

## St. John Vianney Parish Council Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2009

**Members Present:** Barb Hetzel                      Greg Van Winkle                      Richard Gassert  
Cheryl Zima                      Kathy Bell                      Mike Cekanor  
Doug Miller                      Kurt Baumann                      Pat Butler  
Fr. Ken Knippel

**Member Excused:** Ralph Patitucci                      Frank Pasternak                      Tess Wartman  
Patrick Reiels

**Guests:**                      Jane Glynn-Nass                      Dan Hubler

**Call to Order:** Doug Miller, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Richard Gassert led the prayer

### **Review of Minutes:**

The minutes from the April 20, 2009 meeting were approved without correction.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Father Ken reiterated the announcement he had made at Masses the previous weekend that Father Phillip Bogacki will be our new Associate Pastor. Father Phillip will arrive on July 6, plans to live in the parish rectory and his weekly day off will be on Wednesdays.

Due to St. Luke's parish school closing after this school year, the pastors from surrounding parishes met with officials from the archdioceses to revise the bussing boundaries necessitated by the closing. SJV added South of Bluemound to Greenfield and from Barker to Calhoun. The decisions were made objectively without any awareness of where particular families lived.

A Respect Life Committee is forming. Father Ken remarked that he likes the breadth of the committee.

First Eucharist was very good. Father Ken is used to celebrating First Eucharist on Sundays and may arrange to move it to Sundays in the future for a number of reasons. Having it on a Saturday adds a lot of work to various ministries. Also having it as part of the regular Sunday Mass schedule gives the parish community the opportunity to witness this sacrament of initiation and to rejoice in it.

There has been a good response to Eucharist Day of Devotion in terms of interest level for participating. Father Ken arranged for an altar that had been in storage at SJV to be reinstalled in the Blessed Sacrament chapel and the seating was also rearranged.

The Parish trip to Lourdes/Mediterranean Cruise planned for September 2009 has been cancelled due to insufficient interest. However, there is a trip to Israel and Jordan that will be offered for Nov. 7-20, 2010 that Father Ken and Father Tony Zimmer will participate in. It will be led by Father Laurin Wenig, a priest of the Archdioceses who is a licensed tour guide for the Holy Land.

Father Ken commended the Human Resources Committee for completing the job descriptions for all parish staff positions and that will help salary administration to be better linked to performance.

Regarding the Faith In Our Future capital campaign, Father Ken remarked on what a great job Steve Smith did promoting the FIOF campaign at all the Masses this past weekend. We have \$550,000 in advance commitments at this point.

### **Proposal—Seminar Training Program**

SJV has been asked if we would like to participate in a Seminary training program. It would involve having a seminarian who is just starting out gain some experience with parish life. Five to seven people from the parish would journey with him as support and resources. They would meet with the seminarian several times each semester as would Father Ken. The seminarian's top priority would be his studies, but he could help with various parish activities according to his availability. There is no cost to the parish associated with this. In his 4<sup>th</sup> year with us, the seminarian would take on diaconate responsibilities. The seminary would assign a seminarian. The parish council likes the idea. It would give the SJV community the opportunity to support vocations.

### **Parish Council Nominations and Discernment**

Regarding recent nominations for Parish Council, 11 parishioners had been nominated and were contacted. Only three accepted the nomination so there is no need to have them go through a discernment process as there was not a surplus of candidates. The three new parish council members are Larry Francione, Michael Ostrenga and Paul Mindel—we welcome them all! Since Doug Miller will be moving to the Trustee Secretary position, that vacates another Parish Council seat and Kurt Baumann has graciously agreed to stay on another year. This will be especially helpful as he will be leading the 5-year strategic planning process which he did in the past with Mike Cekanor.

## **Christian Formation Strategic Plan Presentation**

Jane Glynn-Nass, chair of the Christian Formation Board, offered some heartfelt comments on the journey that the Christian Formation Program has gone through in recent years. There has been much change. For example there have been 5 different Directors of Youth Ministry in the past 7 years. She also addressed changes in Child Ministry staff and the secretarial staff in the Christian Formation department. Mary Janowak and Mary Ann Davel have been the stable staff and have been invaluable in holding things together and unselfishly serving as resources during transitions. The Christian Formation team has been rejuvenated. Jane asked that we let the CF staff know how very much we appreciate what they do. This prompted some stories of parishioners who have remarked positively about the CF staff and their efforts.

The bottom line of Jane's message was, "Never lose sight of how important Christian Formation is." She offered personal testimony of its impact on her own children.

Jane thanked the support CF got from Parish Council last year allowing them to hire an Associate Director for Youth Ministry. Jane reported that Dawn Van Dorf, Director of Child Ministry, does a nice job with Children's Liturgy of the Word. She is always looking for volunteers for that and for Vacation Bible School. There is interest in having an SJV sponsored family retreat.

