



Vision In Action

improving St. Therese Parish
via

- Hands-on involvement
- Stewardship of time, talent & treasure
- Listening and doing

Next meeting:
May 22
9 am

Vision In Action - VIA

Meeting held April 24, 2010

Attending: Andy Somers, Bert & Mary Wiegand, Bill Kime, Carlos Herrera, Dick Schreiter, Ellen Vissers, Ernesto Gonzalez, Fr. Bill Hoffman, Jean Pethan, James Zimmer, Nancy Bourassa, Sara Buscher., Sr. Gemma Therese.

1. Opening Prayer was said by chairman Bill Kime.

2. Update on the TV - On the subcommittee: Bert, Dick, Greg, Bill K, Daniel Hoyer.

We got a bid from Sues TV for about \$10,000. We need to find a way to get this price down. Bill Kime has offered to build a TV stand/cabinet for a cost of \$300-\$500 for materials. Subcommittee will meet after this meeting to discuss. We will get an update in May.

3. Follow up on meeting about building codes - James Zimmer

We need to keep in mind that now that we have been rezoned, there are fire codes for groups of over 100 people.

4. Retreat evaluation - Mary Wiegand and Jean Pethan

About 170 people attended the retreat. Food costs minus donations ended up with a cost to the parish of about \$130.

Next time it would be helpful to have better communication on numbers (RSVP) to help with the planning. Also to have two groups handling food would be nice - one to handle breakfast and snacks, the other to take care of lunch. Some left overs went to REP and the Easter Egg Hunt. Mary will email the evaluation sheet to the group listing amounts bought, costs, etc.

Great comments from those who attended. Many volunteered to help with the next retreat.

5. Follow up on possibly selling food during the Flag Day Parade - Bert Wiegand

The Flag Day Parade will be on Saturday, June 12. Usually we sell food on the parish property, but because of street construction the parade is rerouted this year. Bert checked with the Health Dept. about getting a permit. Cost is \$28, and need a 7 day notice to get. They suggested that M&I Bank might have a space for us to sell from. We used to make about \$100 on this; but having to haul everything to another location involves more work. Do we want to pursue this? Mike & Chris Blevins have headed this up in the past. Bert will call them and see if they are interested again this year.

6. Evaluation of the Easter Egg Hunt - Mary Wiegand, Nancy Bourassa, Ellen Vissers, Kathy Somers

It was held on Holy Saturday morning - April 3rd. We had an Egg Hunt, coloring project, decorate a cookie, get an informal family picture taken, and have muffins & juice. Darcy Armstrong was the Easter Bunny. We had about 50 children and about 25 adults. All seemed to have a great time. Several parishioners brought their grandchildren. Many people donated muffins. Profit of about \$60, mostly because the committee donated quite a bit.

Comment: we need to specifically ask the Hispanics to help at events, and donate - and then they do!

Carlos says that the Hispanics get a feeling of belonging with these events.

Suggestion: we should have a sign-in sheet when people bring bakery to the kitchen, then we could put a thank you in the bulletin and mention the names.

All in all, this was a very nice family event. We are considering something similar for Halloween/Day of the Dead.

7. Pilgrimage to Milwaukee in June - Sara Buscher

About 20 have signed up so far. Summer causes conflicts in schedules for people. We have sent notices to other parishes and to The Compass. Still room for more!

8. Script - Greg Pethan is not here today, but is looking into this. He will report at the next meeting.

9. "The Big Picture" - setting goals for the next year - Bill Kime

Where do we want to be in 5 years?

What does our community look like?

What brings us together?

Anything that would impede?

We had discussed Renew-type small groups

Question to Fr. Bill - what things are impeding? Fr. says Stewardship - which is about action: prayer, spirituality, sharing of talents and finances. We need to pay the staff. Somebody has to organize volunteers. We need to have a contact person in the office.

Brainstorming:

At each event we need to ask people to help with future events

We like to see lots of activities mentioned in the bulletin. Shows we are active, lively, things are going on.

Dick S. went to a diocesan stewardship program. They stressed you need to be a welcoming parish first.

What does a welcoming parish look like?

We need a way to follow up on the volunteers / names that we have.

We need to create ways for people to get involved.

Always include a thank you/ recognition in the bulletin. They will do more, plus others will volunteer.

A welcoming parish is an attitude

Relationship building comes through working together on a project.

We could use help with the Volunteer Dinner, the REP program, and the Patronal Feast.

People don't give money to "organizations" they give to a cause they believe in.

People learn leadership skills in committees & projects. We need to raise up new, young leaders, mentor, pass it on

Build some subcommittees to create leaders - create opportunities.

Create a mentoring program?

Back to Stewardship - sharing of time, talent and treasure follows from getting into a community/cause that excites you.

This begins with education. Do we need to get another action group to handle Stewardship alone?

How many quick hits have we checked off? Are we ready to move on from Communications? What happened to the name tags?

Not finished with the TV project.

Concerned about vitality

Consensus of the group that during the next year we should focus on Stewardship.

A Stewardship Committee is, by the parish constitution, a subcommittee of the Parish Council, though the last committee dissolved some years ago. If we would tackle this for the next year, then we should be able to hand it off to a small group to continue with it; and we should get it back under Parish Council where it belongs.

The diocese has a lot of information / educational materials to get us started. There is also a National Stewardship Convention each year which some parishes send reps to. Why don't we have someone in the diocese come and talk to us about this, maybe at our next meeting? Nancy B. volunteered to make the contact and see.

Let's "A-3" this problem. (Stewardship)

- The committee does not exist at this point / no one is in charge
- The Parish Council can't / won't tackle this problem
- We have a financial gap of \$20,000 that needs to be addresses ("Concern" not panic about this)
- We have no idea what people are capable of / willing to do
- We have some names now from the last couple of events, we need to keep up with them
- Could we make subgroups with the Phone Tree for specific events (Retreat, children's events)
- We should call or drop a post card to those who recently volunteered to say thanks and we'll contact you
- Question: what does a welcoming parish look like? Flesh that out - define it. What's our endpoint?
- Close the financial gap. Maybe hire a volunteer coordinator
- Endpoint - we would have an ample supply of volunteers
- Noticing that more people stay after Mass to visit with others - great!
- Endpoint - have strong players on your committees and councils
- Renewed vitality in the parish
- Have an updated list of volunteer opportunities. Maybe post it to the website so people could sign up?
- Before asking people to volunteer for a committee/group/project have someone stand up at Mass and talk about it
- Have a blessing on the various groups. Standing up to be blessed shows how many are involved, may inspire others
- Welcome packets in the back of church like Mackville does it (Ellen will talk to office about this.)

10. Next meeting May 22 - 9am - We will try to get a diocesan speaker in for this. Dick will bring a treat.

Minutes by Ellen Vissers

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Treat sign up (bring a treat to the VIA meeting)

- May 22 - Dick
- June 19 - Ellen
- July 25 - Kathy & Andy

Parking lot items:

- Communications Survey
 - Update family room
 - Covered room between church & rectory (with skylights, heating coils in floor???)
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