

Minutes of St. Gregory the Great Parish Council for Monday, November 5, 2007

Meeting called to order @ 7:00 P.M.

Present were: Rev. Dave R. Ireland, Pastor; Tom Capretta; Jack Clifford; Mary Geyman; Sal Miroglotta

Absent were: Rev. Kenneth J. Jakubowski; Denise DiVita; Pat Rahill

Comments from Father Ireland:

8th graders went to Washington D.C. this past week. They were impressive, and they received many compliments. This was a trial trip—the first since 9/11. It went very well. Kids, teachers, all were great. Company chosen for the tour was also excellent.

New York, New York auction appeared to go very well. Figures not yet available.

This week in the bulletin there will be a new cover because of a change in company. LPI chosen as replacement company. New company offers a greater degree of flexibility. Because of overlapping contracts there will be both appearing for the week.

From finance council, Father reports that we had asked permission to extend loan from 7 to 10 years, and some money added to that to take care of some expenses. Makes only a small difference over the long haul. Enables parish to reduce payments and is a little more fluid. Starting this month the full assessment is being paid, as well all retirement and hospitalization.

Reports are that Father Peyton had surgery recently. Please remember him in your prayers.

Forty hours turnout was good, with a well-attended, prayerful closing. Received many good comments.

Spiritual Life report from Tom Kelly, sitting in for Dave Douglas. Iterated success of forty hours, even in middle of the night with multiple person in attendance. Felt more catechesis needed about what 40 hours really is.

Talked further about Eucharistic Adoration program. Have been having people sign in at the door. Cannot ensure that everyone involved is actually signing in. Also trying to get more people signing in for hours. Trying to encourage people to commit to specific times on a regular basis. Will continue to publish in bulletin solicitation notice in bulletin monthly or so. Is moving along, but we would like to see more parish involvement.

Regarding other programs, spoke briefly of homebound ministry. There are currently 31 being served. Of those, 17 are not being reached on a regular basis. Their environments are not always conducive to the visit. Also a difficulty in getting the Eucharist to them because of timing. Memorial Mass under the Holy Name Society was successful. Exact number involved not available, but liturgy was beautiful.

This week, meetings for lectors and extraordinary ministers were scheduled. Pot Luck dinner for lectors and ministers schedule for Saturday, November 10.

Tom Capretta moved to accept minutes with modifications, seconded by Mark. Minutes approved.

Parish Life: No one present to give report. Some new people are joining that committee.

Social Concerns: Father Ireland reports that the stand for life was well attended and successful. This week the Right to Life group is selling donuts to raise money for the trip to Washington.

Finance: First report on auction and re-financing already reported.

New Business: Tom Capretta reported in the fall gathering. Addressed by Bishop. Focus of the day was to remind us that we are one. Mentioned clustering as push to one large community. Talked about 5-year plan. Providing pastoral care in the next few years equitably. Pushed to get more people actively involved. There are 95 different organizations in the churches, though not necessarily that many active here. How can we vitalize new people to get involved?

Bishop also talked about priorities. Push the word of God and faith, as well as vocations, marriage and family. Recommitment to respect of life from birth all the way to the end of life.

Open forum had some questions regarding clustering. Bishop Lennon looking to the clusters to make decisions about their futures first. Good to meet different groups and hear how other meetings are run, who makes up other councils.

Cluster Committee: Mark reported that the group has been meeting for several months. Looking for possible areas of collaboration. Things mentioned include communal penance, pre-baptism classes, etc. Please send any ideas to Mark that he can share with the cluster committee. Committee consists of 15 total, from all three parishes equally.

Planning and Running a great meeting: Handout from Tom reviewed for suggestions to improve meeting efficiency. Would like to set some goals regarding things we would like to do that the parish needs of us (work with census, elections suggested.)

Father Ireland reported some strides in youth ministry. Meeting weekly rather than monthly. Establish a special place for them- in Father Towell's former residence, the John Paul II Youth Center. Meetings involve some social/food time and then discussion, followed by recreation or other activity. Recently group saw *Bella*, film with a strong pro-life message.

Next meeting Tom would like us to come to the meeting with some ideas for goals for the year.

Jack Clifford will not be present at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.