

April 16, 2009

Administrative Council Reports

1. Finance Report: Though revenue is continuing to lag behind the budgeted amounts, the staff has been doing a good job of watching expenses. The budget has been worked on and refined over the past 2 months, the proposed budget will be presented tonight.

2. Gaming Committee: At the March 17th meeting, Bev Mathwig reported that Swan's Café had a better month. March is the month to apply for the Unsold Pull-tab Tax refund. Our refund will be \$2,406.30 as a result of having 141,547 unsold pull-tabs. The cost of the annual software upgrade and the shredding of pull tabs at Proworks were included in the February expenses. The February expenses were accepted and the following distribution of funds was approved: \$2,625 to St. Philip's Church, \$700 to the Donation Fund, \$175 to the School of St. Philip (scholarship fund), \$265.44 to Ellsworth Township (for charitable distribution), \$500 to Meeker County Food Shelf, \$200 to Litchfield Community Education (summer program scholarships), \$100 to Litchfield Post Prom, \$200 to Flowers of Mercy. At the April 9th meeting, Bev Mathwig reported that there are some compliance issues at the sites and she has written them letters. The March expenses were accepted and the following distribution of funds was approved: \$3,000 to St. Philip's Church, \$200 to School of St. Philip (scholarship fund), \$755.00 to the donation fund, \$176.91 to Ellsworth Township (for charitable distribution), \$500 to Red Cross (flood aid)

3. Maintenance Committee: The carpets were cleaned in the church in preparation for Easter. We are having some issues with the bucket lights in the church. Some of them have come loose when Dave is replacing bulbs. Dave has been gathering information on fixing the cracks in the church parking lot. The roof over the breezeway in the church rectory has been leaking and may need some substantial repair. We have contacted a local roofer to come and assess what is needed to fix the roof.

4. Cemetery Committee: Work has been done to fill graves that sunk over the winter. We had 2 recent burials. There will be another volunteer work day this spring to continue to lift markers and stabilize headstones.

5. Area Faith Community:

Catholic Area Faith Community of the Good Shepard
Church of Our Lady of Manannah
And
Church of St. Philip of Litchfield
Minutes from March 3, 2009

- I. Prayer – Doug Moudry
- II. Review Minutes – Approved with corrections
- III. Review Agenda – Approved with no additions
 1. Area Education Report – No Report, Mtg. rescheduled
 2. Review upcoming events: SEE ATTACHED
 3. 2009-2014 Plan for Parishes: Review past and make suggestions for future five years. SEE ATTACHED
 - A. Who will take Fr. Casey's position
 - B. Where does Darwin and Forest City fit in?
 4. Area Faith Lenten Day of Reflection - March 15 at Litchfield. – Fr. Robert Barron Video Presentation

NEXT MEETING: April 28 at Manannah

6. Worship Report: No Written Report at this time

7. Peace and Social Justice Report:

The Committee served a soup and bread supper following Stations of the Cross on April 3rd.

8. Faith Formation Report

Grades 3-Adult-Jodi Schons

Things have been going well with Faith Formation. We are in the last few weeks of classes. Jean Belinsky has kindly taken over teaching the Sacraments course with grades 7-9. Last class night is May 13, 2009. I am planning on a couple of courses for preparation for Baptism. Dates will be announced. Confirmation will be on Saturday, May 2 at 5:30 pm Mass with a reception following in the Social Hall. Baccalaureate will be on Sunday, May 17 at 10:30 am Mass with a breakfast in the Social Hall beginning at 9:15 am

Youth Ministry Report:

The Guatemala Mission Team met in March. We have 16 people on the mission team, 5 of them are high schoolers. The Mission trip is July 13-24. Our team is growing very excited and after meeting every other month since August, we are building a strong team!

Butter Braid and Pastry Puffins were delivered April 1. There are still a few left for individuals to purchase. Spring Break Power Hour was postponed. So many good things already going on, we'll reschedule when more of our youth can attend. I cannot do Wed. Night Power Hours when I coach softball, so we are looking for a Friday night when the Social Hall is available.

Our Spring Bake Sale was very successful; many youth brought goodies to sell and we had terrific parish support for our sale! Palm Sunday Youth Mass was also a great success. Our youth led the parish mass with class and a lot of heart. Thanks to all who participated!

Meeker Coop fundraiser was Monday, April 6. Again, we had youth group families assisting Larson Catering with serving the meal. We appreciate the opportunity to serve and earn money for mission trips and NCYC. Service Project: Help unload trucks at Zion Lutheran Church on Friday, April 17 from 3-5pm filled with food for our community from Second Harvest Food.

Also, help distribute that food from 8-noon on Saturday, April 18. Call Tifani to sign up. Families and adults encouraged to participate!

Diocesan Youth Rally on April 26. So far, no St. Philip youth have registered. Pat Lopez has been working with me to encourage participation among all our youth. We've rescheduled the VFW breakfast we had planned for April 26. There were other community breakfasts scheduled that day, so we thought it best to find a date when we could have a better turn out. We are still working on another date. NCYC forms are out. The diocese is charging \$650 per person. NCYC is in November of 2009 in Kansas City. We have 8 youth who have signed commitment forms to attend and 2 chaperones (Scott and Felicia Skaggs volunteered after no parents were interested in chaperoning). Our Summer Beach Party is tentatively set for Sunday, June 28.

9. School Report:

Spiritual Development

- Bishop Le Voir visited the school on March 18. He celebrated Mass with us at 12:30 p.m. and then spent the rest of the afternoon visiting each classroom and talking with the students.
- Each week during Lent, the students worked on a different sacrifice and virtue including silence, kind words, listening well, and random acts of kindness.
- Monthly birthday prayer with Fr. Joe was celebrated on March 31.

- Because of distance, most classes prayed the Stations of the Cross in their classrooms, but Mary Nagel kindly bussed us all to the church on Tuesday of Holy Week to pray them together in the church.
- On Holy Thursday afternoon, the school gathered for prayer together. The fifth graders acted out the story of the Last Supper as the students heard the story from Scripture and joined in song and prayer.

Educational Development

- The teachers and students continue to be very well pleased with the new Language Arts series adopted this year. Implementation has been going well.
- Grades 3, 4, and 5 studied a unit on the stars and planets and on March 19 visited the planetarium at St. Cloud University.
- On April 3, the 5th graders went to St. John's University to see the play "My Heart in a Suitcase." This Holocaust story of a German girl at the beginning of the Nazi takeover was compelling and fabulously done. Mrs. Buschette did an excellent job of preparing the students using the teacher education materials sent by the university.
- After the play, the fifth graders took a class on maple syruping at the St. John's Arboretum. It was wonderfully done and involved hands-on involvement in the process. We were able to visit with Br. Walter Kieffer from Litchfield while we were there. He is in charge of the endeavor and was there in his work clothes hauling the maple sap. (They have over 1,000 trees tapped.)
- All students in grades 1-5 will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills standardized tests during the next two weeks.

Additional Activities

- Kindergarten Open House was on March 17. We currently have 9 registered for next year.
- Muffins for Moms on March 20 was well attended.
- Spring break was March 23 – 27 and was much appreciated.
- Fifth Grade graduation will be on Tuesday, June 2.

10. Hispanic Ministry Report: No written report at this time

11. Stewardship Committee Report: No written report at this time.

12. Pastor's Report: No written report at this time