara are qualified already, so that team is ready. Patrick is also doing day visits. They feel good about it, though it's taking longer than originally expected.

¹ The word *virtus* derives from Latin, and means valor, moral strength, excellence, and worth. In ancient times, *virtus* denoted a way of life and manner of behavior that always aspired to the highest, most positive attributes of people and aspects of human interaction.

D. Parish as Warming Shelter - Fr. Bill

Fr. has requested that the Shelter Committee send someone to speak at our Masses and explain this program. They would also ask for volunteers to prepare/serve the evening meal. (Already, many have volunteered for this.) We also provide a cold breakfast in the morning.

We also need volunteers to be present through the night - these are 4 hour shifts. If we don't get enough volunteers, they have people who will come and cover those hours. A staff person is present on each shift, but we need one additional volunteer for each.

We have decided to use the Family Room for this; we need to check on the temperature in there. If 60 degrees or above, we're good. Barb will double check this.

Last week at St. Bernadette they hosted 9 men and 3 women. We need to figure 12-15 on average. Over 700 people have volunteered city-wide to help with this program now that it is rotating around.

E. Mardi Gras festival - Fr. Bill

This will be held on Sunday, Feb. 22. We had a note from Laura that she contacted the principal at Xavier to get students to help again this year. He said to let him know what shifts are needed.

There are sign-up sheets in the back of church for members to volunteer.

5. New Business -

Dominican Republic Trip - Fr. Bill

The trip was very successful. Sr. Anne Arthur and Bert & Mary Wiegand also came along. After Mardi Gras the group hopes to offer some times to show slides and talk about the trip. It was a very good trip (other than Fr. cutting his foot and needing stitches); they had a great group of people.

6. Pastor's Report - Fr. Bill

Lent is nearing. We will have some written materials in English and Spanish available in the back of church.

The Bishop's Appeal will kick off the weekend of Feb. 7 & 8. A taped message from the Bishop will be played at all Masses. — *The council watched the 10 minute video about the Bishop's Appeal.* —

The video is in the office if any committees want to borrow it for their group to watch.

7. Deacon's Report - Dcn. Patrick

The numbers for the Family Program (REP) are about the same as last year. Six Hispanic families have switched to this English-speaking program, plus another family called.

Interesting facts: 1 out of 5 parishes in the U.S. now has a Hispanic majority. Also, the ratio is 1230 people per U.S. Catholic priest; 9925 Hispanics per priest. The state with the fewest Catholics is Tennessee - 2.3%.

7. Committee Reports -

A. Lean/VIA/Continuous Improvement Group - Patrick

The latest minutes were handed out. The survey group is beginning to take action steps on the Time/Talent/Treasure and communications survey. Next meeting is Jan. 31.

B. Worship Committee - Jeff Steward

Report was in your packet. Talking about remodeling issues in church: ambo height, carpet issues, etc.

C. Hispanic Community - Carlos Herrera

Report was in your packet.

There will be a retreat for Ministers on Feb. 7th.

Fr. Elias celebration will be held on March 7th: Mass, then a dinner at Monarch Gardens (entrance fee will be charged.)

First Communions - we're looking at about 100 this year. We had 80 last year. Godparents often come from out of state for these, so various dates are offered.

D. Christian Service - Nancy

Reports from the various groups were in your packet.

The Ladies Society donated money for a vacuum for the church.

ESTHER is trying to put together a plan if there is a raid in this area; how would parishes respond?

Will need help with the 2010 census, especially the Hispanic numbers, which affect programs

E. Finance - Dick Schreiter

No meeting last month.

We got a generous bequest from the estate of a deceased man. We should write a letter to his family acknowledging and thanking them. We should also put his name on the memorial board.

Just an FYI - we got a HUGE bill for heating last month.

10. Chairperson's report -

None, Laura is traveling today.

11. Open Discussion -

Q. Palestinian Christians normally come here once a year and sell items: holy oil, carvings, etc. With war in that area, will that happen this year? We would like to help support them.

A. On April 10th there will be the annual Good Friday collection for the Holy Land. CNEW is the organization (like Catholic Charities) for the entire middle East. Fr. Bill gets a magazine about this.

Comment: The Lean committee is looking at something to show Power Point presentations / visuals of what's going on in the parish. A fund raiser may be coming. Cost is about \$380 for the Power Point program, plus a laptop - \$500-\$1,000. We have some money from the Lumen Christi fund that could be used for this, but we need to look at the financing of this project. Lean if focusing on Communications, and they are very excited about the possibilities if we get this tool. If we do indeed get this, staff and all users will need training.

12. Next meeting - February 24th.

13. Next prayer leader - Dcn. Patrick

14. Adjournment -

Meeting adjourned at 7:42

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Vissers