

## **Holy Trinity Parish Council Meeting Monday March 8, 2010**

Present: Cathy Gent, Deb Fuhr, Katie Karnes, Tom Slaubaugh, Ryan Harland, Greg Murphy, Julie Berger, Derick Cranston, Julie Adam, Clint Shalla. Jeannie Jones and Fr. Rich  
Guests: James TeBockhorst, Bette Brandt, Lou Harland, Sandy Marner, Jane Duwa

The meeting began with a prayer

**With guests on hand that had agenda items to attend to, we addressed these items first.**

**Policy for Faith Formation:** Jane Duwa and Sandy Marner are our Faith Formation leaders this year. Their responsibility includes making sure the safety and protection of the children are provided for. After witnessing several children almost get run over in the parking lot when classes are dismissed they find it is important that parents come to the carport of the PLC and walk their children to the car. Jane and Sandy asked the council for their support in this policy as several parents expressed their disapproval of walking their child who should be old enough to walk to the car.

It was agreed upon that the parking lot is not the most efficient when it comes to safety, especially in the dark nights of winter. The policy enforced is in accordance to the national VIRTUS program in which all teachers are trained, particularly doing whatever is necessary to provide for the safety of the children. It was noted that this policy may seem trivial today, but if anyone were to be hurt how quickly that perception may change – we must do everything to avoid anyone being hurt.

Also in the discussion was of all the things to find fault with or criticize, safety for our children should be a nonissue. Rather, one of gratitude for the teachers and leaders of a program that fosters the Catholic Faith and helps all people to live together in peace. May that peace be upon our community as we work together providing a good faith formation program and safety for our children at the same time.

### **Discussion regarding Richmond Proposed Lagoon**

Also present were James TeBockhorst, Bette Brandt and Lou Harland expressing concern about the proposed sewer lagoon the county supervisors are pushing to construct. The main concerns were the added expenses it would be for everyone in the Richmond community including Holy Trinity. Hard to accept is the proposed cost of this project when it seems there are other more cost effective viable options available. It is difficult to understand why such a vast and expansive project be imposed upon the entire community when other options are available.

When Holy Trinity was first approached upon the use of their land, Fr. Rich, Trustees and members of council were led to believe the project “had” to be done and having the lagoon outside the city would be the best option. We agreed to be friendly in the acquisition of the land if indeed the county were to condemn it via eminent domain. However, when we learned that other options were available and this seemed to be such a burden on the community, Holy Trinity withdrew its ‘friendly acquisition’ and do not support the project.

Fr. Rich spoke with our County Attorney, Barb Edmondson, who advised the people of Holy Trinity and Richmond to continue contacting their county supervisors and let them know of our disapproval and objections. Parishioners with great concern about this should contact our county supervisor:

[supervisors@co.washington.ia.us](mailto:supervisors@co.washington.ia.us) or Washington County Courthouse, PO Box 889, Washington, IA 52353, 319.653. Also, you may call Barb Edmondson our County Attorney. Her address is: [countyattorney@co.washington.ia.us](mailto:countyattorney@co.washington.ia.us), PO Box 841 319.653.7746.

Fr. Rich has asked Barb Edmondson to consider these other options and at least provide feedback as to why they are not using alternative, suggested solutions. It only seems fair to Holy Trinity and the people of Richmond to have these answers before we allow engineers and members of Garden Associates further plan to access our land.

Fr. Rich also mentioned a couple lawyers that are familiar with real estate matters to seek advice for appropriate ways to approach this problem. More information will follow.

Getting back to the Council Agenda:

### **Finance and Administration**

1. There were no financial reports offered at this meeting.
2. The Diocesan Campaign "Moving Forward in Faith and Hope" continues. Parishioners were mailed out campaign booklets explaining the purpose and intent of the campaign. Parishioners are encouraged to support their diocese as in turn we are only supporting our own parish as well. Mindful that 50% of all pledged to the diocese returns to Holy Trinity Parish.
3. There was discussion regarding the paving of the parking lot. We have received two bids that were very much the same totaling \$44,000.00. There was a generous memorial given for Bill Riggan specifically for this project. Julie Adam made the motion that we should proceed with this project, seconded by Julie Berger. All voted in favor. Clint Shalla will follow up and try to have this project completed before later spring when weddings and receptions are booked.

### **Church Life, Worship and Spirituality**

1. Fr. Rich encouraged people who have not subscribed to the Catholic Messenger to continue to do so. This is an important paper helping us in Catholic Formation as well as happenings around the diocese.
2. The Easter Vigil will be at 8:30 pm, St. Mary's, Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
3. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 at St. Mary's.
4. First Communion is set for Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Family Life**

1. Fr. Rich reminded everyone of the Chrism Mass, March 22, 5:00 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.
2. Lenten Parish Communal Penance Service, 4:00 March 28 (Palm Sunday)
3. Greg Murphy had several examples of ceiling fans that the Forrestors would like to install in the church. Greg was going to inquire with another person on quality, size of fans required.

### **Spiritual Formation**

1. Reconciliation will be held for the Faith Formation Classes Wednesday March 24, 6:45. Fr. Tom Doyle will help out with confessions.

### **Youth**

1. The last Roast Beef dinner sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will be held at 6:00 pm, Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup>. This benefits the Youth Program of the Diocese. All are welcome to attend.