

Approved Parish Council Minutes
St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Joliet
September 27, 2011

In Attendance: Rebecca McHenry (At Large), Kurt Kambic (At Large), Mike Harvey (Men's Club), Cindy Harvey (CCW), Alicia Tocwish, John Shea (Finance), Mimi Hernandez (Spanish Ministry), Lynette Shea (55 Club), Lynn Michels (Liturgy), Father Pete Jankowski (*Ex Officio*), Deacon Darrell Kelsey (*Ex Officio*), Deacon Paul Kolodziej (*Ex Officio*) and Julie Dillenburg (*DRE - Ex Officio*)

Absent: Joan Bannon (Service)

Meeting opened at 7:06 p.m. with a prayer from Fr. Pete.

Fr. Pete mentioned that since his ordination, Darrel will now be a non-voting (*Ex Officio*) member of this committee.

I. Election of new president

At this time, Fr. Pete spoke on electing a new president for Parish Council. He requested the president arrange the times, check in with him and work up an agenda, fax the information to the other members and keep things moving.

Nominations: Cindy nominated Mike Harvey for the position, who spoke for a few minutes on being Men's Club president, has good administrative skills, he has the time and will be honest. Second by Lynn Michels, all in favor - Mike was elected as president.

II. Old Business - Parish Picnic

Father commented on the Parish Picnic. Bob Vergo thought this year's event made almost as much as the family fest did last year! There was some discussion on getting raffle tickets to the REO families for next year's picnic, even though they start after the event. Alicia thought we should add Bingo from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. and serve the meal after the Mass at 4:30 p.m.

II. New Business:

A. Spanish language RCIA Program

Father spoke about Rigo Padilla. He is a member and diaconal candidate from St. Andrew's parish in Romeoville, who has been doing a lot of work in our parish. Father would like Miriam Hernandez, Sylvia Sarver and Rigo Padilla, Felix Dominguez and he himself to help with the Hispanic members in the RCIA program. There are at least four Hispanics who speak little English and Fr. Pete would like to do a parallel program in Spanish for them.

B. Parish Offertory Program

Fr. Pete has asked Kurt to work with Alicia with this program and the pledge forms.

C. Deacon Paul's 30th Anniversary

Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. with a luncheon to follow in the gym.

D. Youth Group

Darrell will be working on a youth ministry/youth group for the parish. There was discussion on how to get the Hispanic youth involved too.

E. Head Start

Fr. Pete met with Glen Van Cura from Head Start. They are close to an agreement and will probably be moving into the school building in January.

F. Joliet Junior College

Father Pete will be meeting with them and the Hispanic Community on 10/10/11 to see where everyone is with this language program, what they need, beginner and intermediate program, etc. Announcements will be made at Mass.

G. Religious Education

Julie reported she is still getting student enrollments coming in. The classes are huge, 20-30 kids per class. 1st grade has 32 students and she may have to split the class. She reports over 200 students.

There was discussion on how to get the parents to come to Mass. Julie explained how Morris does it. They have this system of handing out cards to the students at Mass. They then have to hand the cards to Father when they shake his hand after Mass. These cards are then turned over to her so she then can record who is attending the service.

Other suggestions were; to order offertory envelopes for the children to use at Mass. They could turn them in and get checked off as attending. Julie likes the card system better. Another was to have the students have a bulletin signed by the pastor to prove they were at Mass.

Mike commented on the envelopes in regards to time, talent & treasure. People may not be able to give money, but could still use the envelopes, and get them to give of their time and talent back to the parish. Envelopes seem to be a money losing operation. Not just for the REO families, but all families.

Alicia spoke about an instance where one child submitted their envelope every Sunday for five years.

III. The State of the Parish

Fr. Pete spoke about how we have now reached a state of calm in the parish. We are moving in the right direction, we have a nice parish, then asked what can we do to bring people back to St. Pats, or are we ok now? Father asked each member to comment on how they thought we are doing.

Kurt Kambic thought the youth group would bring people in, the angry people have left. He asked about the guys in the gym who played basketball. Are they attending our church? He felt they should be sent reminders, the gym is free to use as long as they are contributing to the parish. He also questioned if a youth group Mass, later on Sunday night like St. Raymond's, might work for us.

John said he didn't disagree, but the real issue is Masses are scheduled and no one is coming. How do we get the youth to come to church, bring their friends? Maybe a change in music, make it more contemporary and fun?

Fr. Pete stressed that the educational element must be there for catechesis to be

there too. He asked if, with the youth group we would be willing to do it for the Hispanic teens too. Get them to attend some of the other Masses as well.

John said he notice the church is full when there is something going on at the parish the same day. Kurt thought we should have some fellowship time at church, if we get people to stay, we will grow. Father Pete suggested each major group could consider planning a night to benefit the youth groups. Maybe each group could coordinate with Alicia.

Alicia said the teens in RCIA last year were impressed with the hospitality of St. Pats and some have continued to attend Mass here. Kurt asked how we bring both youth groups together. Mimi asked that we don't do in on Thursday nights! That is the Hispanic prayer group night. Maybe Saturday in English might work.

John thought he is seeing something new, some rebuilding of the base in the parish. He said it takes time to invest in the neighborhood and in the parish. Becky said we impress people by who we are. We need pre-school parents and high school students involved; we need to replace us as we grow older. Cindy agreed with Mimi and Kurt. She asked if it was just the summer down time that no one was attending Mass. Will it pick up later? How do we get the people back from her generation? Why did they leave and how do we get them back?

The group brainstormed about creating other ideas to get people back to church involving each group of the parish sponsoring an evening that would draw the faithful together at the 4:30 Mass with a social in the gym afterwards. Ideas for the social included, but were not limited to, dinners in the gym, open gym basketball, family night in the gym, an adult dance, and teen activities as well. In other words, the parish invites the parishioners to church with different themes each month.

More suggestions were a class reunion for a Homecoming Mass each year. Put up the older class pictures etc. Kurt asked how do we "sell" our parish? Mike asked about youth servers. Who is there to serve Mass and how do we bring them back? He felt we should have a permanent place in the front of church offering training and applications for becoming members of St. Pat's.

It was felt we should continue the Vocation Cross and Holy Family devotions at the English and Spanish Masses. And there was a question as to how do we reach the Catholics in the area? Maybe a welcome letter distributed in the neighborhood, thru the St. Pat's Neighborhood Association or the Joliet Chamber of Commerce. Alicia said it was \$500 to join the Chamber and St. Pat's did belong at one time.

Father Pete offered a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynette Shea