

ST. MATTHEW PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2006

Council Members Present: Karen James, Markene Kaminski, Micki Klappa-Sullivan, Matt Knorr, Michael Kuick, John Lee, Tom Marciniak, Blanche McQuitty, Clifford Shelton, Fr. Bill Stanfield, Fr. Steve Stradinger, Phill Unti.

Guest:

Excused: Sharon Tehan.

Meeting Minutes: The November council meeting minutes were approved with the following recommended changes noted: 1) Under Pastor's Report – the first sentence was changed to read: "Fr. Steve gave an update about the recent proposal to close three Catholic schools in the Racine area." 2) Under Liaison Reports – Southern Cross Committee – the second bullet point, second sentence was changed to read: "The goal was to mail over 42,000 post cards throughout the region these parishes serve, but the cost would be approximately \$9,200, which is felt to be too costly."

Formation: Council members shared updates on the workshops they attended at the 2006 Leadership Convocation in October.

- 1) Justice in the Vineyard – M. Kaminski reported that overall, the workshop was not very productive. The presenter missed an opportunity to educate the attendees on the marriage amendment.
- 2) Celebrating in the Vineyard – Fr. Steve reported that updates were shared about the new translations, coming in approximately 5 years, will be closer to the Latin used in the prayers and responses at mass.
- 3) Stewardship in the Vineyard – K. James shared an overview of the presentation that was given. B. McQuitty distributed key takeaway notes from the presentation. The following ideas for promoting stewardship were shared:
 - Have a card noting the mass times for the churches in the Southern Cross, as well as service times for other area churches, be distributed door to door by parishioners.
 - Stewardship Committee needs to ensure follow up with parishioners who have returned their stewardship pledge cards so that these people are engaged.
 - Have Parish Council members follow up with new parishioners after 2-3 months to keep these new parishioners engaged.
 - Consider polling parishioners more than once per year to inquire where they can share their time, talent and treasure.
 - Ensure parish leadership (pastors, staff and committee chairs) thank people in a personal way (e.g. card, phone call, etc.) when they have contributed their time, talent or treasure.
 - Have parish leadership and committee members give personal invitations and ask others for referrals in order to get more people involved in the parish.
 - A suggestion was made to start featuring a "Parishioner of the Month" in The Buzz.
- 4) APC – M. Knorr reported that focus of the workshop was to review the Implementation Commission Report (2005-06).

Chairperson's Report:

- The New Member Social was held the weekend of December 9th. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.
- APC Meeting Update: The Dean's report focused on the "Coming Home" session to be held on March 25, 2007 at Alverno College. The group discussed ideas for "Showing Years of Consistency and Success", which will focus on key groups such as the elderly, teens, etc. The group discussed the directive from the archdiocese to increase mass attendance by 20% or more and the strengthening of Catholic schools. They discussed ideas for getting more people to return regular church attendance and also how parishes will support Catholic education at the high school and college levels in the future. APC members will be meeting again in January. APC members from the Southern Cross cluster group will be putting together a report for the archdiocese.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Steve:

- He stated that there are a segment of people who have been separated from the church for various reasons, and it is important to present the broader vision of the church to all people in an effort to bring people back to their faith.
- He has received many positive comments about the Generations of Faith events held over the last week.

Fr. Bill:

- St. Louis is planning to implement Generations of Faith next year. St. Stephen's has not expressed interest in the program at this time.
- St. Louis would like to participate in the combined parish council retreat with St. Matthew and St. Mary's by the Lake next year. St. Stephen's participation in this retreat is unknown at this time.

Approval of Parish Council Bylaws:

The proposed changes to the bylaws were reviewed and discussed in detail. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the bylaws with the following recommended changes noted:

- Article I – Section 3 – The first sentence was changed to read: “The selection of new members of the Council shall be by discernment”
- Article III – Section 4, e) was changed to read: “Facilitates Council meetings by helping the members work together, do strategic planning, participate fully in discussions and decision-making through consensus.”
- Article IV – Section 1 – was changed to read: “Regular meetings of the Council (normally, monthly) shall be held at such time, place and date as the Council may designate. Prayer shall be an integral part of the meeting.”

Approval of Parish Council Constitution:

The proposed changes to the constitution were reviewed. After a lengthy discussion, several changes were recommended. It was the consensus of the group to review and approve the revisions on-line. K. James will make the necessary revisions and distribute the document to the group for final review and approval prior to the next meeting.

Approval of Parish Mission Statement:

The second draft of the parish mission statement was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve this draft as written. B. McQuitty will forward the statement to the parish office so that it can be updated on the parish website and the bulletin.

Discussion:

P. Unti introduced discussion about the use of a prayer log. He showed an example of a log that he and his family have been using and suggested that this might be a tool the council could use in an effort to become more prayerful. It was the consensus of the group to start a prayer log. P. Unti volunteered to keep the log and bring it to each meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Blanche McQuitty
Parish Council Secretary