St. Bridget Parish Council

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

**Call to Order**: President Andrea McCormick started the meeting at 7:06.

Opening prayer was led by Andrea.

**Roll Call**:

In Attendance: Fr. Francis Fador, Deacon Stephen Beecher, Gerry Cunningham, Marnell Stover, Andrea McCormick, Mark Hampson, Mary Ellen Harmon, Rose Frith, Audrey Cunningham, Pat Conroy, Pat Beecher, Rick Stover, Rosemarie Frick.

Not in Attendance: Doug Landy, Louise Riley

A motion was made by Rose to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Audrey. Motion passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**:

**Religious Education** – no report

**Liturgy** – Rosemarie readied the church for Advent by removing the Book of Remembrance, putting up the Giving Tree, changing the missals and hymnals, and putting up wreaths. She and her husband, Paul, also put up the new crèche outside. She wants to especially thank Rick and Gerry for their help with that.

**Planning & Development** – Pat has a list of 8 potential stained glass window repair/restoration contractors for placing bids on the church windows. The windows will be prioritized as to their repair need.

**Hospitality** – Audrey reported that about 20 people showed up for wine & cheese after the 4:00 mass on Nov. 21st.

The Thanksgiving Eve service was well attended and all who came down to the church hall enjoyed the plentiful refreshments.

This Sunday, Dec. 6th is the pancake breakfast after the 8:30 mass.

**Spiritual Life** – Fr. Fador gave each PC member a copy of a pamphlet which will be passed out in church. It refers to an Advent Penance Service to be held at St. Bernard's on Wed. Dec. 9th at 7:00.

Preparation for Lent is beginning and Fr. Fador is developing the Lenten journey around the word "instead".

Dec. 8th is the Holy Day Immaculate Conception. A vigil mass will be at St. Bridget Church at 4:00, mass on the Holy Day is at St. Bernard Church at 7:00.

**Communication** – Mel stated that she will be requesting help for this committee after masses starting in January since no one other than PC members attended the open parish meeting.

A new updated list of email addresses and phone numbers was emailed to PC members as well as being available on paper at the PC meeting.

Mel has started a master list of parishioners' email addresses so that information can be *sent by email. We have at least 52 email addresses at this time.*

**Social Action** – The Thanksgiving Drive, in partnership with St. Bernard Church was a huge success. We provided 22 baskets and $1,100 in cash and gift cards to those in need. Special thanks to Andrea and Marnell for shepherding the project and to the confirmation students who helped assemble the baskets.

Parishioners purchased 27 wreaths from the Susan B. Anthony Project. Louise will bring the wreaths to church on Dec. 5th and 6th for pick-up after mass.

Religious Ed students are scheduled to make Christmas cards for shut-ins which will be routed through Jill Gibbons. Marnell and Cheryl are overseeing this project.

Maureen Prentice began the Christmas Giving Tree project. This year the number of tree tags is up from 65 to 75 reflective of the difficult economic times.

There will not be a baking event but families are welcome to bake goodies on their own to accompany Giving Tree gifts.

Louise and her husband Tom are planning community outreach in the form of Christmas caroling in Cornwall Village on Saturday, Dec. 19th. All are invited to their house at 8 Twixt Road about 5:00 for refreshments before spreading Christmas spirit.

We are discussing ideas to continue to support to the community and welcome any thoughts.

**Pastor's Report** – The annual collection letters were sent out and about 32 have been returned. Within those returns were two requests to have their names removed from the church list, and so far about $14,000.00 has come in to offset the deficit.

**Old Business**:

The open parish meeting was only attended by 6 PC members.

The Fall clean-up day went well with about 20 parishioners working during the day.

Next month at the PC meeting we will look at our goals and begin to discuss them. Each PC member was given a copy of most of the goals and will have all of them shortly. Fr. Fador suggested that all the goals be made available in printed form to all parishioners. After a short discussion this was agreed to so that everyone knows what the PC is trying to accomplish.

The calendars should be coming in soon. Gerry thought of the idea of having a photo competition to make a calendar of our own for next year. Photos of St. Bridget, the grounds, the Religious Ed students, or whatever can be submitted and one for each month will be chosen. The illuminated crèche would be a perfect photo for the month of December. In fact, Christmas cards with the crèche on the front could be made and sold. Rosemarie and Gerry will work on the calendar competition.

**New Business**:

The choir is singing in the chapel at Salisbury School on Sunday, Dec.13th at 4:30.

Our next PC meeting is on Jan.7, 2010. Mel will offer the opening prayer and Mark the closing.

The closing prayer was led by Fr. Fador with each PC member offering out loud a different petition to God for the community and world.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 was made by Rick, seconded by Pat B. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Harmon