St. Bridget Parish Council

Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010

Call to order was made by Andrea at 7:06 p.m.

Opening prayer was led by Mel.

Roll Call: In Attendance were Fr. Francis Fador, Deacon Stephen Beecher, Gerry Cunningham, Marnell Stover, Andrea McCormick, Mark Hampson, Mary Ellen Harmon, Rick Stover, Pat Beecher, Audrey Cunningham, Louise Riley, Rosemarie Frick, Doug Landy, Pat Conroy

Not in Attendance: Rose Frith

A motion was made by Audrey to accept the Dec. minutes, seconded by Rosemarie. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Report: Rick passed out a handout of a preliminary finance report to all and explained some line items, and answered any questions. He did state that the church accountant has not seen the report yet, but will soon.

Committee Reports:

Religious Education: Marnell said that the residents at Sharon Health Center who received a card made by Religious Ed. students were very appreciative. They sent a thank you note which will be conveyed back to the students.

Discussion followed about the fact that the children are the church's future, and if we involve the children we can get the families. Pat B. suggested a children's mass, with religious ed. students greeting, doing the readings, and bringing up the offertory gifts. How about a children's choir? After some discussion it was concluded that we would not call it anything special, and Pat would ask parents of religious ed. students as to who could participate, and come up with possible dates.

Liturgy: Rosemarie explained how the committee readied the church for Christmas, and that the shepherd figure for the new outdoor crèche came in on Dec. 14th. All the crèche figures have been "adopted", or paid for, except for the shepherd.

Planning & Development: no report

Hospitality: Audrey passed out a sheet of events planned from the end of Jan. through the end of Lent. These range from a French toast breakfast, a wine and cheese gathering, to the soup suppers during Lent. This will be printed up and sent home with the church bulletin.

Spiritual Life: Fr. Fador spoke to the theme of "Adult Faith Formation". We need to find a way to get more than the usual amount of people to show at a meeting towards this, and to embrace new ideas on how to be church. Deacon Stephen volunteered to be on this committee. Fr. Fador asked us to pray about it, research it online, and explore ideas.

Communications: Mel stated that a request for help for emailing or sending photos online for the Communications Committee will be in the church bulletin under the Talents, Treasure, or Time section. She will continue to form the church email group.

Social Action: Louise reported about the sending of Christmas cards to Residents of Sharon Health Center and thanked Cheryl Arnold for donating craft items as well as supervising the activity.

Louise also thanked Maureen Prentice for a successful Giving Tree project this year, with 75 gifts dispersed through Jill Gibbons at Cornwall Social Services.

Eleven parishioners went Christmas caroling on Dec. 19th in Cornwall Village.

The Social Action Committee is meeting later this month and welcomes any input for future projects.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Fador thanked everyone for their efforts during the Advent and Christmas season. He received many positive comments about our outdoor crèche.

He thanked all who donated to the annual fund drive, which ended up bringing in at least $21,401.

He received a call from Rick Breyette, who did the painting of the outside of the church, with an estimate on the labor for painting the inside of the church. Discussion followed with some confusion expressed as to why this would be brought up since there were no more projects planned with finances being as they are. Fr. Fador felt it is his obligation to give us information which he receives that is important. The council agreed that even though it may be a good price, we will have to wait.

Fr. Fador asked the PC if they would support a reconciliation service here at St. Bridget as he would have to set it up now to be sure to get guest priests for the evening. PC members agreed to support it.

Lent begins on Feb. 17th and Fr. Fador is going to have the theme of **Instead of…** run through his homilies. Instead of hate…, instead of apathy…, instead of impatience… and so forth.

Old Business: The calendars continue to be handed out, the outdoor Nativity figures are almost all paid for, and next meeting we will speak about our progress of our goals which we submitted for the PC.

Closing prayer was led by Mark.

Motion to adjourn at 9:03 was made by Pat Conroy, seconded by Audrey. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mel Harmon