

OLM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
February 15, 2010

ATTENDEES:

Reverend Hugh Fullmer
Marty Kadziela
Luchie Saraceni

Dave Groeber
Dave Miserendino
Jennifer Bartos

Bettye Abbott
Tom Brady

I. The meeting began at 7:15 with an **Opening Prayer** by Marty Kadziela.

II. Welcome New Folks: Jennifer Bartos and Luchie Saraceni were welcomed. Father Hugh gave them a Parish Council brochure (Brown Book) and an overview of the Parish Council at Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Parish. Commissions do the work and report to Parish Council (PC); PC oversees and envisions future for next 3-5 years.

III. Election of officers was deferred until March.

IV. Action items for PC goals for last year:

- 1) Recruitment and awareness toward stewardship and services for the parish; and 2) get youth more involved.
 - Stewardship/Ministry Fair. No report. Bettye Abbott stated the next Recruitment and Stewardship Committee meeting is March 4, 2010.
 - Friday Family Feasts – Last event (Pajama night – movie night, hotdog and popcorn) was very well attended. It was the best one yet. Over 319 people attended. We made a profit of over \$400 and had very little food left.
 - February 19th – Youth will run Baked Fish (first Friday of Lent). Volunteers are needed.
 - Schedule for other feasts:
 - March 19th – Corn Beef and Cabbage
 - April 16th – Game night (board games and cards)
 - May 21st – Hispanic food

V. Commission Reports:

A. Administration (Dave Groeber) Budget is on target thru the first half of the year. We are making the budgeted improvements on the Church and they will be completed after Easter. Collections are still below what is required but it is not too bad yet. Admin is monitoring. Dave reminded PC members that Janice should be notified if we see anything that needs to be fixed.

B. Faith Formation (Bettye Abbott) – Bettye reminded PC members that Faith Formation activities are listed and updated weekly in the bulletin. She gave a summation of Faith Formation activities. However, ministry reports in their entirety are listed for the record.

Faith Ministry Team:

PARISH MISSION RETREAT - January 31 - February 2, 2010: The event received great coverage. Banner was posted on the building several weeks and moved inside a couple weeks

before the actual event. Marketing and Father Friedel's messages during masses were successful. On the first night (Sunday) there were probably 250 people in attendance; approximately 220 the second evening; and about 150 Tuesday evening. Refreshments followed each evening. Father Friedel gave a thought provoking and powerful message each night. Surveys and Parishioners' comments were very favorable.

SMALL FAITH GROUPS - February 18th to April 9, 2010: Small Faith Groups were marketed via Bulletin Inserts, *Splinters from the Presidential Chair*, banner on the building, table in lobby, etc. Over 70 registrations were received.

OLM BIBLE STUDY will start in May 2010.

Parish Nursing Report:

Past activities:

MOMS cancelled for lack of interest.

Men's Prayer Breakfast on 1/23/09: 26 men attended; facilitated by Mike Chovancak, Mike Plese and Kevin Callison. Plans to continue with opportunities for men to get together and share their faith.

Marriage Enrichment Program on 1/23/09: 10 couples in attendance for dinner and the presentation on the relationship between "Theology of the Body" and marriage, presented by parishioner Gloria Lange.

Activities in progress:

Ten Great Dates – continues under the leadership of Deb and Matt Bowman.

Dancing with the Spirit - 12-14 couples are involved; two sessions have been completed and two more will occur.

Future activities:

Afternoon of Reflection for women on 2/28/10: On the Journey Retreat: Choice-making.

Middle School Youth Ministry Report:

EDGE

In November, we had about 50 teens at Feed My Starving Children. They had 101 boxes, exceeding the expectations of the staff. There was enough food to feed 62 children for one year! December lessons for 6th grade, "Advent" with a "Parent Night on Internet Safety." Lessons for 7th & 8th grade teens covered, "Putting Christ in Christmas." Each level also had a Christmas party at the end of the session. Ten Commandments was started in January and completed in February.

"The Old Testament, Ruth Keeping Promises" was completed and 7th & 8th graders focused on "The Beatitudes" with Fr. Hugh visiting us and giving a presentation on the topic. An additional parent presentation was given by Samaritan Interfaith on "Raising Healthy Teens, Mentally & Spiritually."

Retreats

Retreats were given for the 7th & 8th grades and presented by Nancy McKnight. Both sessions were well attended. The theme was “Discipleship & Service.” There were about 70 teens in the AM session and about 55 in the PM session.

Our 6th grade teens will be on retreat in March.

Socials

During Christmas break, there were about 47 teens that came to **bowl**. It seems having socials during any down time from school is very welcomed by the teens as well as their parents.

The annual ski trip to Grand Geneva Resort was Monday, January 18th (again another day off school.) We teamed up with St. Margaret Mary Parish. About 24 teens attended. Great Day!

