

St. Benignus Parish Pastoral Council Meeting September 7, 2004

The council met, preceded by Mass, at the Religious Ed building. In attendance were members Fr Frank, Eric Givens, Kristy Bruckner, Jesus Ramirez, Kristy Bockrath, Kathie Poole, Sue Smith and Pat Hays. Also attending were Nancy Williams, Alanna Kingsolver, Beth Flynn and Kathy Henry.

Kathy Henry, Director of Religious Education, updated the council on the PSR program, and discussed the dates for the sacraments for the coming year. First reconciliation will be held during the Advent Penance Service on Thursday, December 16, 2004. First Communion will be held on Mother's Day, May 8, 2005.

Confirmation will also be scheduled soon for the 2005-2006 school year.

Election of officers for the 2004-2005 year were held: Sue Smith was elected President and Kristy Bruckner was elected Vice-President.

Beth Flynn offered her services, and that of a co-worker, in conducting a Strategic Planning Training workshop for the council. Sue Smith will coordinate and announce the dates at a later date.

Pat Hays updated council on the rose window project. After removing the windows, the contractor has discovered that the entire frame is rotted and will need to be replaced. Bob Collins, the stained glass window expert, and John Haas, both from Cincinnati, inspected the frame, and have provided an estimate of \$18,000 for the frame replacement. Council voted to proceed with the project. Various designs were discussed, with no definite design approved as yet.

Kathie Poole presented her report on Christian Service. Cookies for Kairos went well, and organizers were very pleased with St. Benignus' response on such short notice. There is enough money to pay our obligation to Habitat for Humanity this year, and a new house is being built in Hillsboro. St. Benignus will provide lunch to the workers on one of the days of construction. The St. Benignus Prayer Chain is up and going. It was suggested that Kathie's committee also take charge of the prayer list that is published in the bulletin. Upcoming events include the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Giving Tree, the Christmas Dinner and the Souper Bowl.

Eric Givens, Finance Committee Chairman, presented the fiscal year financial statements. Collections were up, and so were expenses. It has been determined that the weekly collection would need to be approximately \$1,800. Fr. Frank will give a "State of the Parish" talk the weekend of September 18 & 19, and Eric will give a financial recap the following weekend for Stewardship Sunday.

Fr. Frank discussed fellowship responsibilities, with Sue Smith's recommendation that new parishioners be involved in the monthly gatherings. New parishioners will be asked to pair with a member of council in hosting the fellowship. Sue has also suggested putting together a welcoming basket for new members.

Fr. Frank again spoke about the importance of a high turnout during the October count. The future of our parish will depend on our numbers and he is asking all parishioners to be involved in asking current, former and prospective members to attend mass.

Fr. Frank announced that RCIA will begin September 16. To date, there has been 4 people sign up, and he is hoping for more. Again, the entire parish is being asked to respond to the Gospel and to spread the word and witness to the community.

Kristie Bockrath, Worship Commission chairperson and Ladies Auxiliary President reported that the music for church services is being worked on and hopefully improved, and that music planning for the remainder of the year has been planned. The next Ladies Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for September 21st.

January fellowship will be replaced by an Epiphany dinner after the Sunday mass.

Council discussed a parish festival, but no action was taken.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2004, a week later due to the general election being held the week prior.

The council meeting ended in prayer.