

MINUTES OF MEETING - MARCH 8, 2010

Members in attendance - Fr. Bob Brusco, John Zarrella, Jo Belli, Betty Anderson, Linda Allaire, Kathy Cullinan, Lori Pandiscio, Elena Valera, Connie Tessi, Dennis Thibodeau, Donna Uusitalo and Sue Cronin.

Fr. Bob mentioned that the next step in the church closings is that the three parishes other than St. Bernard and St. Camillus will make their preference known as to which parish they'd like to join onto, and then the personnel will be determined. This will take place by April 14th.

There will be a 5:30 p.m. Mass added to the Saturday Mass schedule at St. Anthony Church. This new schedule will begin the Saturday after Easter. An email will be sent out to all ministries to see who would be able to serve at the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Fr. Bob stated that once we had a clear delineation of the new parishes he would like to start a project this autumn letting the residents know about St. Anthony Parish. The bottom line to all of this is that anyone can certainly go to whichever parish one chooses, but it would be important to make residents aware of the ministries and services at St. Anthony Church.

John Zarrella mentioned the potential need for any additional ministries which would accommodate new parishioners such as a transportation ministry. Linda Allaire suggested calling any new parishioners who may need a ride to church.

Personnel changes should most likely be made known to the Fitchburg Priests by mid May. These changes would take place after July 1st.

A Pentecost Mission may possibly be done in May. Fr. Bob is presently in the process of planning the annual Good Friday Citywide Way of the Cross. He is presently awaiting a response from Fr. Ortiz at St. Francis Church. The annual Novena begins on April 13, 2010.

The bathroom project, which was previously voted on by the parish council and accepted by the finance committee, is estimated to cost \$34,000. The plan is to take the old confession room and convert it to a reconciliation room, as well as to take the current reconciliation room and change it into a bathroom. These changes will take effect on the main floor of the church. The additional plan is to convert the downstairs bathroom into two bathrooms - a ladies room and a men's room.

The parish is in receipt of an endowment of \$58,800 from a former parishioner, and expects two additional gifts within the next year to eighteen months. These gifts are expected to be approximately \$50,000 and \$260,000-\$270,000.

Jo Belli stated that the Homebound Ministry numbers are the same as previously reported. She also mentioned that the Easter Plants to be distributed have been ordered.

Kathy Cullinan stated that the MIHN had six families staying at the shelter during the last week of February, but presently has eight families there. It seems that the residents are staying longer, and there are many little children there, with nine of them being under three years old.

Fr. Bob stated that the Confirmation will be at St. Francis Church this year, and the date may be on April 19, 2010.

Fr. Bob stated that it is estimated there will be 230 students enrolled at St. Anthony School this fall.

A Pot Luck Supper is scheduled for Saturday, May 20th after the 4:00 p.m. Mass. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

The next parish council meeting will be held on April 26, 2010, and there will be a combined meeting of both the parish council and finance committee on May 12, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cronin