

Holy Trinity Parish Council Minutes
Richmond, IA
Monday, January 18, 2010

Present: Father Rich Adam, Julie Adam, Julie Berger, Derick Cranston, Deb Fuhr, Cathy Gent (presiding), Ryan Harland, Jim Hauth, Jeannie Jones, Katie Karnes, Bill Kessel, Greg Murphy, Clint Shalla (Trustee), Tom Slaubaugh

Excused: Jim Cayton (Trustee)

Called to order by Cathy Gent, Council President, and led in prayer by Fr. Rich Adam.

Finance/Administration

Reviewed the Fiscal Year to Date report and the July through December Profit/Loss Comparison report submitted by Doug Yotty. Holy Trinity Parish continues to be in a strong financial position and is on target for paying off the Parish Life Center mortgage on time as pledges continue to come in as promised. No issues of concern noted at this time, and the Council expresses its gratitude to Doug and the Finance Council for their work.

Holy Trinity's 2009 Annual Diocesan Appeal is finishing up. Our goal was \$19,386, and we have surpassed that by \$4480 (a surplus that is \$4131 less than last year.) Any surplus collected each year is added back to the operating funds account for the parish.

Mike TeBockhorst has been retained by the Parish for PLC custodial and general maintenance work and has met with Derick Cranston to review expectations and tour the building. The Council thanks Rick and Cindy Surly for their three years of excellent service and looks forward to Mike's work as well.

Derick reported that the PLC floor finishing project has not been finally scheduled but is expected to take place in late January or early February. The floor will be wet-sanded and a professional finish applied. Derick also reported that the professional cleaning machine has been ordered and will be in place by the time the floor work is complete.

Thanks to Greg Murphy for the installation of the HT School stained glass window in the stairway – it looks very nice! Lights behind it will be added at a later date.

Diocesan Campaign: Moving Forward in Faith and Hope

The Parish Councils of Holy Trinity and St Joseph met together in the PLC on December 17th with Melissa Watkins from the Diocese to further discuss the goals and process of this campaign. A DVD was shown detailing this information and each Council then discussed their plans for the campaign in their parishes. The Diocese of Davenport has set an overall target for its first-ever fund-raising campaign at \$23 million, of which \$55, 828 has been assessed to Holy Trinity, to be raised over five years. Instead of forming a parish-based campaign, the Council members propose that this amount be paid from our current funds. A letter requesting this action has been written to the Bishop and will be sent this week from Fr Rich and the Council President and Trustees. It is expected that this proposal will be accepted on condition that parishioners will be given the opportunity to view the DVD and obtain further information, and be instructed on how to donate further in their own names.

This opportunity will formally take place on February 7th after 9:30 Mass. Jeannie Jones has agreed to organize a breakfast for all parishioners in the PLC (volunteers to help should contact Jeannie.) Fr Rich has secured another priest to cover his 11am Mass so he can be in attendance, and all Parish Council members will be there as well. Attendance by all parishioners is strongly encouraged.

Church Life, Worship, Spirituality

Holy Trinity is required to pay for subscriptions to The Catholic Messenger, numbering half the number of member households of the parish. Renewals are due each January and parishioners can reduce the HT financial load by paying for their own subscriptions. At \$25 for 50 weekly issues, and full of Diocesan news and national/world news from the Catholic perspective, it continues to be a great “deal,” and should be in every home in the parish!

Lent begins on February 17th (Easter is April 4th.) Ash Wednesday Masses will be said:

- 8am – St Joseph
- 12n – Mercy Hospital
- 6pm – St Mary
- 7:30pm – Holy Trinity (CCD begins at 6:45 and ends with Mass)

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held each Wednesday evening, facilitated by the Faith Formation classes.

The last set of Why Catholic? classes will begin the week of February 17th and end before Holy Week. This four-year program retains a membership in our Cluster Parishes of approximately 100 people and has been an awesome program for those involved.

Family Life

Planning and registration for the Christian Experience Weekends (CEW) has begun. The Women's weekend will be Feb 19-21 and the Men's will be March 5-7. Those who have not experienced this wonderful program are encouraged to do so. See Fr Rich or Julie Adam if you have questions.

St Mary Faith Formation classes will hold a St. Valentine's Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 14th.

The Parish Council received a letter from Bette Brant, President of the Little Flower Court, offering to fund improvements/repairs to the church with their proceeds from the Fall Dinner kolache sales and the matching funds provided by the home office. Their suggestion was to reinstall the ceiling fans that were removed when the church was repainted several years ago. This suggestion was unanimously approved by the Council. The suggestions of painting the outside trim of the church and/or painting the ceilings in the men's and women's restrooms were tabled until cost estimate for the fans were secured. Greg Murphy was authorized to contact an electrician for quotes.

Spiritual Formation

No new reports.

Youth

The Knights of Columbus have scheduled two more Roast Beef Dinners, to raise funds for the Youth Programs, on Feb 27th and March 13th. These have been very successful, with greater attendance each time they are offered.

Other

After some discussion, the Council tabled the topic of donation of money or gift to the St Mary Building Campaign. Members are encouraged to bring ideas to the next meeting.

The February meeting will be cancelled in deference to the parish breakfast on Feb 7th. Next Council meeting will be held March 15th at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Adam