

## Minutes of Meeting - Sept. 14, 2009

The meeting began with a prayer, and those in attendance were:

Parish Council Members:

Fr. Bob Bruso  
Jo Belli  
Connie Tessi  
Linda Allaire  
Lori Pandiscio  
Sue Cronin

Various Ministry Representatives and Parishioners:

Ann Parisi  
Ellen DePatie  
Elena Valeri  
Jack Ginnity  
Kevin Maynard

Fr. Bob presented an update about his position as Administrator at St. Joseph Parish and stated that in no way does this temporary position have anything to do with the future closings of four parishes in the City, but has everything to do with the fact that the LaSalette Community of Priests can no longer provide an adequate number of priests to serve the parishioners of St. Joseph's. His duties mostly include financial review and overseeing.

Fr. Bob also stated that the representatives from the eight parishes in Fitchburg would be meeting again on Wednesday evening to further discuss the parish reconfiguration which will take place in 2010. At this point St. Anthony's Focus Group will be suggesting the following reconfiguration of the Fitchburg parishes: Sacred Heart, Madonna of the Holy Rosary and St. Joseph's would merge with the worship site being at either Madonna or St. Joseph's.

Next, St. Anthony's and Immaculate Conception would merge with the worship site being St. Anthony's. St. Camillus Parish would continue as present, and St. Francis and St. Bernard's would merge with St. Francis being the worship site. Fr. Bob explained a bit about the heating costs at each site, and stated that John Zarrella would present for St. Anthony's at the meeting on Sept. 16th. There will also be three representatives from each of the other seven parishes. The Bishop, per Fr. Bob, will announce the decision of the closings no later than February, 2010, and all will go into place by June, 2010.

Fr. Bob also informed the council that he is planning to have a five week adult education series explaining Pope Benedict's encyclical "In Charity and Truth", which would begin on October 22, 2009.

We were informed that the Diocesan Women's Conference will be held in November and the parish will pay half of the \$45 fee. In case of hardship the parish will pay the full registration amount.

The fiscal year ended on August 31st for St. Anthony Parish. Father mentioned that at this time it appeared that some of the accounts were overbudgeted, hence this should adequately cover the shortages in other areas. He informed the members that all bills get paid first then the diocese gets paid. Also, all insurances are paid up front.

The standard contribution to the diocese is 7-1/2% of the contributions. Presently we owe \$17,000 to the diocese.

At this time there are three members of the Council whose term are complete. Therefore, it will be announced at the Masses this weekend that nominations for a three year term may be submitted by Sunday, October 11 and the election will be on the weekend of October 24-25.

Principal Jack Ginnity presented a school update and informed the council that enrollment was down by 23 students this year. This, he feels, is due to the economy as well as the fact that most of the seventh and eight grade students who transferred from St. Joseph's School a couple of years ago have now graduated. There was no increase in tuition this year and one teacher's position isn't being filled because the teacher is moving from the area.

Jack Ginnity also mentioned a program with "goodsearch.com" which is a cash back program to St. Anthony School for every search on this search engine which has identified St. Anthony's as their recipient of choice. More information about this will be forthcoming.

Linda Allaire stated that the Hospitality Ministry was in very good shape and had no immediate needs at this time.

Ellen DiPatie gave a Religious Education update and stated that the summer program during July was a great success.

Jo Belli stated that the Homebound and Nursing Home Ministry has 23 ministers and visits 33 homebound parishioners and 109 people at the nursing homes.

Ann Parisi stated that the Prayer Shawl Ministry has given a total of 46 shawls to patients, including 10 to the Sisters of St. Anne for the Vacations That Give Ministry. Lori Pandiscio suggested that the shawls be blessed at Mass in the presence of the congregation.

Fr. Bob stated that the Youth Ministry was presently struggling.

There will be approximately six new altar servers who will begin their training on Wednesday, Sept. 16th. Also, servers in grades 7 and 8 may serve at funerals during weekday mornings if their teacher feels it won't interfere with their studies.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, November 16, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Cronin  
Recording Secretary  
St. Anthony Parish Council