St. Bridget Parish Council

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2009

President Andrea McCormick called the meeting to order at 7:06.

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

Not Present: Rosemarie Frick

Opening Prayer was led by Marnell Stover.

A motion was made to accept the Oct. minutes, with one change to the number of Confirmation students, by Pat Conroy, seconded by Rose. Motion passed unanimously.

Andrea made a request to deviate from the agenda so Maureen Prentice could speak to the PC before Committee reports. Maureen is heading up The Giving Tree project in coordination with Jill Gibbons. It will start on the first week of Advent, which is the weekend after Thanksgiving. Jill is in the process of getting the wish list from all in need. After dispersal of wishes all gifts need to be back to church by Dec. 13th. In addition, Maureen has been keeping count of all the items the church has collected for the food pantry. 1,370 items have been brought to the church and an additional 468 items were collected at A.F. Stone & Tile Shop for a total of 1,838 items. She reminded us that non-food items such as diapers, toothpaste, laundry detergent, pet food, and paper products are also needed.

Committee Reports:

Religious Education: no report

Liturgy: Rosemarie sent a written report. A photo of the manger constructed by her husband was sent to John Wardzala and is posted on the website. Rosemarie has placed assembly instructions for the manger along with photos in a green folder in the drawer in the vestibule. She thanked Andrea for donating a candle stand to the church and she praised the choir for their wonderful voices which add so much to the Mass. New choir members are always welcome.

Planning & Development: Pat Conroy has spent some time organizing and learning more about the planning & development committee. All major plans are on hold at this time pending improvement of the parish's financial status. There are several projects that need to be completed such as removing the stumps from the old shrubs, replacing the shrubs in the Spring, repairing the garbage can container, and finishing the brick foundation. A budget is always determined by the Trustees, the Finance Committee, and Fr. Fador. Once this is done Pat will prioritize and plan new parish projects.

Hospitality: Audrey reported that the numbers attending the Coffee and… has increased. She will have a sign-up for bringing finger foods for the Ecumenical Service at St. Bridget's which is scheduled for Wed. Nov. 25th at 7:00. A pancake breakfast will be held on Dec. 6th after the 8:30 Mass and Audrey will ask participants how often they would like a breakfast.

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Spiritual Life: Fr. Fador is still trying to schedule a speaker on death, dying, and bereavement. The person he would like to come is very busy. He is considering getting a publication called The Contemplative Way of Life.

Communication: Mel reported that photos of the NWAAA meeting in Sept. were sent to our church webmaster, but he has not received them so she will resend them. She distributed new, updated lists of the PC email addresses and phone numbers to all PC members. Included was the church's administrative assistant's email as well as our webmaster. The information for the ecumenical service was sent to the administrative assistant with a request for it to be in the church bulletin for the two weeks prior to Thanksgiving.

Social Action: Louise reported that there was no committee meeting in October, but several activities are in the works. Getting the potatoes out of Paley's field was not accomplished this year, but hopefully next year we will do so. The Thanksgiving Drive started last week with $135 collected already. Cash, gift cards, and non-perishable goods are requested. We began selling Christmas wreaths for Susan B. Anthony Project on Oct. 31st and will take orders through Nov. 15th. Wreaths will be brought to St. Bridget for pick-up on Dec. 5th & 6th. Religious Ed. students will be making Christmas cards for shut-ins which will be routed through Jill Gibbons. Maureen Prentice is spearheading the Giving Tree and will coordinate with Marnell to get the confirmation students involved in helping. Louise discussed having children bake cookies to go with the gifts from the Giving Tree.

Pastor's Report: Fr. Fador shared with the PC the mailing he will be sending at the beginning of next week. It addresses the deficit of $38,000 that is predicted for this year. We cannot continue in this way or the church will run out of savings within 8 years. Rick thinks that a financial committee meeting should take place to take another hard look at our expenses, spending, and budget. Rick brought up a pet peeve of his in that the church does not serve the town of Sharon, but is always listed or spoke of as a Sharon church just because we are within the Sharon town line. He feels strongly that it serves Cornwall Bridge, and Cornwall, and their surrounding towns. Some discussion followed as changing the town name on correspondence even though it could not be changed as a mailing address.

Old Business: Calendars are being ordered. This is the first year the company has had 7 sponsors.

On Nov. 13th we will have an open parish meeting in the church hall. Andrea will begin with a report on all the work and projects completed and the ones which are ongoing. Other committee chairs can speak if they would like to.

Goals were given by most of the PC members. Doug, Rose, Pat Beecher, and Deacon Beecher will give their goals next month.

New Business: Clean-up day is Sat. Nov. 7th from 9:00 – 2:00.

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009 is our next PC meeting.

Gerry led the closing prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 by Mark, seconded by Audrey. Motion passed unanimously.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Mel Harmon

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