

Minutes of St. Gregory the Great Parish Council for Monday, April 7, 2008

Meeting called to order @ 7:03 P.M.

Present were: Fr. Ireland, Fr. Jakubowski, Kevin Doles, Mark Geyman, Denise DiVita, Jack Clifford, Robert Mapel, Dave Douglas.

Absent were: Tom Capretta, Pat Rahill, Sal Miroglotta

The meeting began with prayer.

Minutes of the March 3rd Parish Council meeting were reviewed and approved.

Comments from Father Ireland:

The Triduum went well. Father thanked everyone including the maintenance and office staffs, musicians, and servers.

Holy Thursday's ceremonies will hopefully include the First Communion class next year.

New this year was the Living Station done by High School students on Good Friday. We also plan on continuing this service next year.

Holy Week went well. Good turnout for Easter Vigil and Sunday Masses. Parishioners were generous.

We are working on Confirmation on May 20th with Bishop Gries. The children are in active preparation.

The Drama Club has been working furiously in getting ready for the upcoming shows. Issues are being worked out but everyone is very positive.

The Knights of Columbus is starting its own council. Membership is made up of men of at least 18 years of age. They will meet regularly at St. Gregory's . At start up, activities will include fundraising, physical and spiritual things. The organization will have an orientation session.

Our school had its external review which went very well and was a very positive experience. The OCSAA did the review with a visiting team of educators.

We were very pleased with the turn out for Divine Mercy Sunday. The homily was excellent. Tom Hummer donated an image of the Divine Mercy.

The Communal penance service went well with a good turnout. Fr. Jakubowski mentioned that attendance from the other cluster parishes was very good. This speaks well of the work of the cluster committee and the pastors involved regarding the progress of the Vibrant Parish Life and cluster initiatives.

Parish Life Commission:

Bob Mapel mentioned that 2 new members have joined the Commission.

Spiritual Life Commission:

Dave Douglas reported they didn't have a meeting since our last parish council meeting and there were two main activities: Coffee House Theology (Wednesday evenings) and the Divine Mercy Sunday program which was well attended.

The Catholic Men's Fellowship will be holding a "Super Breakfast" on Sat., April 26th from 7:30-9 A.M. Jack Clifford asked if the activity would be available to the cluster. It would be a good cluster activity.

Social Concerns Commission:

Fr. Jakubowski reported that all local conferences of the St. Vincent De Paul Society have to abide strictly to the organization's by-laws. The main focus is on home visitations of those who are in need. We don't do a lot of that type of service and may have to recruit some men to join the group. We have to follow the organization's guidelines. Priests are only supposed to be spiritual leaders, not active members in SVDP. We will work through the issues and look at our options. As a possibility, an outreach program could be developed independent of SVDP. There will be mediation in May between the National Director of SVDP and Bishop Lennon. There will be no decisions made until that time.

Finance Council:

Kevin Doles mentioned that a new law passed by the state of Ohio dictates certain standards of maintenance, known as "Jarrod's Law" for schools. Every school district in the state has been taken by storm – they need to be in compliance by June 20th, 2008. The County will also be following up.

We will be going through a grounds inspection as part of the parish clustering process early in May.

We have sent out 3 different letters to school parents who have been lax in making their Sunday collections to maintain their "Active Parishioner" status. The letters were broken down as those who gave under \$150 per year; \$150- \$350 per year; and those who gave between \$350 - \$520 per year. We have been encouraging them to meet their financial obligations. So far, the response has been either positive or dead silence. We will be following through. The School Advisory Board is 100% behind it and we will be putting some "teeth" to it. Making the minimum weekly collection amount (\$15) is necessary to receive the parishioner discount otherwise they will need to pay the full tuition amount.

Cluster Committee:

Mark Geyman reported that the Cluster Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis. Presently, the committee is going through the discerning process of the various scenarios. Also, a questionnaire which will be available in the pews next month is being developed to seek input on many pertinent questions. The input received will be used to help format an upcoming parish town hall meeting to be held in June.

Fr. Jakubowski suggested letting people know that this is not just a formality – there ARE going to be changes and participation in this process is important.

Jack Clifford stated that the process needs to be focused and disciplined as well as wanting to hear the parishioner's thoughts.

Dave Douglas also suggested having a prayer service be a part of the town hall meeting.

Old Business:

Mark Geyman presented a list of narrowed down potential ideas/action items gathered from the Census Comments for Parish Council and the Commissions to pursue. Fr. Ireland suggested everyone reviewing them and the list could be discussed further at our next meeting.

Mark also stated Parish Council Elections are coming up shortly and he was going to coordinate that process with Tom Capretta and the rectory office.

Fr. Ireland ended the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 P.M.

Next meeting on May 5, 2008 @ 7:00 P.M.