

MINUTES

St. Bridget Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—October 20, 2010

The St. Bridget Parish Council meeting was called to order by John Smith on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

Present: Msgr. William Carr, John Smith, Charlene Bechely, Tim Corbett, Joe Jowaisas, Augie Keller, Mike Kozak, Elizabeth Martin, James Melvin, Mark Sweeney, Marie Swider.

Absent: David Anderson, Paul Sinclair, Fr. David Stanfill, Donna Weber and Kay White.

A report, sent to Council by Robert Burge, noted that as of Oct. 3, St. Bridget had collected \$39,818 for the Bishop's Appeal. Parish goal is \$47,500.

CENSUS REPORT: Announcement scheduled for the Bulletin weekly and the November edition of *The Bridge*. Census Central will be set up in the front corner of the Commons. On the weekends of Nov. 13 and 20 census forms will be passed out and filled in during the homily. It was asked whether it could be filled out online, and it seems that will be possible.

MASS ATTENDANCE: Extra seating in the Commons has not been needed since Labor Day for the 9:00 Mass. Some parishioners may be attending St. Mary's. Collections down a bit. It was also noticed that energy at Masses was down.

PARISH PLANNING: We had a good discussion on the Parish Planning; namely what the focus of the parish should be in the future. The concentration focused on three areas.

- **Stewardship:** Should we count on income and expenses to remain flat, or should we push for more income? History of giving in parish not overly generous. What will motivate people to give more? Do most parishioners have the perception that St. Bridget is a wealthy parish and thus not realize the need? Msgr. said we need bright people to focus on the problem in the next couple of months before the Stewardship Drive.
- **Volunteerism:** All of us are given talents which can and should be used both within our parish family and beyond, reaching out into the community. It was noted that the Caritas Week shows how this parish does come together for a project that they believe is needed and worthwhile. During Caritas week hundreds of parishioners volunteer in many areas. It is faith in action and it is beautiful to see!
- It was suggested that we consider adopting a large, ongoing parish outreach project and was further suggested that that project could be Blackwell School and their families. St. Bridget already has approximately 25 volunteers who tutor in the classrooms each week and high school volunteers who tutor Math Facts in an After-School Program. We have sponsored Basketball and Dance summer camps for a number of BW boys and girls. We have also donated school supplies, hand sanitizer etc for the children, snacks and drinks for the After-School Program and Girl Scout Cookies to present to the Honor Roll students at BW. Parishioners have shown an interest and a generosity in volunteering time and resources to the children of Blackwell. Msgr.Carr asked Alicia

Meyer to meet with the principal of Blackwell School and learn needs of Blackwell School and their families. We can then ascertain whether this project would be something St. B. could take on in order to make a **significant impact** on that part of our city.

- **Education:** It was noted that we need to know and be grounded in our faith before we go forth. Thus, we should stress ongoing education in our Catholic faith as an integral part of our parish planning.

In summary, Parish Council recommended that the parish focus on three things: **Stewardship, Volunteerism and Education.**

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Liturgy Committee: Jim Melvin for Donna Weber

- Cookie Lewis Concert at 7:00 p.m. on Oct. 29
- All Souls Liturgy at 7:30 on Nov. 2
- Boys and Girls Choir Concert at 4:30 on Dec. 4
- Arts and Educators Festival at Kennedy Center on Nov. 31. Girls and Boys Choir asked to participate. Would like to get a bus for this event. Tickets \$25 & \$40.

Saints and Sinners:

- Great presentation by Bob Albertia, actor in October. November meeting will feature Bill Young portraying General McArthur. Luncheon at noon

Knights of Columbus: Mike Kozak

- Restocked kiosk in Commons with CD's on basic tenants of our faith. Going well.
- Good response on pledges for new ultra sound machine.

Welcoming Committee

- Will have welcoming event every other month.
- Will connect new parishioners with volunteer opportunities at St. Bridget and will urge them to commit time and talent to an area of their interest.

Buildings and Grounds:

- Marie asked about the bare spots in front of church. Was told that Buddy Gali is working on it.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Meyer

<u>Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.</u>
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