



**Vision In Action**  
improving St. Therese Parish  
via

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

**Next meeting:**  
**April 24**  
**9 am**

# Vision In Action - VIA

Meeting held March 13, 2010

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

**1. Opening Prayer** was said by acting chairperson Nancy Bourassa.

**2. Update on the TV** - no report. On the subcommittee: Bert, Dick, Greg, Bill K, Daniel Hoyer.

### **3. Evaluation Form - Mary Wiegand**

Consensus that this was well done/excellent. As a complement to this we think it would be helpful to have a list of where things are located: nesco roasters, vases, etc. We should have one primary storage site and things should be well labeled. If we had one primary storage area then people would know things need to be returned there, instead of things migrating from place to place after each event.

### **4. Building evaluation - problems that would affect fund raisers**

On March 1 there was a meeting with Barb Miller, James Zimmer, Ernesto Gonzalez, Ellen Vissers and representatives from the Appleton Fire Department, Health Department and Building Inspections. We found out that if we are no longer a school, and want to rent the building out as a “banquet hall” or for other uses, then we have had a “Change of Use” of the building and instead of being grandfathered in, we would have to bring the buildings up to current codes.

Barb contacted someone from Hoffman Construction to give us a ballpark estimate of what that would cost, and the range is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$750,000 - \$1 million. If we start doing a lot of renting we also need to be concerned with insurance, tax exempt status, etc. We are OK to rent and have that money cover maintenance of the building.

It is OK to use as-is for small group activities for our own people. We should not “invite the public” to anything or we will run into trouble. We also have the issues of the kitchen hoods— in the Family Room kitchen (where currently there is no hood) and the hood in the cafeteria that currently doesn’t work. The problem is the threat of a grease fire, so no frying, or baking anything greasy (porkies). We could fry things outside of the building in nescos / electric frypans / grills.

Until we decide the use of the building - keep it a school, or convert it to other use - we are in limbo as far as which rules apply.

### **5. Retreat on March 27th**

Holy Week theme, bi-lingual, runs from 9-noon with a small lunch to follow. *Pethans and Wiegands will plan lunch/snacks.* A large group of Hispanics are committed to being there - about 15 confirmation students, and 15 Quinceneras, with parents and godparents. We will also use the *Phone Tree (Carlos, and Barb/Chrissy please)* and ask people to “Press 1 if you plan to attend” so we have an idea of how many to plan for. We also need to make an announcement in church and put it in the bulletin. *Ellen will make posters* to hang in church. We need to ask the office for the list of people who donate bakery for special occasions, and ask them to donate the desserts for this.

The office has the sticky-back name tags. *Nancy and Sara* have volunteered to *come early and help with registration* and getting name tags on people.

### **6. Fundraising Ideas / Projects for VIA to tackle in 2010**

Kathy suggests we add an additional fund raising idea to each of our “meal events” - silent auction, bake sale, etc. A new one she suggests is a Pound Sale, which they did at her children’s school. People donate a pound of something - fudge, nails, coupon for a pound of coffee - anything - it is wrapped very beautifully / creatively and it goes up for auction unopened (grab bag style). She suggests two versions of this - one for kids and one for adults. The group consensus is that this is a great, fun idea. We think it would pair up nicely with the Summer Picnic on July 11th, which now will be held on the parish grounds. We could also give a small prize for the best decorated / most creative packaging. *Kathy & Ellen will help with the Pound Sale. Picnic committee is Nancy, Carlos, Laura Biskupic and Ernesto.* We also think it would be a good idea to sell hamburgers, corn and soda for a modest price / cost. People could work around that for the pot luck. Or if their budget is small, they could skip buying a burger and just go with the pot luck items.

On the question of a yearly raffle - Fr. Bill said Parish Council had decided that the main parish fundraiser will be the Patronal Feast on September 12, and the raffle will go with that.

Flag Day food sale - the parade is re-routed this year because of street construction. *Mary will check on a vendor permit* to see if we could relocate our sale. We think the parade committee only gives out a limited number of licences to go with their event.

Scrip - is a great fund raiser that the schools use. Any of us could go to St. Joe's Middle School and buy Scrip at any time and they will split the profit with St. Therese 50-50. We should look into how time-consuming this would be to start up / run out of St. Therese; or would kids from St. Joe's be willing to come once a month and sell Scrip after Masses? Reminder - you write a check out for an amount (\$50, \$100) and get that exact amount back in Scrip. A percentage is paid to the parish by the business - you get 100% of the amount you spend in Scrip. Some participating businesses are Kwik Trip (pays 20% the first year and 10% after that) also Festival Foods, Kohls, Marcus Theaters and a dozen other local businesses. *Greg will check into this.*

Sunday, May 2 there is a Mission Breakfast fund raiser put on by lay missionaries. Catholic Knights will match up to \$500. Anne Arthur is contact person.

After some discussion VIA will host an Easter Egg Hunt this year on Holy Saturday morning - April 3rd. We envision an Egg Hunt (broken down into 2 groups, by age) a coloring project, decorate a cookie, get an informal family picture taken, and have muffins & juice. If we could find an Easter Bunny costume so the Easter Bunny could walk around during the event, and be in on the pictures, that would be great. If not, we will use Easter props/background for photos. Need to get a mention in the bulletin quickly, maybe a "stuffer" in a week or so also? Posters, announcements, Phone Tree? *Nancy and Mary Wiegand will tackle the Egg Hunt part, Kathy & Ellen will help with the photos.*

Culvers and A&W both have a fundraiser partnership idea. The church would register for a certain night, then when parishioners eat there, they mention our name, so we get credit for a percentage of items purchased. You could add a little to the night by passing out coloring pages for the kids. *Kathy will forward this idea to Laura Biskupic.*

Other ideas mentioned were Movie Night with popcorn, and spaghetti and chili suppers. Consensus that we have enough on our plate at this point.

There will also be two pilgrimages/ bus trips this year to Catholic sites. The last one made a little profit. These tend to be during the week and aimed at seniors, but could be scheduled for Saturdays if there was interest.

#### **TO RECAP:**

Easter Egg Hunt - April 3rd - contact person Mary Wiegand

Pilgrimage to Milwaukee in May - contact person Sara

Flag Day Parade food sale in June ???( if possible) - Mary Wiegand

Parish Picnic & Pound Sale - July 11 - contact person Laura Biskupic?

Patronal Feast & raffle - Sept. 12 - contact person Carlos ?

Dubuque Pilgrimage - October 4/5 to New Mellerary Abbey - contact person Sara

Discussion: we need to get more help with these. It was not VIA's mission to turn into a fund raising machine. We will burn out if we don't get some additional people involved. We need to promote the idea that people can help with just one event - or just one part of an event. Something specific, and then they're done.

Maybe have a very short evaluation sheet available at the end of events asking what they liked the best, what suggestions they would have for next time. And a "If you would like to help with a future event please give us your name and phone number". Let's start this with the retreat in two weeks.

We're back to Stewardship again - having people indicate an interest in certain things. It would be very helpful to have a Stewardship Committee to survey the parish, which hasn't been done in many years.

#### **7. Next meeting discuss high-level goals.**

We were specific in this meeting about fund raising ideas, which was a task assigned to us by Parish Council, but we need to look at the larger picture. Fund raising socials may be one of our goals for the year, but we should also look at continuing communications improvements and attracting people to join St. Therese, among others. Let's bring this back next month.

#### **8. Next meeting April 24th. Sara will bring the treat.**

Thanks to Greg & Jean for the breads, jam & donut holes we enjoyed today.

Our thanks to Nancy for doing a great job chairing today's meeting!

Meeting adjourned at 11:00.