

St. Anthony of Padua Parish

Minutes

Parish Council/Finance Committee Joint Meeting

May 18, 2011

Fr. Bob opened meeting with a prayer

Review of Parish Assets

See Report. Since December, \$45,000 surplus has been transferred from checking to savings. We have experienced a 42% gain in contributions since fall of 2009, most likely due to Sharing Our Blessings Campaign and addition of 120 families to St. Anthony's since parish closings in the city. On-line giving has had some response, but seems to have plateaued.

Physical Plant

Stained glass window bottoms are now out for repair and are scheduled for reinstallation later in June. Tops will be repaired in Church later this summer. Handicap accessible bathroom has been installed in former confessional, two bathrooms have been installed on the upper level of the church hall, and two bathrooms in lower ell have been renovated. New front doors, a \$25,000.00 gift of Michael Pandiscio (50% of bequest was designated for memorial gift) will be custom made of Mahogany, and installed when completed. Renovation of the electrical system will cost \$14,000 - \$18,000. When completed, we can pursue interests in air conditioning for the church and a handicap lift for church hall, since both projects are contingent on the upgrade.

Rectory front porch was removed at a cost of \$3500.00. Back porch has been redone. Second floor ceilings and walls have been painted. New mattresses have been provided in bedrooms.

No questions, comments, or suggestions on physical plant.

Ministries

Kathy Cullinan reported on Montachusett Interfaith Hospitality Network. The organization hopes to purchase St. Cecilia's Convent in Leominster to accommodate a greater number of families at a time, and she is working with the diocese on this. Money is available to add a needed sprinkler system. Group is looking to add a kitchen, and is currently pursuing fundraising for this project. Since its inception, MINH has aided 140 families, with many success stories of moves to permanent housing. 12 area churches participate on a 9-week rotations schedule. More volunteers are always welcome.

Hospitality Committee has been operating for 5 years, and is currently reaching out to some of our newest parishioners for volunteer participation. Will add a Christmas breakfast on the first Sunday in December

Eucharistic Ministry was reported on by Jo Belli, who says 156 people are served weekly in homes, nursing homes, and the hospital.

Liturgical Ministry is in need of new altar servers, lectors, and Eucharistic Ministers. Candidates for EM require approval by the bishop and 2 weeks training.

Marriage Preparation is currently provided by only one couple, but could use two more to service engaged couples. The ministry's goal is to help couples recognize their strengths and weaknesses. Training requires 1 full day and 6 or 7 evenings, and needs to be completed annually.

Baptismal Preparation is provided by two couples, but could use 1 or 2 more, ideally couples with young children.

New ministry idea was presented suggesting that St. Anthony School provide a list of available projects geared for young people's participation, such as tutoring, working at fundraisers, etc.

Fr. Bob would like to activate our Youth Ministry again. He has observed "Life Teen" activities, and would like to pursue the possibility of implementing this program along with St. Joseph Parish. Program requires extensive training of an administrator at a cost of approximately \$3500, who would subsequently train additional parish volunteers. "Life Teen" has experienced a great deal of success in many parts of the country, as well as Leicester and Charlton, Ma.

According to Principal Jack Ginnity, the St. Paul Catholic School Consortium, which was founded 6 years ago, has been revised as a school support model, rather than the original governing body model, and is receiving a much more positive response from participating schools.

School Finance, Pat DiConza, School Business Administrator

Enrollment is currently 245 students. Budget is based on enrollment of 235 students, and current expectations are for enrollment of 250 for the fall. Currently all bills are paid. Tuition donations for Financial Assistance totaled \$80,000 this year, and will total \$100,000 for 2011/2012.

School Expansion Plan

Architectural plans would create three classrooms in the current cafeteria. A new lobby, kitchen, cafeteria, air-conditioned gym/community center, and new bathrooms would be built on

the school lot, at a total estimated cost of \$1,750,000. \$15,000 was spent on architectural plan, and \$14,000, to be reimbursed to the parish by the school, was spent for a feasibility study. Parish is still awaiting results of the study. Analysis by John Zarella of Research Results, based on 180 informal responses, showed 60% of parishioners expect to contribute. Official feasibility company will have more comprehensive results. It is expected we will need a corporate sponsor (\$500,000) to succeed. Fr. Bob does have some possible leads from area organizations. Parish hopes to receive smaller gifts of \$5000-\$10,000 from parishioners, alumni, etc., and we could also expect to mortgage a portion of the cost.

Floor Open for Comment

Suggestions included cleaning tree line along parking lot, and change or repair chain link fence on Salem Street. Church fans are in need of cleaning, and if or when we are able to do this, install hardware to allow fans to be lowered for more frequent cleaning and maintenance. Request for new missal covers is being followed up by Vicki.

Addendum

Fr. Bob has signed release forms for the distribution of the Kymalanien bequest. \$15,000 is available to us unrestricted, and will be deposited in our Rollstone account. Balance will be placed in a new DEF account, with a second account to hold accrued interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalyn Piro

