

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
Parish Pastoral Council
April 15, 2010
7:30-8:30PM

Present: Jen Bader, Anne Marie Carr-Reardon, Virginia Arpino, Istavan Bonyhay, Thomas Coan, Ken Donalds, Lisa Francis, Carole McElduff, Kara O'Malley, Fr. John Sassani, Rosemary Siebold, Jennifer Suehs-Vassel

Presiding: Anne Marie Carr-Reardon

Minutes: Lisa Francis

Opening Prayer: Father Sassani

Energy Task Force Report:

Hans Hinteregger was our guest speaker representing the Justice and Peace Committee's Energy Task Force Report. Hans presented a spreadsheet detailing the parish's energy use. Approximately \$250,000 is spent annually on energy bills. Gas and heating represent approximately 80% of the total energy costs. Two hundred light bulbs were replaced in the lower church with a \$600 investment that should yield \$20,000 in savings over the life of the bulbs. The next step will be to change the upper church chandelier lights. This will cost \$2,500, and should cut non-heating energy consumption there by 75%. Older fixture changes will be necessary in some instances in the upper church. The high school building already uses fluorescent lighting, so energy savings in that building will be minimal. Heating improvement is necessary and the conversion will be costly. Proposals are being evaluated. Final proposals will be reviewed by the Finance Council and Parish Staff, and presented to the Parish Council.

Review of Minutes:

The March 2nd notes were approved and accepted by the Council.

Updates:

- Religious education classes have ended. There will be 57 10th grade students receiving confirmation on May 8th.
- Work camp currently has 45 young adults and 9 adults registered. There is still a waiting list of 7-8 young adults. St. Bernard's Parish or Corpus Christi may have openings in their program. The work camp program still needs to raise \$8,000-\$10,000. There will be a flowering plant fundraiser in this week's bulletin.
- Rosemary is evaluating new religious education text books for the coming year. She has enlisted the help of catechists in evaluating three different texts.
- Rosemary has asked first grade parents to help with this year's communion program. This will get them acquainted with the program for the following year.
- The Parish is in need of 5-6 volunteers for the baptismal ministry.

- Jen informed the Council that there is a new Pastor in our sister parish in Honduras. There are liaisons with email access which will help to establish a relationship with him. Jen would like to organize a small group to visit Honduras this summer.
- Coffee sales are strong and more varieties will become available.
- The Justice and Peace Committee is in the process of creating a series of reflection pieces to be distributed with the bulletin. The current hand out is about water. These were distributed to the elementary children on the last day of class as well.
- The Parish is developing a marriage preparation program that will augment the Espousal program.
- San Marcos coffee bags were distributed to the elementary religious education students as a Lenten project. A four week sheet of Honduran facts was discussed with the children each week. It was very successful and a wonderful learning experience linking the religious education program with the Justice and Peace Committee work.
- Tom Coan reported that the Welcoming Committee coffee hours have been well attended with about 65 parishioners wearing name tags. Mass announcements do help to increase attendance. New parishioners receive an open invitation to attend these coffee hours.

Pastor's Report:

Fr. Sassani noted that he received wonderful feedback on the Triduum services. The Penance offering was very well received, and Fr. Sassani and Fr. Sheehan will continue to offer this one night a month. There will be a new pastor living in the rectory in September who will be pursuing studies.

Financial Report:

The Grand Annual Appeal exceeded the \$190,000 goal. There are still outstanding pledges to be completed that will bring the final amount to approximately \$192,000. There is a loan with the Archdiocese that will be retired, and reductions to other outstanding loans related to the school subsidies are in discussion.