

Our Lady of Loretto Parish Council Meeting
February 10, 2009

Present: Liz Danko, Kathleen Moisan, , Father Ralph, Sister Margretta, Sandie Brown, Murray Muscat, Jim Feldt, Pat Orr, Jeff Sheeran, Wendy Dougherty, Renee Coulter, Kathy Vena, Berta Nakagawa, Lori Sosnowski, Jeanette Grabowski

Absent/excused: Gwen Gonzalez, Mike Milville

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM Opening prayer was led by Kathy Vena

Pastor's Report: We are very close to completing details to accept a tenant in the education building. A Charter school will rent the 12 classrooms, with the possibility of more in 2010/2011, in the north end of the Building. This is a three year lease.

A committee has been formed to explore the much needed floor covering for the Church. The kitchen renovation (in the Family Center) has been completed (in time for the Fish Fry). This was a much-appreciated effort by many parish members. Thank you.

Mike Kohn will track our Parish's new Evangelization initiative.

Vicariate: Jeff Sheeran reports that the Redford Quad goals on Evangelization are on hold until all parishes are on board. Parishes in the Redford Quad are considering some collaboration with each other, with regard to the RCIA. The Teen Mass is going well. Fr Ralph suggested that the meeting held prior to each mass be better represented.

Disability Rep: Wendy Dougherty wondered if we had advertised enough for the February Blood Drive. The collective opinion was that we had done a good job of advertising. We usually have a drive in February and August. Wendy also would like to be replaced as Disability Representative. She has offered to be considered as a Council member-at-large.

Commission Reports:

Education: Pat Orr reports that Marriage Preparation has had a change of personnel but is continuing well. We are happy to report that the Liturgy of the word now has 17 children in participation. Dan and Karen Vincent will also be participating in the Liturgy of the Word. We are also seeing an increase in the after-school program. We are planning some Lenten items for our website.

Christian Service: Sandy Brown reports that when they reviewed their goals it was realized that many have already been met. They are planning an event with the Methodist Children's Home. On 2/13 Dee Taranowski and Sr. Margretta will tour the Home and find out what they need or want and more planning is forthcoming.

Our dates for serving St. Leo's are: 5/2, 10/3 and 12/26.

Worship: Jim Feldt urges us to get a Youth Representative for the Parish Council. The Baptism pool leaks and will need work. Jim Feldt and others will speak at Masses to explain Taize which will be held at 7:00 pm on March 31 @ 7:00. Vespers will be held at 7:00 pm on March 22.

Sister Margretta reports that the Communal Reconciliation service will be on March 31 @ 7:00 pm and will be led by Fr. Ralph. Stations of the Cross will begin on 2/27/09. Tenebrae will be on Good Friday at 7:30 pm. The women's retreat will be on February 28. It will be a half day event for \$20.00. Our Soup Supper is on March 25. The Lenten Calendar will be on the Parish website.

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Stewardship: Murray Muscat reported that Eric Syverson spoke about the Time, Talent & Treasure campaign that will be held on April 18/19 and April 25/26. Weekend assignments were explained, and each group was asked to do 3 things by the next Commission night: [A] designate a point person for each of the three Masses; [B] coordinate some food and beverages with the other groups; and [C] prepare a brochure to pass out.

We obtained the required permit(s) for the kitchen remodeling, and the work is finished. Our initial cost estimate was \$1,000.00, and it now looks like we will spend \$1,450.00 to complete the project. The ceiling tiles in the Rectory have not been replaced.

Recipients for the loose change collections through September, as follows: March - Playscape; April - On Palm Sunday there will be a second collection for *The Society of the Catholic Apostolate* (also known as *The Pallottine Fathers & Brothers*). This is Father Ralph's religious order and this collection will be taken instead of a loose change collection; May - the Memorial Garden; June - the OLL food pantry; July - Vacation Bible School; August - American Red Cross; and September - OLL Parish Health Ministry.

We were shown a new "Gather" hymnal that has been picked by our music director. A set of 340 books for the pews and 37 books for the music ministry will cost us about \$6,000.00 plus shipping. We will ask parishioners to donate the cost of a book in honor of or in memory of a loved one or family member. A cookbook sale to defray part of the costs remains a possibility

The Floor Covering Committee, along with Father Ralph, have looked at several different churches in an effort to prudently recover the floor of the Church. Membership drive for the Society of St. Vincent De Paul went well, and we have 25-30 persons interested in becoming involved at various levels of commitment. This increased level of volunteerism will allow for greater service to the community, but there will be a need for additional funding. A coordinated parish wide fund raising process for reaching out to businesses within our area was discussed. We will assemble a spreadsheet of known business donors, to eliminate repetitive requests for funding. All fund raising groups will be asked for their donor lists, Murray M. and Julie G. will create the spreadsheet.

New Business: A Nominating Committee was formed for Council & Commissions. Wendy Dougherty and Elizabeth Danko will head this, with anyone else interested in participating welcome. All Commissions should receive next year's commitments at the next meeting, and report any vacancies to this committee.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be March 10, 2009

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Moisan

NOTE: These minutes have not been reviewed.