

Minutes of St. Gregory the Great Parish Council for Monday, December 3, 2007

Meeting called to order @ 7:05 P.M.

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

Absent were: Rev. Kenneth J. Jakubowski

Comments from Father Ireland:

New air conditioning being installed in the PFC. Major expense, but needed. Near the Pope John Paul Youth Center there is fill dirt intended for repair to a water pipe locate outside the meter area.

Informed council that there will be no book published from the picture taking efforts. Council photos need to be updated.

New bulletins are being distributed.

Mark Geyman motion to accept minutes as adjusted. 2nd Denise DiVita. Minutes from November meeting accepted.

No other old business.

Parish Life: No report.

Spiritual Life: Report from Dave. At their recent meeting, they talked about tithing of time and talent as part of the overall tithing program. Father Ireland told that group that there are plans to move to those aspects of tithing in early 2008.

Advent programs will include penance program at Holy Rosary. At Sts. Margaret Mary there will be a program as well.

Some discussion of the Mass schedule.

Session coming for those interested in being an extraordinary minister. Interested people should contact Father Ireland.

Adoration program discuss. Will post open hours for the program in the bulletin to encourage sign-ups.

Talking to a priest who works with adoration program with children. Trying to get him to do a program here at St. Gregory.

Spiritual programs: morning Bible study is going well. Faithful attendance of 8 or so, mostly women.

Possible new parish program: coffee house theology, perhaps on a Wednesday evening with coffee and dessert, and featuring a video tape presentation.

Talked to Tom Wenzel who is interested in bringing in tapes for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, possibly for coffee house theology prior to Holy Week.

Men's Fellowship meeting regularly and going well. Between 15-20 men attending regularly.

Familia going well. Have had 2 sessions, one daytime, one evening one in homes. This group is made of mothers.

Another women's program was run through the school and attracted about 12.

Social Concerns: Father Dave reports that we continue to collect food etc. mostly given to Christ the King. Women's Guild sponsoring the Giving Tree. Gifts must be in by weekend of December 9th.

Finance Council report: No report.

New Business: Comment offered about clustering. Mark reported that 5 members from each of our cluster parishes are on the cluster committee, along with a facilitator. Recent meeting was at St. Margaret Mary. At this time, group is gathering information. Pastors were asked to pick people, including 1 from parish council, finance council, parish staff, and general parishioner, along with pastor. For us, these people are Mark, Father Ireland, JoAnne, Eileen, and Tom Wenzel. Several priests in the diocese are overseeing cluster activity. Diocesan rep attends meetings as well. Reports are then submitted to diocese. Eventually, group has to generate a plan. Have conducted review of finances, staffing, ministries, etc. Time is nearing for the cluster committee to make its recommendations to Bishop Lennon. Once that is done, Bishop and his staff will review recommendations and agree or ask for further considerations. Bishop sees that there should be one parish in South Euclid and two priests in this cluster. 2010 is the final year for this process. Decisions will be made prior to that.

Father reported that discussions are going well and cooperatively. He is confident that the group will be at peace with its decision, but those in the parishes may have trouble being comfortable with the decisions.

December 10th, Communal Penance Service on 12/10 at Holy Rosary for the parishes in the cluster.

Tom talked about forming goals for the parish council. Election process needs to be formulated. Census material was discussed as a place to get ideas for action for the Parish Council.

Discussion included developing a mission statement for the church. Current one was read and discussed. A sample new one was read.

Suggestion made that perhaps a mission statement process can be an effective tool in bringing together a new parish community after clustering recommendations are made and decided.

Suggestion to put discussion of mission statement on next agenda.

Census meetings: Review of notes of what people were suggesting, etc. Are any of those suggestions in practice. Are some concerns being addressed? Not addressed? Time and talents tithing may address these questions at some level. What talents do I have that I can share. PC will need to be prepared for this program.

How can we publicize our efforts? Possible agenda item suggestion would be development of a tri-fold (or other format) piece on different groups at St. Gregory.

Bulletin to let people know how we are reacting to census items. People need to see that things are happening.

Suggestion for 2008 goal would be the idea of participation. Is there a way to further involve people in the parish?

Census, mission, participation—three goals for improvement for the year.

Possible meeting to review census summary sheets.

Next meeting January 7 to discuss mission and participation. Census for special meeting.