Youth Ministry has launched some youth activities such as TILT (Teens in Love Tuesdays) and Evening Teen Caffeine. Erik and Claire are available at Caribou Coffee on Sundays from 2-4 PM to meet with teens for good conversation. Last year the turnover caused us to cancel youth workcamps. This year SummerSWEAT (Something Worthy of Energy, Attention and Time) will involve teens in three workcamps—and all are full though the St Louis one slated for July 19-25 is still in need of 3 adult chaperones.

Claire Hoffmeyer had a girls' retreat called Day of Inner Beauty that focused on self-image and self-respect and was very well-attended.

Youth Ministry is looking to form a Junior High Youth Group and a High School Youth Board. They are looking to foster continued involvement of youth after confirmation. The Summer Service Series is expanding.

The Soup Suppers have been successful. Mary and Mary Ann hope to reinstitute the parish retreat for adults. They are also looking to bring in more speakers.

There is an ad hoc Family Enhancement Committee (Christian Formation) and there are many intergenerational activities offered in the parish. In the past some of this was under the name of GIFT—Generations in Faith Together.

Jane quoted founding parishioner Bernie Gruenke, "We are never thankful enough." Father Ken happily reported that the CF staff is great to work with and they have really bonded as a team. Doug Miller has met with Erik and Claire about the Youth Board. The plan is that youth peer

leaders would serve on the Youth Board, rotating the planning and responsibilities for leading meetings allowing for the development of all the Youth board members. Then there would not be a need for youth representation of Parish Council.

New Christian Formation Board Members coming on will be Mike Furst, Darcy Hinz and Kristine Crossman (she has served 1 year and agreed to serve three more).

### **Technology Strategic Plan Presentation**

Dan Hubler, Chairperson of the Technology Committee, came to discuss the Technology Strategic Plan. It was pointed out that all the items crossed out on the Technology Committee Five-Year Strategic Plan were activities that had been accomplished. In particular Dan made the point that over the past three years technology purchases and decisions have happened in the parish and school that didn't get input from the Technology Committee. In particular he referenced the Smartboards and the COWs (Computers On Wheels). Both have required quite a bit of technical troubleshooting and support. The COWs and some of the Smartboards were donated by parishioners. There is also a 2<sup>nd</sup> computer lab in the school that has people concerned but it appears to be underutilized. Dan indicated his concern that the Technology Committee has no visibility (no input) in budget—it is not reviewed by his group so they could offer advice that could prove to be valuable. Dan indicated perhaps most believe things are running well so there is no need for changing. Dan indicated that Parish Council really hasn't communicated much with the Technology Committee. They meet monthly usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Greg Van Winkle said that perhaps the parish needs a technology assessment. Maybe it makes sense to get input from the Technology Committee on technology decisions/purchases. Some of the problems of insufficient resources or misdirected resources (like Jim Hessling) being used to troubleshoot technology problems may be resolved when the Technology Specialist (half time for teaching and half time for Technology Specialist work) is hired. Cheryl Zima recommended that the position be well defined before the recruitment begins. It should include how the position would support the parish. Jim Hessling, Jayme Hartmann and a teacher come to the Technology Committee meetings.

Father Ken indicated that there should be a budget review at every Parish Council meeting. He would like to work toward that.

### **Liaison Committee Reports**

Mike Cekanor reported on Buildings & Grounds. Additional bids are being sought for the parking lot work as the initial estimates were excessive. In the past lawn maintenance was outsourced. The plant engineer asked to take on the work as a contract assignment and a lawn mower was purchased with the approval of the Buildings & Grounds Committee. It is expected that this will save significant money in future years. This year the cost will be \$10k for the mower and \$7k for labor but the mower should last for quite some time. The Human Resources Committee will review and make a recommendation on how to handle from a wage and salary perspective. Mike reported that committee guidelines were reviewed, discussed and approved. They also discussed moving the concession stand to the gym.

Barb Hetzel reported on the Stewardship Committee.

Through May 3 there is a budget deficit of \$106,941. Budget reporting will appear in the parish bulletin monthly. The committee is working out a 3 on, 3 off rotation. Father Ken indicated that he wants our new Associate Pastor Father Phillip Bogacki to serve as the staff liaison to the Stewardship Committee. Stewardship renewal weekend will be Nov. 7-8 with Commitment Sunday on Nov. 21-22. The 2009-2010 theme will be "We Are Tested, We Are Listening, We Have Faith." The decision was made not to have the Father Lipscomb Appreciation Dinner this year in order to save the expense. Instead, thank you letters will be mailed to all those who have left SJV in their wills or estate plans.

School Board—no report.

Father Ken mentioned that an advisory council is forming to advise the principal and guidance counselor. Father Ken is very supportive of having a guidance counselor for a school the size of the SJV day school. There have been reports of some bullying that is being dealt with. Father Ken observed that Jayme does an excellent job of keeping him informed.

Kathy Bell indicated that there is no Human Concerns update available. She also indicated that the Prayer & Worship Committee meets next week.

Father Ken thanked Frank Pasternak and Pat Butler for their input in coordination of the nomination and discernment processes for the various boards.

**Closing Prayer: Richard Gassert**

**Next Meeting: June 8, 2009**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

Pat Butler