

MINUTES
Parish Council Meeting
7:00 pm, Wednesday, October 13, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE: Central Staff--Fr. Dexter Brewer, Kathy Skinner; Executive Committee—Lucia Huskey, Michele Johnson (School Board Chair), Dave Lybarger, Nancy Rohling, Jeanne Stejskal (Finance Board Chair), Brett Wesnofske (Campus Committee Chair); Elected/Appointed Parishioners—Patout Burns, Cindy Lybarger, Thomas Meyer; Parish Ministry Representatives—John Green (Room in the Inn), Richard Rodgers (Stewardship), Joe Thomashefski (Youth Group), Pat Watson (Knights of Columbus), Mary Ann Wieck (Women’s Council).

ABSENT: Clay Bailey, Patout Burns, Terry Casey, Mike Clepper, Christine Caron Gebhardt, Jim Stanford, Andy McKenzie, Patrick Pruett, Bob True, Peace through Justice Representative, Respect Life Representative, Cursillo Representative.

Fr. Dexter opened the meeting with (1) a scripture reading, followed by discussion. The agenda included (2) update on the Building project, (3) update on extended campaign, (4) end-of-year 2009-2010 financials, (5) discussion of food pantry suggestion, (6) old business, (7) and new business, including mention of Fr. Dorcin’s visit from Haiti.

(2) Brett Wesnofske, Campus Committee Chair, updated the Council on our Building project. He reported that the project is on time and on budget, despite a few permit and zoning delays. All permits are now in place for Phase I of the project, and work is in progress to obtain remaining permits for Phase II. Architectural plans were shown to Council members, and it was reported that both phases should be complete by the first of August 2011. Brett Wesnofske also stated that SouthLand Constructors and Gilbert, McLaughlin, Casella Architects have been incredible partners – allowing for significant savings on the project to date.

(3) Fr. Dexter explained that our “Building on Generations of Faith” campaign has been extended in an attempt to bridge the gap in cost between Phase I and Phase II of our building project. Valerie and Brian Cooper are chairing this campaign, and Fr. Dexter announced that it is being kicked off this month. The minimum goal is \$500,000...the challenge goal \$1,400,000.

(4) Jeanne Stejskal, Finance Board Chair, reported that \$1,665,000 in pledges has been collected from the initial “Building on Generations of Faith” campaign, and \$541,000 has been spent to date on our building project. We have not had to take out a loan as yet.

We finished the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, with a surplus in both the church and school. The church surplus has been placed in our repairs and improvements account, while school surplus has been used in part for scholarship assistance. Our Parish Town Hall meeting will take place between the masses on Sunday, October 24th. Full financials will be available to the parish at that meeting. Fr. Dexter asked if we should be concerned about revenue for the current fiscal year. It was explained that we generally expect to have an increase in revenue nearer the end of the calendar year.

John Green asked if financials can be presented in a way easier for the average person to understand. Jeanne Stejskal offered to meet with John or with anyone who would like a better explanation of our accounts. She explained that the reason for the Town Hall meeting is to provide for financial transparency, and we are open to any suggestions as to how that can be better accomplished.

(5) Nancy Rohling provided Council members with information about a request from parishioner Elizabeth Cassman. Mrs. Cassman has written Fr. Dexter and has made a presentation to the Women's Council regarding a proposal that we begin a Food Pantry here at Christ the King. She has researched what other parishes are doing, as well as how the Ladies of Charity operate their food assistance program. Mary Ann Wieck, representative from the Women's Council, further explained what Mrs. Cassman was hoping to accomplish with a food pantry. She also explained some of the concerns that she and Fr. Dexter had discussed, including security, cost, available space, manpower, and time. One council member questioned our liability with regard to tainted food or outdated food; another pointed out how we already support the efforts of other groups who collect food for the needy. Other ways our parish helps the needy via St. Vincent de Paul funds and Kroger gift cards were discussed and deemed to be effective ways of providing assistance at this time. Fr. Dexter said this project did not appear to be feasible for Christ the King right now and suggested that we revisit this proposal at a later date and continue to determine how we can help others in the community in all ways.

(6) Old business

(7) New business:

Jim Bryan was not able to attend the Parish Council meeting, but mention was made of the shrub trimming party scheduled for Oct. 23rd, when members of the parish are invited to join with our grounds crew volunteers to clean up our campus for the winter.

Council members were also made aware of a visit by the pastor of our Haiti twin parishes, Fr. Joseph Dorcin, who will visit Christ the King the weekend of Oct. 23-24th. He will report on conditions in Haiti and in his parishes since his last visit in November 2009.

Pat Watson, representative for the Knights of Columbus, reported that the Knights have been busy during October with various activities, including the recent Parish Picnic which was deemed a great success. The Knights will serve again at masses the weekend of Nov. 27-28th, and they are gearing up for Christmas activities as well.

Mary Ann Wieck, Women's Council Co-Chair, gave a brief update on Council activities, including their upcoming dinner "Feasting with the Saints," scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13th. All parishioners should have received an invitation to this annual Women's Council event, and all are encouraged to attend.

Joe Thomaschewski, Youth Director, spoke briefly about youth activities. There was discussion about the fact that many of our college students, especially those from Belmont, have decided to start attending services on the Vandy campus. This has effected the participation of college-age students at the 6 pm Sunday mass, but there still seems to be an increase in attendance at that mass among all ages.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, 2011.

Submitted by Nancy Rohling
October 18, 2010