

**Our Lady Help of Christian Parish**  
**Parish Pastoral Council**  
**March 2, 2010**  
**7:30-9:00pm**

**Present:** Fr. John Sassani, Virginia Arpino, Istavan Bonyhay, Antonietta Civetta, Thomas Coan, Ken Donalds, Lisa Francis, Stephen Kern, Larry Kessler, Andy Majewski, Carole McElduff, Tom McLaughlin, Kara O'Malley, Msgr. Dennis Sheehan,

**Presiding:** Father Sassani

**Minutes:** Lisa Francis

**Opening Prayer:** Father Sassani

**Financial Report:**

- The Grand Annual Appeal has been a remarkable success considering the current economic climate.
- Weekly collections have met or exceeded targets.
- Trinity School is operating at break even point. This is a wonderful ministry which greatly benefits students. Ninety-seven percent of Trinity students continue on to college. The school is currently run with good financial controls that will help it to survive as a ministry. Going forward there will be a distinct institutional break from the Parish so that the Parish will no longer absorb any of the school's financial debt.
- Floors of the parish will be redone in November.
- Eleven thousand dollars was collected during special collections for Haiti.
- An energy conservation group has been contracted to help OL improve energy efficiency. Energy conserving light bulbs are now used, lights in the St. Jean and Furlong Halls work independently of each other and lighting motion detectors have been added. We have parishioners that are looking at the possibility of adding heating zones in all buildings.
- We currently have 65 families contributing weekly through the ParishPay system.
- Quarterly financials are now available on the Parish website.

**Updates:**

- Stephen Kern commented that the coffee hour has been very well attended and Thomas Coan mentioned that name tags will be worn by the welcoming committee at the coffee hour so that new parishioners can become more easily acquainted with one another.
- Msgr. Sheehan mentioned that we have four catechumens preparing for the Easter Vigil and with the waning of H1N1, the communion cup will be returned to mass next week.
- Ginny Arpino commented on the vibrancy of the liturgies.

- Kara O'Malley reported that there was a slight increase in religious education enrollment. Sixty students will be confirmed for the Spring. There are 45 students and 9 adults signed up for the work camp retreat. There is a waiting list with 10 students but there may be open spots in the Corpus Christi/St. Bernard program for those students. Of the group, there are many freshmen students attending.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Fr. Sassani mentioned that there are currently 160 people registered in the ARISE program.
- The mass numbers were high for the Ash Wednesday services.
- The Parish Faith Festival was practical, fast moving and very well received with 330 participants.
- Our Lady's will be renewing the St. Vincent de Paul ministry. There was a significant need around the Thanksgiving holiday but that need has continued with a greater number of people asking for assistance. This ministry will provide assistance with rent and utilities as well as food cards. Fr. Sassani and Rosemary will vet the need within the community. There are funds available to begin running this ministry.
- The Christmas sing-a-long was cancelled due to weather for the third year in a row.

**Items of Concern:**

- Fr. Sassani noted that there were 4 significant pipe leaks so far and that this is to be expected in our older buildings.
- Fr. Sassani would also like to reach more parishioners with the gospel message of aiding those in need in our community. The Council will discuss ways to market the St. Vincent de Paul ministry so that more parishioners are aware of opportunities to help.