

## MINUTES

### St. Bridget Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—November 17, 2010

The St. Bridget Parish Council meeting was called to order by John Smith, Chairman on Wednesday, November 17, 2010. Msgr. Carr opened the meeting with a prayer.

Council had invited Conrad Davis, Principal of Blackwell Elementary School to speak at the meeting. This is the third school year that St. Bridget parish has partnered with Blackwell School. We presently have 30 tutors in the classrooms; sponsor an After-School Math Facts Program with 30 teen tutors; basketball summer camp and dance camp and several other programs. It was suggested that the parish look into taking a bigger role in this outreach program, both because of the need and because of our parishioners' interest in this program.

Mr. Davis told us that Blackwell School, Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, has 737 students. Close to 90% of these children are from families whose income is below the poverty level (\$27,000/yr. for a family of 4.) This makes Blackwell a Title 1 School. 75% of students live in Hillside Court.

Some of the immediate ways that St. Bridget parish could help Blackwell School are:

- **A focus on Literacy:** Have a one on one reading program with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.. Parishioners could read with a child once a week. Comprehension would be stressed. This could be done at lunchtime.
- **Involve the youth of St. Bridget:** Sponsor a Fun Saturday once a month. Youth of St. B. could plan the programs and implement them with direction from adult advisors.
- **Computer Classes for Parents:** Have St. B. parishioners teach Blackwell parents uses of the computer, especially in ways pertaining to employment and job searches.
- **Help parents get the Blackwell PTA up and going.**
- **Put books into the homes of Blackwell students.**
- **Have a drive for underwear and belts** for BW students.

Mr. Davis answered several questions asked by PC members and was thanked by Msgr. Carr and the council.

**CENSUS REPORT:** Paul Sinclair reported that approximately 600 forms were turned in the first week. Another email scheduled to go out. The next step will be to review the list of parishioners and call them and see if they are still interested in being a member of the parish. Stewardship drive will be in mid-March and information gotten through the census will be very helpful in that campaign.

**NURSERY:** Elizabeth Martin reported that Marie Swider and Judy went through all the toys, cleaned those that were usable, and threw out those which were not. It is necessary that one person be in charge of the nursery. The parish is looking to hire someone for this position. It was suggested that Kim Hulcher be contacted to see if she might be able to recommend a person for that position. The nurseries are multi-functional spaces—only 10% of the time are the nurseries

used as nurseries. 90% of the time the space is used for other functions. The maintenance has not allowed for that additional use.

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE:** **Elizabeth Martin** said that the new parishioners will be welcomed after the 10:30 Mass on the second Sunday of each month. Approximately 10 to 15 new families are joining each month.

**MEN'S MINISTRY AND K OF C:** **Mike Kozak** reported that through the generosity of parishioners enough money has been collected to order Right to Life booklets. The remainder will be used toward the purchase of the Ultra Sound Machine. Five councils will each donate \$5000 and K of C headquarters will match that money. \$50,000 needed.

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:** **Kay White** reported that, during the holiday season, bulletin notices will have to be in two Fridays before rather than Tuesday.

**Msgr. Carr** reported that a Task Force on Giving is being formed and is being chaired by John McCulla. The Development Committee is being disbanded. There will be no more development drives until annual offerings are increased enough to supply the needs of the parish.

Msgr. Carr also told us how St. Bede parish sub-divided their parish and thus were better able to know the needs of the smaller section, welcome new parishioners etc. Something to think about. Msgr. also said that good energy is coming from and through the families of the Catholic Heart Workcamp because of their experiences in this outreach.

**Jim Melvin** brought up the matter of crying infants at Mass and what could be done about it. Several suggestions were made on how to gently remind parents of the nurseries and the crying room. Msgr. said that we should put ourselves "in the shoes" of the parents of the crying infants and be kind, forgiving, loving and tolerant.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Meyer  
Recording Secretary

**Next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center meeting room.**

Please remember Parish Council Member, Joe Jowaisas. in your prayers. He has had a non-malignant tumor removed from his brain and is in very serious condition. May God send his healing power upon him. We also want to remember in our prayers our pastor, Msgr. Carr, who has had a new stent put in his heart.