

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish Council
Meeting Minutes of November 12, 2007**

Present: Lou Kearney, John Plummer, Terry Sheen, Tony Martini, Mary Konkel,
John Martin, Haleigh Oleksiak, Larry Harris, Phyllis Anderson
Absent: Fr. Hugh, Dave Groeber, John Bremner
Invited Guests: None
Prayer and Reflection: Lou Kearney
Minutes of last meeting: (October 10, 2007), approved.

Announcements:

- Dave Miserendino will take over as the parish staff representative for the next three months. We would like to thank Larry Harris for his valuable input and participation for the past term.
- Sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop (T. Sheen and D. Groeber)
On behalf of Dave Groeber and the Admin committee, Terry Sheen spoke as to adding this sponsorship as a possible new ministry and a way to aide the youth of the parish. As a whole, the council agreed that this was further exploring. We will need verification from the scouts and the diocese that they share our beliefs. Meeting space and the PLC first year guidelines will need to be reviewed. Note - chartering a troop takes about a year before they would be up and running. Dave Groeber will present these findings at the next Admin Committee.
- Ministry Fair Post Report – Tony Martini shared positive feedback from the participants in the fair.
- VRN Update/Status – There are several new suggestions as to how we handle this event, Brats and Dogs, Mass with refreshments, PC and Staff to serve... John Martin would like to see a message in the bulletin to provide an update with all the publicity we had provided in October. The event looks to be held in the spring!

Commission Reports:

Administration Commission (AC): T. Sheen reported that the tile for the Narthex is awaiting approval from the Diocese of Joliet and will take a week to install. A plan is being finalize so we can comply with the city and not violate the fire codes.

Faith Formation Commission (FFC): P. Anderson reports that FF hasn't had a meeting in some time and that ALPHA will have their last member this Thursday night. The Bible Study group is down about 75% after Fr. Allam was reassigned. The Parish Survey will be made available in the coming weeks and contains valuable information. Continuing education for EM's and Faith Formation is soon to be available.

Service Commission (SC): Len Eichkoff reported that a meeting was held with five attendees in a most productive gathering and reviewed the upcoming events during the busy months ahead. Lots of positive comments were gathered regarding the Ministry Fair and requests have been made for a spring fair.

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Worship Commission (WC): Larry Harris reports that the group met last Monday.

- All Saints Day Mass was well attended and the "Icons" were a nice addition to the program. Larry is pleased to announce the donor will be adding a few more pieces.
- A reusable (indoor/outdoor) banner will be placed outside to inform parishioners of the modified mass schedules at Easter and Christmas. This should eliminate a good portion of the calls and confusion during these busy seasons. We will not have mass in the PLC do to parking constraints and the additional masses seemed to eliminate the overcrowding issues last year.
- Our October attendance numbers were down.
- Collections are up after the Stewardship Drive and the budget seems to be getting back on track.
- Liturgy of the Word for Children has been very successful and the group plans on adding this service at the 10:45am mass in the spring. Over 100 kids participate each week!
- L. Eichkoff spoke about adding a "The Pope Speaks" section to the bulletin. This section would provide highlights of the Pontiff's message and references to his word.

Action Items:

Committee Reports:

Youth Ministry Report: Haleigh Oleksiak reports that the pie sale went well. Confirmation will be having a mentor meeting next Thursday. Like last year, the Youth Group would like to be involved in the Christmas Mass Orchestra.

Building Committee Report: Terry Sheen reported that the PLC is only waiting on the fire suppression system to be completed and approved. Lou Kearney raised the issue of wrongful parking in assigned handicapped parking spaces. The BC will request new stripping and announcements will be made at all masses. If this problem persists, we will ask the Aurora Police to patrol the lot.

General Announcements:

- The "Turkey Trot" Dance went very well with over 150 people in attendance. Plenty of good food was shared by all and Fr. Allam was the special surprise guest. It took Fr. 45 minutes to get to his seat!!! It was good to have him back and equally nice to have him officiate the 5:30pm mass. Music was provided by the Larry Harris Trio and a good time was had by all.

Closing Prayer: Larry Harris concluded the meeting with prayer.

Next PC meeting: Monday, December 10, 2007 @7:00 p.m. in the PLC.

Respectfully submitted by John Plummer

Minutes Approved: _____ Signature: _____