St. Bridget Parish Council
Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009.

President Andrea McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:09.

Opening prayer was offered by Louise Riley.

Roll Call taken: In attendance: Fr. Francis Fador, Gerry Cunningham, Marnell Stover, Rick Stover, Andrea McCormick, Peg Kearns, Mary Ellen Harmon, Rosemarie Frick, Audrey Cunningham, Louise Riley, Rose Frith, Walt Kearns, Pat Beecher.
Not Present: Deacon Stephen Beecher, Doug Landy.

Approval of Jan. minutes: Pat Beecher wanted to make an addition to the Jan. minutes concerning her asking about the $50,000.00 which was donated specifically for handicap access to the church. Fr. Fador assured the council that it remains in the bank and will not be used for anything else and awaits a future time when the handicap accessible project might be feasible. Upon that addition Walt moved that the minutes be accepted, Louise seconded. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

a. Religious Education – Marnell – The last day of religious education this year will be on May 17th.
b. Liturgy – Rosemarie – Christmas décor was removed, the altar cloth changed to green for Ordinary time, a final cost for outdoor nativity set will be known in March, and a draft for Greeters duties was shown to all.
c. Social Action – Louise – Contact has been made with The Cornwall Chronicle for possible submission of St. Bridget activities in the future. Louise has received the parish data base info from Fr. Fador and is studying the information as she wants to target people to call, have a list of questions ready, and establish a rapport with people who are called. She is trying to develop a phone survey and Rick volunteered to help her move this project forward.
d. Planning & Development –Walt – The first item covered was the Planning and Development meeting held at the Stover residence on Jan. 30th. Rick handed the council the agenda of that meeting and explained that as Financial Chairperson he has not received hard copies of documents he has requested from the Restoration Committee. The council felt it has given more than adequate time for this matter and needs to move on. Rick also provided the council with a handout addressing strategic planning

and another containing a development schedule with a budget. Discussion followed as to the definition of Planning & Development and the needs of the church. Walt tendered his resignation but then decided to remain as liaison to this committee, while Rick volunteered to be the acting chairperson.

e. Hospitality – Audrey – A report was included explaining that on Sun. Feb. 1, Feast of St. Bridget, approximately 30 people attended the first "coffee and" since the basement hall has been renovated. Upcoming events may include a simple soup/bread supper on Ash Wed. and before Stations of the Cross during Lent, as well as possibly serving refreshments for Religious Ed. parents while their children are in class. Four new volunteers for the Hospitality Committee were obtained.
f. Communication – Mel – no report
g. Special Events – Rose – An idea is in the planning stage for a possible family gathering "Spring Fling" event, the 125th Anniversary is still in the planning stages, and Rose's workplace, which is next to the Cornwall Post Office, is a designated drop off for the food pantry.
h. Spiritual Life – The whole parish council is part of this committee as we strive to enrich, enhance, and energize the spiritual life of our parish.

Pastor's Report:

The parish council should become a visionary group as to what the needs of St. Bridget Church are. What are we here for? Keep our focus and think outside the box. Fr. Fador gave us a handout entitled "How to Be a Dynamic and Evangelizing Parish" which we were called upon to read in its entirety on our own. Different pertinent sections were read and pointed out as important areas to consider. Fr. Fador wants the council to get excited about the important things, and to adopt a model to facilitate what we want to do.

He has a DVD called "Forgiveness" which is about the Amish school shootings and may help our community in these times of negative feelings.

Old Business:

Our church communication needs to be bumped up. Email addresses of the parishioners would be a helpful place to start with increasing communication. John Warzalda, who is our webmaster, will need to be contacted when the site is updated.

A memorial plaque for the many items donated over the years is being considered for one of the walls in St. Bridget. Even though some items are no longer used the donation should be acknowledged in a permanent way.

New Business: Ash Wednesday is on Feb. 25th. Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:00.
There are two new altar servers.
After Easter flower donations perhaps we can boost the flower fund for church by asking for donations for Mother's Day. People can honor their mothers by donating to the flower fund in their mother's name.
What is each of us doing to boost attendance at Mass? Please drop Fr. Fador a note to tell him that you are praying for this along with him.

The next PC meeting is on Thursday, March 5th.
For the next meeting Mel will lead the opening prayer, and Rose will lead the closing prayer.

The closing prayer for tonight was lead by Gerry.

Adjournment: 8:55.

Submitted by Mel Harmon