

St. Cletus Parish Council Meeting Minutes September 24, 2012

In Attendance: Lynn Owen, Laurie Steinkamp, Mary Bryne, Dan Pelikan, Al Rothermich, Chris Unterreiner, Celeste Leuck, Fr. Jim Benz, Ann Ficken, Mike Mohrmann, Donna Pundmann, Tony Scoggin
Excused: Deacon Mark McCarthy, Deb Young

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and opened with Evening Prayer

Minutes of August 27, 2012 meeting were approved as submitted

Discussion Items

Tom Smegner of the School Board joined the council to share what the school board has been up to. The School Board consists of nine members from K through 8 serving 3-year terms, in addition to Principle Rosann Doherty and Fr. Benz. The goal of the board is to assist Principle Doherty in decision making. The biggest challenge for the school board is enrollment; enrollment has been declining over the last several years (currently at 240 students). With the declining enrollment comes budget cuts including the loss of teaching positions. Currently, the parish provides 35% of all tuition costs, a number at the higher end of the Archdiocese. Tom believes that to solve the issues the school is facing, the Deanery needs to be involved, including helping put tuition on par with competing schools. A SWOT analysis has helped focus funding and decision-making; technology in the classroom is a primary goal for the school. Further marketing is underway as a primary way to attract new families/students. The board is also looking into the possibility of a preschool.

The Missouri Catholic Conference Annual Assembly coming up on Oct. 6. The Conference asks that two members from each parish come. No members of the Council thought they could make it.

Celeste Leuck volunteered to be the Vice-Chairperson for the rest of the year.

Al presented the survey data. We had about 420 responses to the survey. The council will review the data over the coming weeks for further discussion and action.

Formation: Chapters 3 & 4 from *10 Things Pope Benedict Wants You to Know*

Society seems to be moving toward a relativist "what is true for you isn't true for me" philosophy. Chapter 3 speaks out against this, proclaiming that to truly be free, we must have constraints. Chapter 4 follows that up by speaking about how our faith in God is not devoid of reason but rather enhanced by it.

Pastor's Time

Another parish council orientation session is coming up on October 6 for those of us who haven't been to a session yet. Fr. Benz will email out information regarding this event. We are in the midst of the stewardship weekends at Mass. Twenty ministries were represented at the ministry fair. The stewardship appreciation event is coming up at the end of this month. The Living Rosary is on October 3.

Agenda Meeting to be determined by Executive Committee

Next Meeting October 29, 2012, at 7pm