

St. Timothy Parish Council
January 29, 2009

In Attendance: Jim Connors, Deacon Marion Smithberger, Jim Auber, Jeff Silleck, Gail Wenger, Mary Ballantyne, Laurie Jenny, Tom Rankin, Andy Davis, Rita Feige

[No minutes reviewed from the Nov 2008 meeting: Gail Wenger unable to attend due to illness in family]

Pastor's Report: Deacon Marion (Father Tim unable to attend due to funeral of seminary classmate) There was discussion of the need to assist Father Tim with and/or provide leadership for maintenance and other non-liturgical responsibilities and needs. There was discussion of the need for regularly scheduled maintenance and upkeep activities, e.g. every third Saturday etc. Laurie Jenny will share the list of required maintenance chores with John Davidson.

Youth Ministry: Chris Valentine was not able to attend. Concern over lack of attendance at youth activities was expressed. Rita Feige reported that Religious Education had just purchased T3, a Bible study aimed at teens (junior high and high school).

Board of Finance: Mike Foley
Meeting had been cancelled due to snow.

Religious Education: Rita Feige
Confirmation will be Sunday Feb 8.

New Business:

Liturgy Committee – Deacon Marion Smithberger

Deacon Marion extended thanks for the gift of a stole from the parish for his ordination to the diaconate. He reports that all is going well, and shares that he does need to spend extra time to accomplish aspects of his duties, as he is doing everything for the first time in his new role. He commented on the role of a Liturgy Committee: a good Liturgy Committee has a catechetical function, and fulfills a role when honest feedback is needed. Deacon would like to be a facilitator to get people involved, and will probably chair this committee, which is likely to be established.

Keith Kaszak, St. Brigid Parish: Guest to discuss St. Brigid's lay ministry program (see handout) Keith shared that he had no formal training in this area, but met Jim Connor at a Deanery meeting. St. Brigid's no longer has elections for the School Advisory Committee or Parish Steering Committee (PSC); members are appointed by the pastor. When Keith first joined St. Brigid parish, they had 300 families; they now have 3000. They no longer have an associate pastor, as of somewhat more than 2 years ago. They do have two deacons, Frank Iannarino and Don Poirier, and Fr. Connick, who is in residence and says several Masses each weekend. They decided they needed to support Mnsgr. Hendricks more as a consultative and decision-making body, roles that are especially important when difficult or unpopular decisions must be made. In this model, information exchange occurs at the end of the PSC meeting; these meetings last about 1.5 hrs, with the information exchange occurring in the final 20-30 minutes. Written reports are submitted in advance by each committee. The PSC model was tested when the parish went through a "perfect storm"/confluence of difficult issues: at the Bishop's request, the school went from 30 to 35 students/class and at the same time adopted the new grading system, which made many parents unhappy. The school was relatively young at the time; the school went quickly from having a waiting list to many empty seats. Without changing the operating costs, this negatively impacted the parish budget. At that time, they completely re-engineered their budget forecasting, developed a ten year plan, and now set goals at the beginning of each year. Monsignor Hendricks makes all final decisions and appoints all members of the board. St. Brigid's now has two classes per grade and more than 600 students, from pre-

kindergarten to eighth grade. They also had a special committee for the Parish Center: first to decide whether to build, then to develop and implement a plan, then to implement use. Monsignor Hendricks attends all PSC, School Advisory Council, and Finance board meetings; he receives reports from all others. All reports are submitted in writing and in advance. They have worked to evolve to having the written reports as the primary means of communication. Actionable items are those that are very important; there is generally not more than one of these each month (e.g. safety issues for religious ed).

Parish council constitution:
Distributed but not discussed

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Wenger