

## **PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES MAY 17, 2010**

Present: Fr. Bill, John Ellgas, Don Dettor, Colleen Kechter, John Merrill, Barbie Boehme-Dechant, Paul Ritter, Susan Boland, Rick Peltier, Hugh Wiesensal and Vonnie Young from CAR  
Excused: Don Dettor, Dave Leifheit, Ellen Huck, John Haigh

The meeting opened with prayer. Minutes from our April meeting were approved.

John Ellgas invited Hugh and Vonnie to speak about CAR. They gave a brief history of CAR, read the revised CAR Mission Statement and passed out calendars from 2008-2010 of events that CAR has been involved in or sponsored. Hugh addressed the funding formula for CAR. He reported that it changed this year to reflect the fact that CAR is not involved as much with the children, youth and schools. Half of the students were taken out of the CAR formula for 2010-2011. For 2011-2012, the formula will include no students. St. Paul has seen the largest increase in CAR dues. Hugh told the council that parishes with schools are not happy with the new adult direction, as proposed by the tri-parish collaboration and not happy with the change in assessment fees.

Vonnie addressed some of CAR's concerns:

- The word is not getting out to the community about CAR and everything they are doing.
- They are hopeful that the clergy will promote CAR better in the future, including all fundraising efforts.

"God Anoints You....Work Miracles" is the new mission and direction of CAR. Pamphlets were distributed and Vonnie spoke about how this came about. Seven joint committees worked on this with input from the community at an event in January at St. Catherine's High School. Three solid committees were formed: Evangelization, Formation and Social Justice.

John Ellgas asked Hugh and Vonnie, "To what extent CAR resources will be used to focus on Adult Education and Formation?" Hugh felt that much time and energy will be put into adult formation, but there are some things relating to children and youth that will continue under CAR. Examples include: Teacher and Catechist Inservice, Safeguarding God's Children, Family formation and fun events. Hugh reminded the council that CAR has only one employee, Anna Marie Clausen, who works 32 hours per week. (Her hours were cut last year to balance the budget.) He said more collaboration and involvement from parishes and pastors are needed to make CAR successful.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Fr. Bill informed the council that St. Sebastian Parish has pulled out of the Sowing the Seeds Tri-Parish Collaborative Christian Formation Program. Fr. Paul at St. Sebastian has indicated that they would like to continue to collaborate in other areas. The Pastors and Pastoral Staff of St. Paul and St. Rita met to discuss future collaboration between the two parishes. All agreed that it is worth pursuing and progress is being made to develop a solid structure.

### **Director's Report:**

Colleen reported that the meeting with St. Rita was beneficial in moving forward with the financial and administrative plan. It was agreed that St. Paul will be the data management point handling all registrations and data. St. Rita will be the finance point and will handle all accounts receivable. Each parish will collect revenue for their students and will continue to each pay one of the Director's salaries.

Outgoing council members were reminded to turn in their binders to the Parish Office. John will be meeting with the three new councils members in the coming days. Colleen will prepare the necessary binders and inserts.

Colleen reported that St. Paul the Apostle has partnered with Home & Hospice Advantage to offer a six week Grief Support Group to be held here at St. Paul. We are hoping this fills a need within the Racine Community.

#### **Parish Council President Report:**

John spoke about the success of the CAR Evangelization Committee's program, *Awakening Faith*. He said it is a ten session program inviting Catholics back to the church. Several sessions have already been held, with a steady ten people at each session. Asked who developed the program, John informed the council that it is a program put out by Paulist Press.

#### **Annual Budget Presentation by Finance Committee**

David Holland, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee presented the proposed 2010-2011 Annual Budget. The Finance Committee, recognizing that donations are down or flat, asked each staff person and committee to keep their budgets at the same amount or lower than the prior year amount. David went through each department budget, explaining the changes. After the presentation, John Ellgas asked for questions or comments. After some discussion, consensus was reached in approval of the 2010-2011 budget.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Questions surfaced about how to get more people involved. Jim Moe reported that all new members were invited to volunteer at the Lenten fish fries. He invited parish council members to volunteer next year. These are great community builders.

#### **Parish Council Elections:**

John asked for volunteers to work at the tables in the gathering area for the upcoming Parish Council Elections. There will be four stations for people to register and turn in their ballot.

#### **Vision 21:**

The Vision 21 Committee met at St. Rita, with representatives from St. Paul and St. Rita present. Even though there was no one from St. Sebastian present, the group decided to continue to invite and inform them of what is discussed. The committee will work on a Vision 21 mission statement in the fall when they meet; the committee members will generate ideas for a new mission statement over the summer months.

#### **Old Business:**

The fundraising policy was discussed and some questions regarding promotion of an event in the Narthex were discussed. It is OK to display posters or advertising material, but the sale of items should happen in Fr. Cox Hall. It seemed to work reasonably well for the recent Mother's Day Rose Sale.

#### **New Business:**

John suggested a future agenda item is to develop a new "parish mission statement." The current collaborative statement with St. Sebastian should be replaced with our own parish mission statement. John will inform St. Sebastian of our intentions. Collaboration will be part of our Vision 21 mission statement.

*Men of Christ:* There is a local group of men who are part of a Men of Christ group, but philosophically they are not representing a Christian attitude or vision. A motion was made that any organization requesting St. Paul participation, funding or use of our facility will need to produce Archdiocesan approval or credentials. This motion was seconded and consensus was reached.

The meeting ended with prayer and adjourned about 8:50 p.m. **Reminder: Next meeting is on June 21<sup>st</sup>** and will be a short business meeting, with social time for our new members and current council members to get to know each. We will celebrate with some light refreshments and cake for Fr. Bill's birthday.

*Respectfully submitted by: Colleen Kechter*