

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
February 10, 2006

PRESENT: Fr. Dave Ireland, Piero Capichioni, Tom Capretta, Dave Douglas, Mark Geyman, Steve Krajnak, Bob Mapel and Don Schuele

PRAYER: Steve opened with prayer at 7:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Piero Capichioni moved to accept the minutes of the Dec. 5th meeting and Dave Douglas moved to second after corrections were made and approved.

B. Summary of January 9, 2006 Retreat - Fr. Ireland gave a quick summary of the January 9th, 2006 Parish Pastoral Council Retreat at the St. Joseph Christian Life Center. It was a very touching evening, an interesting and positive experience for all who attended Fr. Wally's presentation.

Dave Douglas, per Fr. Wally's suggestion, mentioned we as a parish council should pray more as a whole and Council's job is to bring our parishioners in a closer relationship with God. There were suggestion made about having a Living Rosary and have 15 minutes set aside for prayer at future meetings. Father Ireland mentioned that it is important for Council members to be present at and participate in parish spiritual activities. A good first opportunity would be on February 16th at the Church for Bishop Pevec's talk.

C. Lack of Council Announcements - Don Schuele addressed the lack of visibility of the Parish Council. Fr. Ireland mentioned that his concern was the length of the process posting the approved minutes - many of the activities cited are already past by the time the information is posted in the parish bulletin. It was suggested that possibly a condensed version of unapproved "bullet point" items could be released within a week or two of the meeting to be published in the bulletin. Piero suggested an archive of Council Meeting minutes could be posted on the parish Website and Fr. Ireland approved.

Another point discussed concerned inviting others to open meetings. Father Ireland suggested that Council could specifically invite parishioners. It was suggested that a specific meeting structure should be in place as to keep the meeting focused and within reasonable time parameters.

Piero will work on a Bulletin Announcement inviting parishioners to attend our meetings.

Don mentioned that Father is working on a location to place a picture of our Parish Pastoral Council within the church.

D. Outcome of Midnight Mass vote - Fr. Ireland discussed the voting outcome regarding the future of the Midnight Mass: 1,400 ballots were printed, 500 votes were cast with 302 FOR the 10 p.m. Mass and 198 FOR the Midnight Mass.

E. Eucharistic magnetic lock, new gate, safety - Father Ireland said that the safety gate is now in place and the security system is being worked on with the outside door but is not complete yet. New outer doors may be needed for the security system first. It may not be ready until after Lent.

F. Washington D.C. trip – Jan. 22nd and Social Concerns dinner Jan. 15th update – Fr. Ireland said that the trip was very powerful and successful and was attended by many of our junior high students and parents. Next year, they hope to expand the trip to allow for even greater attendance through various fundraising efforts, lowering the cost for our children to attend. Those making the trip attended Mass at the Shrine, lighted candles and some went to a congressional breakfast. Senator DeWine spoke to the pro-life cause. Altogether, there were over 100,000 people in attendance. Parishioners of St. Gregory the Great were included in a photograph and in a front page article of a recent issue of the Universe Bulletin (January 27th issue).

Social Concerns held a successful Pasta Dinner in January via the St. Vincent DePaul Society to raise funds to assist those who are less fortunate, living in our parish community.

G. Finance Committee Report – Fr. Ireland mentioned that they have been working hard on the sale of land on the corner of W. Anderson and Green Rds. and that it will be a

resolved issue. Not for a while yet but, eventually, the parish will realize the monies from the sale and it will help our overall financial picture.

The Financial Statement has been completed. Finance Council has approved it already. It will be sent to the Diocese shortly and we will have a report at our March meeting after it comes back from the Diocese. Thereafter, a copy will be available for the parish at large. Piero suggested that the report can be used as a communications device.

Also, Fr. Ireland mentioned that letters will be sent out to parishioners regarding a planned offering program, giving parishioners different modes of contributing to the parish.

Mark Geyman voiced concerns regarding some school families (40 or so) who have not been contributing at all to Sunday collections and other activities and that those families will need to pay the full tuition rate as Non-parishioners. Also, Mark voiced his concern regarding the lack of follow-through in past attempts to implement an “Active Parishioner” program. Fr. Ireland mentioned that he will definitely be following through with Active vs. Non-Active Parishioner status. He stated that St. Gregory the Great School is NOT a private school. Families that are not actively participating will need to pay the full tuition rates (\$3,740 for one child). Of course, there are those with genuine financial need and Father Ireland will work with those families who are struggling. He also mentioned that financial information from the PSAS form is taken into consideration.

Don Schuele pointed out that looking into some form of a Stewardship Commitment program as is instituted in other parishes may be an option. Father mentioned that he and Kevin Doles went to a conference in Cincinnati where this type of program was discussed.

H. Usher/Greeter status – which commission? Steve asked which commission ushers and greeters should fall under. Bob Mapel felt that it would almost be a separate entity. We presently don’t have enough ushers to cover some of our Sunday Masses. Don suggested investigating St. Clare and other neighboring parishes to see how they handle it. Tom Capretta suggested getting the younger people to

assist with ushering. High Schools may include ushering as Service Hours. Steve is willing to contact 6 neighboring parishes and suggested that the issue should fall under the Spiritual Life Commission as a sub-committee. Steve said that he will research it and work with Dave Douglas. Fr. Ireland agreed that ushers/greeters should fall under the Spiritual Life Commission.

