

MINUTES

Family Life Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Present: Maurie Oehler, Mary Novey, Doris Krogman, Verna Panka, Jeri Kluesner, Donna Cipra, Nancy Becker

Absent: Mark & Ann Grunwald, Lettie Oehler, John Chaffee, Shirley Cipra, Rob & Vicki Samples

Meeting opened at 7:05 by praying one decade of the rosary. Minutes accepted as written.

Current account balance is \$1092. Payments to Coaches Restaurant and gratuity for Jeff & Alice Heinzen (speakers) still need to be paid. When these have been paid we will have a **balance of only \$344** in our account. Fr. Weighner and the finance council have still not discussed our request for funds. Nancy B. will send out another copy of our request to Fr. Weighner and the finance council along with a cover letter and an update on our current financial situation.

Several **angels and prayer cards** were bagged and ready for delivery. Committee members are asked to send a thank you to Diane Day for making the angels. Members each took a bag for delivery at the end of meeting.

Welcome breakfast is still on hold because we do not have an accurate count of new parishioners. Discussion held on the importance of making people feel welcome all of the time. Suggestion made to put a monthly announcement into the bulletin to welcome people and questions about a parish directory or photo book. Mary N. agreed to contact Fr. Weighner about this.

Doris K. reported on the **Parish Support Group**. She and Nancy developed a brochure to promote membership. This group is needed in our parish for spiritual/ emotional support. Outside community groups who charge for services or who are narrower in focus (grief support only) do not adequately meet parishioner needs. However if this group is going to be expanded and publicized, Doris feels unqualified to run the group. She merely filled in after Fr. Jack left the parish and has no training in counseling. Fr. Weighner is not interested in helping to facilitate the group and referred her to Fr. Raj. His would be temporary and occasional help because he is only in our parish for a year. Decision made to put expansion efforts on hold until a qualified facilitator can be found.

Faith Alive is continuing successfully. There is a good turnout at both the Sunday night and Monday sessions. Discussions have been interesting.

Donna C. is organizing the **Confirmation Prayer Partner Project** again this year. She will start the sign-up on the weekend after Thanksgiving.

Verna P. reported that the **Couples Night Out** with speakers Jeff & Alice Heinzen was very well received. 32 couples participated. Participants would like something like this every year. One couple did not pay for their dinner and will be contacted with a request for payment.

Mass of Remembrance (All Souls Day celebration) was held at St. John's this year. Families appreciated activity. Microphones were not working well yet and so names were difficult to hear by parishioners. Suggestion made to announce focus of service before Mass starts as well as when names are announced at Communion.

Verna P. has not heard anything back from Fr. W about a 3-day **Mission for 2011**. She will talk to him again when he returns from Rome. She will also contact Fr. Sam Martin to see if he has any open dates this spring.

NEW BUSINESS

Verna P. and Mary N. reported on their **breakfast meeting with Jeff & Alice Heinzen**. They shared many ideas for family life committee to pursue. They will also be sending a copy of a resource book to the parish about programs and materials available from the diocese i.e. workshop for parents on teaching/modeling our faith in the home, ideas for support groups, organizing a youth ministry, etc.

Meeting closed with a prayer. **Next meeting** will be January 19th at 7:00 in St. Gabriel's School teacher lounge.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Becker