

**CBNA St. Raphael Parish
Parish Council Minutes
August 14, 2007**

Attendance: Fr. Pat; George Bowder; Paul and Kathy Montini (welcome Kathy!); Roxanne Creamer; Ron Moore; Coleen Zeek; John Hebard; Mike Kramer; Robert Hannon; Erin Butts; Jacoline Bergstrom(recorder)

Special guest: Fr. Tim

Opening prayer by Fr. Tim

Beginning Experience.

Fr. Tim explained how Beginning Experience was started many years ago by Sr. Josephine as a movement to deal with the pain of loss, in relationships (through divorce, death, other separation) or loss when facing end of life. Going through the stages of grief, disbelief, anger, bargaining, thinking about suicide, towards acceptance, you reach a point of acceptance where you can start reaching out to others.

Fr. Tim has been involved in Beginning Experience as a counselor for ~ 30 years and also knows from personal experience how Beginning Experience is effective in helping people dealing with grief. Proven to be the most effective way of dealing with grief, it is now offered throughout the western world. Over 1000 people in Fairbanks have participated in the week-ends over the years;

- Weekends are held twice a year.
- Location used to be Monroe/ ICC until 2004 when we switched to using motels may return to CSF (probably still will be). Cost is \$225 / weekend. Scholarships are available for those who can't afford it.
- Overall, *cost factor* is a problem; donations are needed;
- Also, having enough *people to talk and put the program together* is a challenge.
- Questions: Fr. Tim / can be reached through St. Raphael's office; flyers are available.

Minutes June 12, 2007

Amount of money raised by pig roast needs to be reversed: \$900 in 1st year; \$2500 in 2nd.

- With the adjustment, minutes can be spread.

Robert explains the route of minutes:

- Draft of minutes to Parish Council in the week after the meeting;
- Members can send comments / adjustments within a couple of days to Sherry;
- Sherry will make the minutes available for parishioners before the next council meeting.

Personnel Changes and Religious Education

Gloria: Most everyone has seen / heard Gloria's announcement of retirement. Discussion and exchange of ideas how this will affect the Parish and people's personal lives, was held, as Gloria has been a "co-pastor" for many years.

- An official thank you will be scheduled.

Currently there are job-descriptions available for music director; director of religious education and for a combination of both. Gloria might still be in charge of music 1 or 2 Sunday mornings / month. Cheryl will be in charge of the high school kids' music group.

Erin will be Fulltime as of August 27, 2007.

Super Saturday:

Prior to Gloria's announcement, Annie had indicated she'd like to get the congregation engaged in a Parish wide meeting about religious education, as participation in Super Saturday is less than it used to be. Everyone seems to be aware that St. Raphael has a non-conventional religious education program, and new families choose St. Raphael because of the educational programs for children, but many new families are not aware of the history and the ideas behind it. Idea behind the set

up is that the staff is there to help parents educate their children, which requires participation of parents. Fr. Pat and George explained a bit of the history, as several council members are new, too. Super Saturday started in the 80's with the original 69 families, when the congregation was still meeting at the Weller school, and space for religious education was only available once a month. Active participation of all parents made it a very successful program. Fr. Pat found that the confirmation kids at St. Raphael have a better understanding of their faith than many kids in traditional programs.

About 40 of the original 69 families are still active; the parish has currently 212 families.

- Council favors the idea of a meeting with the parish to exchange ideas, give an overview of the history and the background of the current programs, and get input which way to go.
- Tentative dates for Parish meeting: September 15 / 16, after mass.
- Ft. Pat will address some of the history from the pulpit ahead prior to the meeting.
- Meeting with core people to discuss outcome of the Parish wide meeting.
- Religious Education should be running as of October 1, 2007.

Pig Roast August 19, 2007, 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Mike: Everything is donated, including the pig; Committees are staffed with volunteers. Set up starts at 11:00 am, right after mass. Pig arrives at noon and will be all prepared.

Finances

Coleen gave a budget update last quarter FY 2007.

Special attention: net income of \$ 6,665.07

Donation Nigeria is part of St. Raphael's reach out / world mission. Previous council tried to establish connections with sister parishes locally, regionally, globally. George suggested focusing on creating a sister parish within our diocese.

Erin

Confirmation meeting August 26.

Search letters were send out in June.

Play ground.

George gave an update on Geoffrey's Eagle Project. Goal is to have a safe and secure playground that meets specific requirements, and have it all ready by Balloon Sunday. Materials have been donated.

Next meeting

September 11, 2007, 6:30 pm.

Closing Prayer by Robert

Adjourn at 8:10 pm