Dave Douglas had mentioned that he is getting envelopes with generous contributions coming from the Holy Name Society. Fr. Ireland suggested getting the Holy Name Society together to gather feedback regarding how they can be of further assistance to the parish.

I. Senior Citizen – Handicapped Parking status – Fr. Ireland mentioned that in order to accommodate the parking the yard by the rectory would need to be altered and this would obviously cost money. Don Schuele mentioned an alternative of having parking spaces (in the rear of the church) be considered Handicapped parking during weekend Mass times only – similar to St. Clare. This will be further investigated.

J. Final Census Update – Bob Mapel mentioned that Fr. Ireland sent out letters two weeks ago – 822 address total. There were 203 responses received of which 106 have been removed and 97 have re-registered. Father will give the 600 a couple of months more. They are still trickling in. Eventually, the ones not heard from will be removed from the list. It was pointed out that some of the people on the list may be “snow birds.” Tom Capretta brought up the possibility of posting the names in the bulletin. Piero Capichioni mentioned there should be a final reconciliation. Discussion took place with regards to the registration process and having a new company working with our new parish data.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND FINANCE COUNCIL

A. Parish life – Bob Mapel mentioned that this coming Sunday (Feb. 12th) is Coffee and Donut Sunday. After the last Coffee and Donuts, donations doubled. On Saturday, March 4th, there will be a get together for all those who worked on the Census. On Saturday, March 25th, there will be a Potluck Dinner after 5 p.m. Mass for the parish in the

Church Basement. The Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, June 11th.

- B. Spiritual Life – Dave Douglas mentioned that the committee had a good meeting last month. The progress of the Alpha program has been very positive. There have been 4 sessions held thus far with total of 60 persons in the program.**

Mary Ellen Satava shared her experiences with the March for Life trip to Washington D.C. – very positive! Dave asked about the status of the Adoration program. Father mentioned the security for the outside door is the remaining issue. According to Father Ireland, the greatest possibility of starting the Adoration Program will be most likely be after Lent. Money is not the issue of holding up of the program, it is the door/gate security. The intention of the program is that it will be a 24-hour a day, 5 day a week program running from Monday at 6:45 a.m. through Friday evening at 9 p.m. It will not take place during the weekends.

Some other items mentioned: 1) Doing something for Divine Mercy Sunday which is the Sunday after Easter (April 23rd) St. Paschal has a nice program 2) Discussion of people bringing in their old palms to be burned and used for ashes 3) doing a rice bowl and Stations of the Cross with Benediction service for Lent every Friday 4) the new Music Director is presently performing at the Sunday 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses 5) there will be a Tennabrae service on Wednesday of Holy Week 6) Tom Kelly mentioned to Dave Douglas that there is a need for instructions about the Mass and Father Ireland and Father Ken will work it into their homilies and 7) the choir has been impressive with the director doing a great job thus far. It was suggested that there could be a rehearsal prior to Mass (started already).

- C. Social Concerns – Father Ireland mentioned that we pretty much discussed this area. He added that Bishop Pevec will be coming this Thursday to give a talk but there will be no Mass.**

- D. Finance Council –Discussed earlier in the meeting.**

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mass Intention Policy – Steve Krajnak suggested the policy needs to be more visible so there is less confusion. Father Ireland mentioned that he would like to get the Masses filled and then move on to the next month. This week the month of July will open up. He is trying to make it fair for everyone and will try to make it more visible to people coming into the rectory to schedule as well as running it periodically in the bulletin.**

- B. 2006 Calendar Announcement – Steve brought up the issue of why certain funeral homes are advertising on the parish calendar while previously advertised funeral homes are no longer represented. Father Ireland mentioned that the existing advertiser is a parishioner. The previous year’s advertiser was not and was selected, at that time, by the publisher.**

- C. Cutters Creek – Novicky Place Info sheets – As a FYI, Steve handed out information regarding the two new housing developments in South Euclid that had a past relationship with the parish.**

- D. Altar person practice before Sunday Masses – Steve Krajnak brought up a concern of having the altar persons practicing too close to the beginning of Mass. Father Ireland mentioned that this should really not be a distraction to those in church.**

- E. Direct Deposit starts at St. Ann’s Parish – Don Schuele passed an information sheet out regarding this new program implemented at St. Ann’s parish.**

- F. Three letters from the Bishop – Spring Diocese Programs – Steve passed out three programs that will be offered from the Diocese this spring. The first program, entitled “God’s Mission: Marvelous and Messy!” will be held on March 10th or 11th at St. Basil in Brecksville. The second program, regarding “Vibrant Parish Life – Phase II”, will be held on April 5th at St. Noel. Reservations are required by Feb. 20th. The third program will be held on April 22nd regarding the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Don, Piero, Steve and Marianne have been involved and attended these meeting in the past.**

Steve suggested that we have representation at each of these meetings.

- G. School families not fulfilling commitments to Church – Mark Geyman addressed this topic earlier in the meeting under Old Business.**
- H. Sanctuary candle and flower donations – Steve brought it to Council’s attention that St. Margaret Mary Church has a sanctuary candle and flower donations programs. These programs could be implemented in our parish. Dave Douglas will discuss it at his next Commission meeting.**
- I. Other – Discussions items included the confusion surrounding the Catholic Charities National (Katrina Relief) and Local donation programs. People are receiving both in the mail at around the same time; chuck holes in the Church parking lot are a safety factor. Father Ireland mentioned that they are and have been filled.**

Council adjourned and closed with prayer at 9:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY MARCH 6TH, 2006 AT 7:00 P.M.