

St. Elizabeth Parish Council
Meeting Minutes of 09.23.09

Attendees: Bob Reiter, John Roseburrough, Fr. Christian, Jan Garnett, Carolyn Sawyer, Gary Vontz, and Bill Egelhoff. Absent: Fr. Bruce on retreat, Josh Brewster/sick, Beth Cressey/sick child, Jennifer Prusa.

Guests: April Newton, Holy Spirit Parish; Christy Kincaid, Holy Cross Parish; John Rodriguez, Cure of Ars Parish and Deacon Charlie Cecil.

The meeting was called to order @ 7:10pm. Fr. Christian led the prayer and reflection. Bob announced our invited guests & they introduced themselves and their purpose-to review “Christ Renews His Parish” with us. They represent three of the four parishes instrumental in the success of CRHP. The fourth parish is Ascension.

Remarks by John Rodriguez:

John attended CRHP in 2007 because he wanted to be more active in church & family-looking for ongoing faith excitement, e.g. “Men Under Construction”. Reviewed how this weekend retreat will grow your faith through the sharing of faith and problems, challenges & struggles. Ongoing monthly team meetings maintain the momentum. He noted that residual benefits include additional activity in other parish ministries, donations increased, an accountability group was formed, increased use of reconciliation, great amount of personal growth, rediscovered faith and Catholic values.

Remarks by April Newton:

April is a convert and has also been an RCIA sponsor. She referred to the five-day “Cursillo” commitment and how it evolved into CRHP. The retreat is gender specific and occurs on different weekends. Opportunities include bonding and becoming team members, taking your own journey, learn better listening, getting out of your comfort zone and experiencing a positive spiritual high. She found that she is more compelled to attend daily Mass, had positive effects in her marriage through spousal conversation, more tithing, a renewal of reconciliation practice. She also noted that their transition from St. Ann’s to Holy Spirit was difficult but attendance at CRHP opened doors.

Remarks by Christy Kincaid:

Christy attended her initial CRHP in 2004, also noting that it is an offshoot of the 1970’s “Cursillo” model. The weekend format has different themes (e.g. witnessing, reconciliation, etc) throughout the retreat that begins at 7:30am on Saturday and ends at 4:00pm on Sunday. Spending the night in church is the ideal situation. The retreat for men & women is separated by two weeks. Space needed: four rooms-a chapel, witness room, eating space and a storage room. After the conclusion of the weekend, critiques & formation begin, growing together as a team and then “pay it forward” as new teams develop. Food donations are welcome &/or a modest food budget can be planned. Going forward their mission team would be formed & gifted to St. Elizabeth. That mission team would also come on our campus to help us create the proper environment for success.

Financial considerations:

\$ 495.00/one time setup fee to the national office
\$1200.00/one time retreatant manuals (30 x \$40ea)
\$ 150.00/ongoing cost, bibles @ \$5 ea x 30
\$1845.00
\$ + air mattresses supplied or BYO?
\$ + line item food budget (e.g. Holy Spirit used \$700.00)

Agenda & Other details:

Ideal retreatant group size is 30 with everyone staying overnight-ages ranged from 21 to 91. Ideal team size is 18-20 members. Retreats happen twice a year with monthly formation meetings optional.

Saturday: includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, prayer service-reflection/witness room + intros/bible process/witness renewal/ministry calling + discernment + renewal/"new life in Christ"/shared prayer/spirituality + Christian community + Christian awareness/reconciliation + Eucharist ending at approximately 11:00pm.

Sunday: 7:30am Mass + Scriptures + Father's love & care + discipleship + dinner + ending at approximately 4:00pm. All witnessing remains confidential.

Next Step:

Fr. Bruce's approval after conferring with Msgr. Tank; thereafter Fr. Bruce will make a CRHP weekend retreat. Fr. Bruce would then invite 24-30 key parishioners to a six-month commitment to become the important initial St. E. retreatants/team who would then carry forward the initiative and would Fr. Bruce would also invite someone to become the parish director for CRHP. The guest parishes will deliver an informational meeting, give pulpit talks and provide an experienced team to stay with St. E. during the transition period.

Charlie Cecil said that he know several people that have made the CRHP. Charlie recommends and supports CRHP, especially when it rekindles the fire for the forgotten sacrament, reconciliation! After some brief discussion, Bill Egelhoff made a motion to proceed with CRHP, John Roseburrough seconded, and all were in favor. Fr. Bruce & Fr. Malewski will provide further information after visiting with Msgr. Tank.

Minutes from the 08.27.09 meeting were accepted as presented.

School Board Report-Beth Cressey was absent but will provide an update next meeting.

Worship & Liturgy Report-No meeting held yet-full reported deferred to next meeting. Items under consideration include moving the choir, however all information is needed and the Bishop's permission is required. Alan Sawyer has drawn up plans for the choir relocation.

Census Report: Bill Egelhoff deferred the report to the October meeting.

Monthly Prayer Signup: completed.

Next meeting: October 22, 2009-7:00pm-PMC. Bob Reiter will be out of town; Carolyn Sawyer will facilitate the meeting.

Tentative Agenda:

- I. Prayer & reflection-Janet Garnett
- II. CRHP review-all members-15/20 minutes
- III. School Board Report-Beth Cressey-10/15 minutes
- IV. Worship & Liturgy Report-Carolyn Sawyer-10/15 minutes
- V. Census Report-Bill Egelhoff-10/15 minutes
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business

Respectfully submitted by Bill Egelhoff, Secretary