

MINUTES

St. Bridget Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—January 19, 2011

The St. Bridget Parish Council meeting was called to order by Mark Sweeney, vice-chair on Wednesday, January 19, 2011. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

Present: Msgr Carr, David Anderson, Tim Corbett, Joe Jowaisas, Augie Keller, Michael Kozak, Elizabeth Martin, Jim Melvin, Paul Sinclair and Mark Sweeney.

Absent: John Smith, Charlene Bechely, Fr. Stanfill, Marie Swider, Donna Weber and Kay White.

The minutes of the December 15, 2010 meeting were approved.

CENSUS REPORT: Paul Sinclair reported that 2700 parish families receive envelopes. Of those 2700, 1400 have turned in their forms. 1300 families are still outstanding. \$1,100,000 was given by 1126 families in 2010. Focus in stewardship drive will be on parishioners who showed active participation in the past.

Census committee plans the following:

- Emails to all who have not responded (if we have email address.)
- Work on phone campaign
- Final list of non-responders given to key parish components to see if they are still active in parish.
- Frances Smith keying information into computer.

Msgr. Carr suggests that parish have census every 5 years to keep records up to date.

GUESTS: Two guests were introduced. They were **Terry Anderson**, new Development Director and **John McCulla**, head of Task Force on Stewardship.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT: **John McCulla** gave out a very comprehensive handout on the Stewardship drive. Some of the highlights of his report were:

- In 2010 only 33% or 951 of parish families pledged. Average pledge was \$1275/yr.
- Additional \$400,000 given but not based on pledge.
- 23% of pledges (\$322,500) were unfulfilled.
- Msgr. Carr formed Task Force to focus on parish giving.
- Stewardship Campaign will start in January and run through May. In February parish needs will be explained at weekend masses. Msgr. Carr will speak weekends of 2/12 and 2/19. In pew process will be 4 weekends in March. April will be follow up to parishioners not heard from. In May results will be announced to the parish.
- The Sunday Bulletin, *The Bridge*, and emails will also be used to communicate.
- Goals will be: Increase amount of pledges, increase # of pledges and decrease amount and number of unfulfilled pledges.

Discussion followed John McCulla's report. Some questions and subsequent discussion were about the following:

- **Q.** Is 2 months of Stewardship Campaigning too much? Will people get tired of so much talk about \$\$\$? Could it have a boomerang effect? **A.** Task force does not think so. Thinks it is necessary to change people.
- **Q.** Will parishioners pledge on a calendar year or the fiscal year that St. Bridget's finances are based on (July 1-June 30)? **A.** Pledge amount will go into effect immediately.
- **Q.** Is there a budgeted goal that St. Bridget needs to run the parish—in other words what amount are we aiming for and how will it be spent? **A.** Task force looking for \$35/week per family. Those already giving that much will be asked to double their amount. \$30 week would be a 22% increase in offertory collection. No answer given on whether finance council has budget amount that is needed for parish.
- **Q.** Will there be credit card giving? **A.** No, but e-giving will be stressed.
- Suggestion that a thank-you telephone call be made to parishioners who pledge.

Welcoming Committee: **Elizabeth Martin** reported that 15 families were welcomed last Sunday after the 10:30 Mass. Committee is following up with pledge card.

Music Ministry: **Donna Weber** sent in report saying that the St. Bridget Girl and Boy Choir will perform at the Kennedy Center on Sunday, Feb. 6 at 1:00 p.m. They will also perform here in the church on the Tuesday before as a dress rehearsal.

Msgr. Carr announced that a bequest of \$100,000 was given to the parish from the estate of Helen Anthony.

He also announced that Sean Prince will be ordained a Deacon on February 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral. All are invited to attend.

The meeting closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia B. Meyer
Recording Secretary

<p>Next Parish Council Meeting scheduled for <u>Wednesday, February 16, 2011</u> at <u>7:00 p.m.</u> in the parish center meeting room.</p>
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