

St. Elizabeth Parish Council Meeting Minutes October 22, 2009

Attendees: Jennifer Prusa, Carolyn Sawyer, Jan Garnett, Beth Cressey, Josh Brewster, Pat Saviano, Frs. Bruce & Christian & Bill Egelhoff

Bob Reiter & Gary Vontz out of town.

Guests: Steve McClain & Matt Prusa

Carolyn called the meeting to order @ 7:10. Janet led the group in prayer.

Minutes:

All had reviewed minutes of the 09/23/09 meeting. No comments or corrections. Pat motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Bill seconded. All were in favor.

CRHP Update:

Frs. Bruce & Christian reported that they had visited Msgr. Tank about CRHP @ St. E. The Bishop has OK'd proceeding with the plan which will occur twice annually on gender specific weekends beginning on Saturday & concluding on Sunday. April Newton, A CRHP representative, had called Fr. Bruce regarding 3-4 parishioners to work on our planning committee. Jennifer Prusa was very enthused about taking the lead on CRHP. Other comments/questions: Ladies/men-who's first?; our initial group will "pay it forward."; Fr. Bruce's retreat?; there will be nine presenters during the two day retreat-target date/spring 2010; gather more CRHP specifics and other name suggestions for Jennifer's committee. N.B. Easter is 04/04/10.

School Report:

Beth announced accreditation would happen on 10/26 & 10/27 and that there will be a campus cleanup this weekend. The School Board has been submerged in this process since the outset.... plus our guests Steve & Matt will present the SW Pod update with focus on the "Stewardship" component.

Worship:

Carolyn & Janet met with Susie Adams regarding moving the choir downstairs-Alan Sawyer drew up a possible plan showing pews removed from the east side of church—cost TBD. Timeframe six months-one year. Next step will be a Liturgy committee review. Susie will develop a plan & present it to the PC. Could involve a capital fund drive. Also note that new Mass responses and other changes are on the horizon that might generate the possible need to develop catechesis for small groups.

Census:

Bill reviewed the need & purpose for the parish census. Fr. Bruce, Josh & Bill will collaborate with the CRHP initiative and will present the census plan @ the 12/10/09 meeting.

SW POD Response to the Bishop:

As we all know, Catholic education is our most important ministry. Steve & Matt discussed the SW POD plan. The SW POD includes CKS, STM, VIS, STP, and STE. The recent Meitler study revealed a weakness in long-term school funding plans. Each POD members has different needs. Tuition based plans are a way to stabilize the future school funding plans, however, we have a fifty year history of tithing. Current revenues are flat lining while expenses continue to increase-change is necessary to succeed! We need to rekindle the St. E. stewardship fire!! Stewardship is on of the foundational pillars of the SW POD proposal. The SW POD has been and continues to be very vocal with the Bishop about presenting our own plan vs. the Meitler study suggestions. POD meetings started in April and continued through August to develop proposed alternatives to be studied by the Bishops’ committee. A fully engaged, ongoing parish wide effort will be required to begin the true stewardship model. We must align under a common definition of stewardship and work with each POD parish to make each of us stronger, which in turn will gain financial sustainability for the POD. Stewardship will lead to growth in spirituality and involvement. Steve & Matt presented an impressive, detailed response to the Bishop and focused on the Stewardship portion of the plan. Many comments followed, all supportive. What’s the next step?? We await the Bishop’s response, however part of our Celebration 2017 plan is to establish a Stewardship Committee— Josh & Bill have this responsibility as team members assigned to that segment of Celebration 2017.

Other Business:

Several comments regarding the next Town Hall meeting/date/TBD.

Pat mentioned that Knights of Columbus worked with other St. E groups to provide new kitchen equipment in Seton Hall.

Next Meeting: December 10th, 2009 (combined Nov/Dec meeting)

Agenda:

Gary Vontz	Prayer	10 min
Fr. Bill	Organizational Summary	30 min
Jennifer	CRHP	15 min
Josh/Bill	Census	15 min
Josh/Bill	Stewardship Committee	15 min

Respectfully submitted by Bill Egelhoff, Secretary