St. Bridget Parish Council
Thursday, August 6, 2009

President Andrea McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:11.

Roll call was taken by the secretary. In attendance was Fr. Francis Fador, Deacon Stephen Beecher, Marnell Stover, Gerry Cunningham, Andrea McCormick, Mel Harmon, Audrey Cunningham, Louise Riley, Rose Frith, Rick Stover, Pat Beecher, Rosemarie Frick. Parish member Susan Haxo was also in attendance.

Peg Kearns, Walt Kearns, and Doug Landy were not present.

The June minutes were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Rosemarie, seconded by Louise. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:
Religious Education – Marnell-Registration is being prepared for the fall, and book orders will be placed once the enrollment is known. The program will start on Sept. 20th with no changes. A survey of 8 -10 questions about the Religious Education program was given to the parents of the St. Bernard students, and will now be sent to the teachers and parents of St. Bridget students.
Liturgy – Rosemarie – A photo of an outside manger set made of resin was circulated amongst the PC with the query of whether or not it should be purchased for this year. The cost will be approximately $1,116.00 plus S&H of around $120.00. The PC briefly discussed the problem of theft, but all wanted to purchase the set. Rick, as financial chair, thought we could make the purchase. Rosemarie's husband will build the manger for it.
Social Action – Louise – The Social Action Committee of Louise, Rose, Mel, and Susan Haxo met at Louise's house on July 22, 2009 to compile the survey data. 38 families responded out of 162 surveys sent out. A comprehensive summary of the survey was presented on spreadsheets and on screen so the PC could look at the information collected as Louise pointed out the areas of interest and need. The SAC will meet again on Aug.26th to further develop the steps of potential projects. Both extremes of our population are of interest to the majority of our parishioners, with help for the elderly and activities for the youth seen as important.
Louise has planned for a staff member from the Western CT Area Agency on Aging to come and explain all the services provided by their organization. He is scheduled for Wed. Sept. 23 at 6:00. Volunteers for help with these or any projects are welcome.
Planning & Development – Rick – This committee met in early July to go over their list of projects. Their focus is the integrity of the structure, and the stripping and painting of the church. They have received an acceptable bid from Rick Breyette to strip and paint the church with a time frame of approximately 6 weeks. He should start later in August.
The report to the CT Trust has been completed and sent.
Hospitality – Audrey – 45–50 people attended the church picnic held on Sat. July 25th. The weather cooperated and the washer game was enjoyed by many as well as the hay rides.
Should we have a joint picnic with St. Bernard this summer?
Special Events – Rose – no report
Spiritual Life – Fr. Francis – A get together about the topic of bereavement is being worked on.
Communication – Mel – no report

Pastor's Report – none
Fr. Francis was asked about the possibility of new or different sign(s) for St. Bridget Church. Gerry took some photos of signs other churches have along town roads. They will do further research on this as all on the PC thought this was important.

Old Business:
Activities in Progress – tabled until next meeting.
Raffle – Should we have one this year? Last year's raffle brought in $5000 to the church. The PC needs to think of ideas, items, and possibilities of prizes and come to the next meeting ready to discuss this.
New PC members – Pat Conroy and Susan Haxo have expressed interest in becoming PC members.

New Business:
Dzenutis family – A free collection basket was put out for the family after masses last week and will be in place again this week. The rectory was offered to them as a temporary dwelling but they declined as they are staying with Ralph's brother in West Cornwall. An article in the Lakeville Journal stated that there are several community events planned to raise funds for them.
Mail-a-Map – Rose showed the PC a map and explained that if the church takes out an ad the church will be labeled on the map and we will receive 100 maps for a $200 fee. Local businesses such as hers are placing ads on the map. The PC has seen these types of maps and all felt that it was worthwhile.
Joint Family Picnic – After discussion it was decided to postpone a picnic with St. Bernard's until spring. There are too many other things on the calendar already for the end of summer and fall.

Next PC meeting is Sept.3, 2009. Louise will conduct the opening prayer and Mel will lead the closing.

A motion to adjourn at 9:09 was made by Gerry, seconded by Marnell. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Harmon