

## MINUTES

### St. Bridget Parish Council Meeting—April 20, 2011

The St. Bridget Parish Council meeting was called to order by John Smith, Chairman, on Wednesday, April 20, 2011. Msgr. Carr opened the meeting with a prayer.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the March meeting be approved.

**Present:** Msgr. Carr, John Smith, Charlene Bechely, Joe Jowaisas, Augie Keller, Mike Kozak; Elizabeth Martin, James Melvin, Fr. David Stanfill, Mark Sweeney, Donna Weber.

**Absent:** David Anderson, Tim Corbett, Paul Sinclair, Kay White

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT:** Terry Anderson went over the report that she had compiled and handed out to council members. As of 4/19/2011 \$1,511,555 has been pledged. This is a 21.4% increase over 2010. Percentage of increased pledges—33%. Decreased pledges—17%. Same—22%. Number of pledges—1080. New pledges—301. Average Pledge--\$27/wk. Percentage of parishioners who pledged—47%.

**Phonathon:** First phase of phoning: Called 402; reached 109; 24 pledges received; \$20,975 pledged. Next phoning scheduled May 2. Goal to reach 400 parishioners and raise \$20,000. Thank you in May Bridge and Stewardship report mailed to all parishioners.

**Continuing efforts** will be regular pledge reminders and different messages to change the perception of stewardship.

Some questions asked by PC members:

Do we have any information on other parishes-- how they go about stewardship; percentage of their parishioners who pledge; average amount pledged etc.?

No.

\$450,000 given last year but not pledged. Will that remain the same?

Do not know.

Q. Have any PC members heard that people have had enough of stewardship?

Yes.

**PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS:** The following PC members submitted names of parishioners who have agreed to run for Parish Council. Elizabeth Martin (2), Jim Melvin (1), Paul Sinclair (2).

**Donna Weber** said that in talking to people about running for PC, she got feedback that the PC should be more visible to parishioners. PC badges should be worn each Sunday to identify council members so that parishioners know who to talk to about parish ideas and concerns. It was suggested that an article on PC and its purpose be put in the bulletin or *The Bridge*. The purpose of parish council was discussed.

**Mike Kozak** talked about the church's mission and how we should be committed to Christ's mission. He envisions it as a process. We participate in the liturgies, we are educated about Christ's teachings and our Catholic faith through religious ed, Bible Study groups and other means. Then we will be energized to go forth both within our parish and out into the world to share and live Christ's message. He explained that the order might be different for different people, but all these things should be part of our parish's mission.

**Other suggestions:** Parish might plan a retreat week. Perhaps we should ask the parishioners what they envision their parish to be about. This could be done via a survey. Fellowship is also important as we are a community.

**Liturgy Committee:** **Elizabeth Martin** said that the Bible Study Group is considering a study on the new liturgy and wondered about what was planned and the time line. Msgr. said that things are still in the planning stage. May wait on educating parishioners on new liturgy until after Labor Day. New liturgy implemented on the first Sunday of Advent. Mike Kozak said it could be pitched as New Start or Re-Birth rather than change.

**Father David Stanfill** announced that, as of July 1, he is being transferred to Holy Rosary Parish, Richmond. St. Bridget parishioners will surely miss this kind and thoughtful man.

A reception, headed by **Elizabeth Martin**, is scheduled for June 19 after the 5:00 Mass.

**From the Pews:** **Marie Swider** said that some parishioners with young children have asked her if the commons could be opened again because of the problem of children's behavior in church. She also mentioned the attire of family bring up gifts at the offertory.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Meyer, Recording Secretary

Next Parish Council Meeting is Wednesday, May 18, 2011 in the PCMR at 7:00 p.m.