St. Bridget Parish Council
Thursday, June 4, 2009

The parish council shared in reading aloud the evening prayer which Fr. Fador recites daily. We all then enjoyed a wonderful dinner together made primarily by Andrea McCormick.

President Andrea McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:50.

Roll call was taken by the secretary. In attendance was Fr. Fador, Deacon Stephen Beecher, Gerry Cunningham, Marnell Stover, Rick Stover, Andrea McCormick, Peg Kearns, Rose Frith, Pat Beecher, Audrey Cunningham, Louise Riley, Walt Kearns, Rosemarie Frick, Mel Harmon.
Doug Landy was not present.

The May minutes were amended with a change of wording under Religious Ed. Committee Report, and two changes under Old Business topics. A motion to accept the May minutes as amended was made by Rose, Gerry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Religious Education – no report

Liturgy – no report

Social Action – Louise led the parish council through the survey she developed, all critiquing and discussing the sections. One section was somewhat confusing and after discussion it was decided to eliminate it. Some concern as to its length was voiced, but Louise felt strongly about asking enough questions to get as much information as possible. Peg made a motion to send the survey as amended, Audrey seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Fr. Fador will include a cover letter and it will also be announced at masses before it is mailed. Several people volunteered to fold the survey and stuff the envelopes.
The directory that Louise put together will be called "NW CT Social Services and Churches". When put together it will be handed out with bulletins at church one weekend as well as given to area businesses for distribution.

Planning & Development – Rick had a meeting scheduled which was postponed but will be rescheduled. He received an estimate for painting the church which is a little under $60,000.00. He will check references for this painter. The list of needs will be prioritized again. We are maintaining tight expense control.

Hospitality – no report

Communications – Mel gave each person a copy of the list of parish council members email addresses and phone numbers and asked each to check their own. Changes were noted and a new list will be compiled and given to all at the next meeting.

Special Events – no report

Spiritual Life – Fr. Fador asked both churches to contact him if they wanted to be involved in this committee with him. Joe & Maryann Pierzga are interested, especially in handling bereavement. Fr. Fador has a resource, Dr. Jaime Turndorf, who he will ask to plan and hold a workshop on this topic.

Pastor's Report: The change in Mass time on Sunday mornings has not made a positive difference in mass attendance. Fr. Fador has felt a time pinch however, when he visits the religious education classes. He would like the parish council to consider changing the Sunday mass time back to 8:00 which will give Fr. Fador more time to visit the Religious Education classes and teach lessons when appropriate both at St. Bridget and at St. Bernard.

Old Business:

CCD changes – Rose and Pat have been researching other religious Education programs in use in area churches. One program that caught Rose's interest includes more age groups, not only children. Our attendance at religious ed. is good, but mass attendance by these families is not as good. This is generally found at all churches questioned. The importance of being welcoming to families, understanding their needs and situations, and offering an excellent program were discussed and will continue at our next meeting.

Summary of parish activities: Andrea compiled a list of activities which were completed for the past year, are in progress, and are under consideration. The raffle sale will be included on the list, and this will soon be an insert in a church bulletin.

New Business:

Andrea had information on a flu shot clinic but it did not meet our needs.

We will continue Parish council meetings during the summer so as to keep the momentum going forward.

All on the parish council are asked to think of possible fundraisers for this year.

Fr. Fador has a sample keepsake from Woodbury Pewter which sounds and looks interesting. The church silhouette can be made on it, with whatever words we choose.

A motion to adjourn was made at 9:28 by Marnell, seconded by Peg. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be on Thursday, July 2, 2009.

Closing prayer was given by Rosemarie.

Respectfully submitted by Mel Harmon.