

St. Elizabeth Parish Council Meeting Minutes May 27, 2010

Attendees: Fr. Bruce, Fr. Christian, Bob Reiter, Pat Saviano, Carolyn Sawyer, Gary Vontz, Josh Brewster, Jan Garnett, Jennifer Prusa & Bill Egelhoff

Absent: Beth Cressey, Jeff Randolph

Frs. Bruce & Christian hosted a dinner in the Rectory for the Council prior to the meeting. After all were properly nourished the meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

Prayer:

Bob led the group in prayer & reflection.

Minutes:

Minutes from the 04.27.10 meeting had been distributed and reviewed by all. No comments or questions. Pat made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Gary seconded. All were in favor.

Men's CRHP report:

Bob indicated he was speaking for all 24 men in saying that the weekend was a powerful experience and all attendees expressed personal fulfillment and felt a cohesive bond. The age range of the group: 35-75. There were 19 men & women from the Kansas parish teams in attendance to help the group during the weekend. The retreatant group will have sixteen voluntary weekly follow up meetings as part of the retreat. The first follow up meeting on May 26 was attended by 22/24 of the retreatants. The other 2 men were out of town. Fr. Christian said he enjoyed the weekend because he was able to get to know the parishioners better. Fr. Bruce felt that there was 100% affirmation; the men were tired but peaceful and filled with zeal. They all agreed that the giving is better than receiving and the best it yet to come. There were no negative reports at all regarding this parish based faith walk.

Women's CRHP review:

Jennifer reported that 22 women are signed up & needs 3 or 4 more for the June 5-6 weekend. Facilitators for all segments of the ladies weekend are in place and ready and Jennifer restated that this is a wonderful gift to us from the Kansas parishes. All council members were reminded that the weekend cost is ZERO!

Stewardship:

Bob led the discussion about the evolving Stewardship committee, their purpose, and their reporting structure to the Parish Council and future joint meeting between the Parish Council, the Finance Committee & the Stewardship Committee. It was decided by consensus that Josh should stay on the Council since he couldn't do both, Council & Stewardship. Committed members to date include: Fr. Bruce, Vicky Kinney, Jessica Underwood(Fr. Bruce to invite & confirm) Todd Barrett, Beth Cressey, Gus Sonnenberg & Bill Egelhoff. Other suggested names for Fr. Bruce to call to complete the initial group: Betty & John Novak & Kerm Fendler. Once the odd numbered Stewardship group is set, there will be joint meetings with all three groups to determine focus and also plan for the upcoming Town Hall(Fall) & State of the Parish(Spring) meetings. Fr. Bruce will report his recommendations to the Council at the next meeting.

Gary reiterated our current Parish fiscal shortage and noted that the Stewardship committee needs to have some committed, sales-minded individuals ready to sell our

Parish and ask for the money. He also noted that a lot of our parishioners give that don't pledge.

Parish Council Member Replacements:

According to the Council Bylaws, initially, three members shall serve a one year term: those members rotating off are Beth Cressey, representing the School Board, to be replaced by Jeff Randolph; Gary Vontz, representing the Finance Committee, replacement to be determined in June and Jan Garnett, representing the single persons of the Parish. Suggested replacement names for Jan were: Mary Thomas, Kathy Haug and Vince McInerney. Fr. Bruce will call them to determine interest and report at the next meeting.

Parish Council Officers for 2010-2011:

Since the Bylaws state that Fr. Bruce "may" constitute a Nominating Committee, it was decided that the Council members present this evening would suggest nominations to the group. Bill nominated Carolyn for Chair. Carolyn declined. Carolyn nominated Jennifer. After Jennifer accepted a vote was taken and all were in favor. Josh was nominated for Vice Chair. After Josh accepted there was no discussion, a vote was taken and all were in favor. Gary & Carolyn nominated Bill for Secretary. After Bill accepted for one year a vote was taken and all were in favor.

2010-11 Officers: Jennifer Prusa, Chair; Josh Brewster, Vice Chair; Bill Egelhoff, Sec'y.

Census Update:

Bill reports that the original census form, modeled after our new parishioner registration form, was placed in the pews May 1, 2, 8 & 9. However, after receiving a letter directed to Fr. Bruce with a copy to Bob, the forms were removed from the church. The letter contained several comments and suggestions. After an amended form was produced it was sent home with St. E. students the week of May 24th. Our current response rate is 9.7%. In the interim, a small but mighty group of ten callers have been assigned directory pages for follow up. They are equipped with a suggested phone script, census forms and soon will have emailable census forms & pledge cards. We are still recruiting callers and have recently requested potential help from YAPS. In the meantime, Fr. Bruce and the Finance Committee have asked callers to include a pledge card appeal in their calls. The target is to finish up by mid June, hopefully. Thereafter, data will be given to Vicky for review, input and follow up by the appropriate people/group or committee. Census forms and pledge cards to be posted on the Parish website. Jennifer suggested possible manned census table in church, use of "surveymonkey" &/or coffee & donuts.

Town Hall/State of the Parish Meetings:

Town Hall needs to set a date in the fall. The purpose of this meeting is to report on accomplishments regarding the Celebration 2017 plan and allows interactive parishioner participation via the open format with Q & A's.

State of the Parish needs to set a date in the spring. The purpose of the meeting is to pass on parish information via the various parish leaders from their respective groups or committees. School parents are required to attend this meeting for school registration purposes/packets.

Jennifer noted that going forward it is important to coordinate timing with school registration, tithing appeal, parish & school calendars. Bill will request/procure dates for the meetings at the upcoming "all calendar day" staff meeting on June 3rd and report back at the next council meeting.

New Business:

Jennifer brought the “Importance of Confirmation” to the table. A discussion ensued which included many remarks and unanswered questions.

- >Are the kids only doing it for the parents?
- >Three parishes/one coordinator? Finances? Organization? Staffing?
- >This years’ group size at 80 Confirmation candidates was overwhelming!
- >What happened to being confirmed in your own parish? Finances? Organization? Staffing?
- >Do we have any volunteers to facilitate the August-April biweekly process in their homes?
- >Was the group’s apparent lack of inspiration &/or resistance due to a lengthy Confirmation liturgy? Or multi meetings over many weeks? Or just being teenagers?
- >Does St. E’s feel like a stepchild?
- >Let’s find some Confirmation “best practices” parishes for ideas.
- >**First: Let’s ask for feedback from our last group!!** Fr. Christian will contact Margaret and Karen McClain to seek some input.

No other business. Meeting adjourned @ 9:50pm

Next Meeting:

Thursday, July 1, @ 7pm in the PMC

Bob will invite new Parish Council members.

Agenda:

1. Prayer & Reflection-Fr. Bruce
2. Thank departing members, install new officers, new members.-Bob
3. Introduce new members-Jennifer & Bob
4. Stewardship Committee report-Fr. Bruce & vote by Council.
5. Review Women’s CRHP-Jennifer
6. Census & Pledge report-Bill
7. Town Hall date, preparation & leaders-All
8. State of the Parish date-All
9. Celebration 2017-where do we stand? What are our 2010-2011 priorities?-All

Respectfully submitted by Bill Egelhoff, Secretary