Mardi Gras Party will be February 15th which again will team us up with St. Thomas & SMMP. We will have a Dee Jay, games, food and tons of great fun.

Young Adult Ministry Report:

Couples Ministry will be having a monthly Sunday Speaker Series beginning Feb. 21st. This night will feature a dinner and speaker. All couples (married, dating or engaged) are invited to attend.

In December we had a diocesan Vespers service for young adults at St. Scholastica in Woodridge. There were over 70 adults in attendance. This looks to become a regular event for our diocese.

College Ministry looks to kick-off this summer. We have a few college adults who would like to do a dinner/small group event in the summer. We will have more details as planning continues.

Religious Education for Grades K-5 Report:

February Activities: In our list of February Activities we are adding Parent enrichment events that OLM is having as the more you are enthused and knowledgeable about your Faith, the more you can share your faith with your children. If your child goes to Wed. night R.E. and you were unable to attend the Family Mass last Wed. on Jan. 27th, make sure you get a hard copy of this R.E. Update with the yellow flyer on the “Resource Table” by the stage.

We are in the midst of our Parish Mission which started on Jan. 31st and lasts until Feb. 2nd. There is no R.E. on Tuesday Feb. 2nd but there is regular R.E. class on Wednesday, Feb. third.

This year we are offering an opportunity to donate or sell any used First Communion apparel. Hopefully this will help families who find it difficult to buy new items for First Communion. On Feb. 8,9 and 10th parents brought their child's Communion apparel (dress, veil, jacket, suit)to the R.E. class their child attends. Coat racks were set up by the stage area where the items were placed. On Thurs. Feb.11th from 8:30 am to 6:30pm parents were able to purchase items. Parents were asked to pick up their monies and or items by Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm. On Monday any money not picked up was scheduled to be sent to the American Red Cross for Haiti and clothes donated to St. Vincent De Paul.

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17th. There are no R.E. classes on the 17th.

The 5th grade prayer service scheduled for Feb. 25th has been moved to March 11th.

First Reconciliation for the 3 Special Sacrament classes (teachers Hesselbach, Rinon and Stephens) is Sat. Feb. 27th at 10:00 am.

C. Service (Open) - No Report

D. Worship (Marty Kadziela)

- Greeters and Ushers guidelines are being revised so there is consistency at all masses.
- Back Communion stations will be discontinued at all masses.
- A bus brings handicapped worshipers to church. If any of these worshipers needs communion, let someone know.
- Extraordinary Ministers guidelines are being revised.
- The Commission is recruiting Mass Coordinators and retraining ushers the last weekend in February and first week in March.

E. Youth – (Stephanie) - Dave Miserendino gave report in Stephanie's absence.

Senior High Youth Ministry Report:

Level 1 Retreats are taking place in the PLC. We will have 140 students attending on 2 weekends. The theme is "Surrendering Our Life to God". We have a retreat team of 7-10 teens and about 15 adult leaders per retreat.

The fundraising for Mission Trip is in full swing. We have done a mission trip weekend collection (where the teens talked about their trip and the needs we have), Cookie Dough sale, Market days, and upcoming Fish bake. We have added 7 spots and have 61 so far. There are 10 teens on the waiting list. Need a couple of adult leaders - one female - to attend the trip.

The Peer Ministry Team is planning various social and service events. Past events include: Basketball tournament and All Night Bowling. Upcoming includes: Dodge ball Tournament, Ski Trip to Cascade, and Movie Night (to raise funds for the Avila family).

Feed My Starving Children fundraiser is ongoing. Each of our 13 Confirmation Groups are raising money for the local organization to help children. We have raised over \$200 to date and expect much more as we conclude at the end of February.

Comprehensive Youth Ministry Task Force is working on a major format change for the Senior High Youth Ministry. This team is working from a 5 year plan set forth by the Youth Ministry Commission. More details will be presented this spring.

VI. Other Items –

- **Volunteer Recognition** – Mary DeKing has accepted. Tom Brady and Mary Konkle will assist her into transitioning into the role.
- **Dinner Dance** – Gala Event is being planned. Tentative date is February, 2011 and tentative ticket cost is \$37.50 each. The goal is to have a minimum of 300 persons attend. Father Hugh said great people are on the committee which is headed by John Plummer. Luchie Saraceni will be a part of the committee and stated the key is good music and entertainment.
- Jennifer Bartos suggested more activities for younger parishioners. Make church more fun for them.
- Luchie related the Charismatic Group's Anniversary is in June. They would like to sell tickets for a show, "OLM Charismatic Groups Goes to Broadway." Proceeds will be donated to parish. Event will take place June 5th, at 6:00 p.m.

VII. The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m. with a **Closing Prayer** by Father Hugh.

The next PC meeting is Monday, March 8, 2010, 7:00 p.m. Opening prayer by Mary Konkle.

Respectfully submitted,

Bettye Abbott

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