

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 18, 2010

Parish council members in attendance:

Fr. Bob Brusco, John Zarrella, Lori Pandiscio, Betty Anderson, Donna Uusitalo, Dennis Thibodeau, Connie Tessi, Linda Allaire, Sue Cronin, Ministry Representatives: Jo Belli - Homebound Ministry, Amy Walsh - Hospitality Ministry, Kathy Cullinan - MIHN;

Fr. Bob opened the meeting with a prayer, then proceeded to inform the council that the Pastoral Committee with the Bishop was scheduled to take place the following day - January 19, 2010. (NOTE: The Pastoral Planning Committee met again on January 25 with final recommendations and the Fitchburg pastors are schedule to meet with the Bishop and the Committee on February 23.)

It is expected that the Bishop's decision regarding which parishes will remain open will be announced before the end of February. He also mentioned that both he and Fr. Chalmers from St. Bernard's Parish received calls from the Bishop's office inquiring how many families were represented in the schools. The results for both St. Anthony's and St. Bernard's were similar - each school having approximately 170 families in each of the schools. St. Anthony's has 96 families belonging to St. Anthony Parish, and St. Bernard's School has a similar ratio. Both schools have a strong parish core.

Father also stated that if St. Anthony Church stays open there will be three Sunday Masses at 8:00, 10:00 and 11:30 a.m. Presently within the City of Fitchburg there are a total of seven Masses which are offered between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. The goal of the consolidation of the parishes is to create a ministry which merges the people together, therefore it is likely that the Saturday evening Mass schedule would have a significant change to it. John Zarrella suggested that the Parish Council meet as soon as possible after the announcement is made about the church mergers in Fitchburg. It was decided that our next Parish Council meeting will be held on March 8, 2010, in the parish hall.

Fr. Bob also announced that he is in the process of trying to organize a citywide parish Lenten Mission. This would be a four evening mission, with the services held at four different churches - possibly including St. Anthony's and St. Camillus as two of them. This would be held during the second week of Lent. Father Bob stated that he is still awaiting a response from most of the pastors regarding this plan.

It is also hoped that the annual Lenten Movie Series will take place this year. It was suggested that maybe this year a few questions may be presented before showing the movie so that the viewers may be inspired to discuss the movie afterwards. This is the original intention of the movie series. (NOTE: Due to time constraints, the movie series will not be held this year.)

According to a report from the Finance Committee, Fr. Bob restated that presently St. Anthony Parish is expecting the following gifts: 25% of one person's estate = \$56,000 estimate; Flat gift of \$50,000; One person left all of his estate to two parishes, therefore each parish will be receiving approximately \$200,000. This gift is presently tied

up in the attorney's hands. These monies will pay for the construction of the upstairs handicapped bathroom as well as the renovation of the bathroom in the lower lever of the church.

Fr. Bob presented an update on the Religious Ed Program which is as follows: Confirmation Candidates have completed three workshops which are required before receiving the Sacrament. The Confirmation will be held on April 12, 2010, at St. Francis Church in Fitchburg. The parishes which will participate in this are St. Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Francis and possibly Immaculate Conception.

Fr. Bob also stated that last year the faculty received no pay raise for their services, but this year the expected pay raise will be between 2% and 4%, depending on the success of the enrollment for 2010-2011.

St. Anthony School will be presenting a variety show, produced by Jo Pagnotta, at Fitchburg High School on April 24, 2010. The cast is looking for new members for this production.

Three parishioners presented on their various ministries within the parish - Jo Belli stated that the Homebound Ministry delivered 145 plants to patients at Nursing Homes and parishioners who were homebound this Christmas. There are 22 active ministers which participate in this ministry. Amy Walsh stated that this month's Hospitality socials will be on the 30th and 31st of January. A Pot Luck Supper will also be held in March. Father stated that the Blessing of the Throats will be held the last weekend in January. Kathy Cullinan stated that MIHN presently has a full house of residents with a long waiting list of families waiting to get into the program. They currently have many small children and there are six families there. St. Anthony's is scheduled to host on February 21, 2010. Kathy stated that there is a need for more parishes to participate partially because Our Lady of the Lake Parish recently dropped out of the program. St. Bernard's Parish is the only other Catholic parish still participating in MIHN.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Cronin
Recording Secretary