

# Approved Parish Council Minutes

## St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Joliet

### December 03, 2013

**In Attendance:** Mike Harvey (Representative of Men's Club and Parish Council President), Kurt Kambic (At Large) and Joan Bannon (Service), Rosario Gurrola (RE/ Adult Formation), Father Pete Jankowski (*Ex Officio*), Deacon Darrell Kelsey (*Ex Officio*), Paul Kolodziej (*Ex Officio*) and Alicia Tocwish (*Ex Officio*)

**Absent:** Lynn Michels (Worship & CCW), Mimi Hernandez (Spanish Ministry & Finance Committee Chair - Attended Pre-Session)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. Opening Prayer led by Deacon Paul Kolodziej.

#### I. **Approval of Last Month's Minutes**

Both sets of October minutes were approved by the council.

#### II. **Reports**

##### A. **CCW**

In Lynn's absence, Alicia announced the CCW Arts & Crafts Fair on December 8<sup>th</sup> and that things seem to be running smoothly there. The CCW Christmas Luncheon is a go. The Guadalupanas were helping finance the Novena and Guadalupe Celebrations - a good amount of money was collected from the November 24<sup>th</sup> tamale dinner (almost \$1,000!).

##### B. **55 Club.**

The annual Thanksgiving on November 8, 2013 had over 75 people in attendance and was a hit. Much thanks to Catholic Charities and Head Start for letting the 55 Club use the building on that Friday.

C. **Finance.** All is well - no report. Alicia did wish to mention that the Legion of Mary is asking families to pray the rosary weekly for the betterment of the parish and will be making rosaries to pursue this cause.

#### **D. Food Pantry**

Deacon Paul lamented the lack of food being received by the parish community over the fall. Fr. Pete commented that the parish community has learned the phrase, "give a fish and you feed for a day; teach to fish and you feed for a lifetime." The parishioners of St. Patrick's involved with the Pantry have been industrious these last few months in working with local businesses to stock the pantry on a weekly basis so that our dependence on parishioner contributions and St. Vincent de Paul is not so significant. Right now, the pantry is bursting with food, as it is streaming in from a variety of places.

#### **E. Hispanic Ministry**

The planning for Guadalupe is going well and there has been a great response. Much of what needs to be discussed with Hispanic Ministry falls under Fr. Pete's report. There is a need for Hispanic ministers at the Fairview Community Center. Fr. Pete also announced that Deacon Felix (Chuy) Dominguez will be meeting with all the Hispanic Groups after Christmas to make sure that all of our groups are walking together on the same path, ministering in a complementary and not competing way with each other.

#### **F. Religious Education:**

1. We have been turning in children's envelopes at all the class masses.
2. We have 317 students in our program this year.
3. We will have St. Nicholas come to put candy in all the children's shoes this Sunday.
4. We have a Reconciliation service for the children in Grades Three through Confirmation Two on December 8, 2014.
5. Having two separate sessions is working out well. We have 3three Confirmation One classes - one meeting in the Head Start building as we have run out of space in the Church building. We also use two rooms in the Rectory.
6. Classes are making Christmas cards to the homebound.
7. We had two fundraisers thus far: Italian Village dinner and the Greenery sale.
8. We will be having First Reconciliation January 16, 2014.
9. Collection for the Vilaseca is taking place this Sunday.
10. We have two Commitment Sunday Masses for our Confirmation Two Classes. The first one was last weekend the second is this weekend.

11. The deacons will practice with our student lectors right before all class Masses.
12. We will not have classes on December 22nd or 29th.
13. We have tutoring classes on Fridays for those older students who need to make their sacraments (RCIC). Silvia Sarver and Julie Dillenburg teach those sessions.
14. We have parent helpers at both sessions to call absentees and do other office work. We also have three teens that help in the office on Sunday.

#### **G. Worship**

Fr. Pete reported for Lynn Michels that new linens are being made for the parish with the help of Faye Breen. The use of the chapel by our parish is phenomenal.

#### **H. Pro-Life**

Fr. Pete was happy to announce that he found a replacement for Joan Bannon, who asked for a replacement for heading up Pro-Life so that she may spend more time with her family. Joan will work in conjunction with Maria Hernandez, who currently ministers with Karen Hatfield over at Birthright every Tuesday. Maria promises to continue the programs currently existing in the parish while devoting time to recruiting new members.

- I. **Men's Club:** Men's club reported on a successful coffee and donuts offering the first weekend in December. They also are selling school desks uniforms and sports benches.

#### **J. Teen Ministry**

Much of what was discussed fell under Fr. Pete's report below.

### **III. Pastor's Report**

- A. The Parish Council asked Fr. Pete to host a "meet and greet" with the liturgical ministers of the parish on December 1, 2013 with the purpose of having him learn about the areas of liturgy that they thought were doing well at the parish and those things that needed to be improved. Over sixty individuals came to the social and offered the following comments:

1. On the English Mass side, those attending the Mass were pleased with the ways things were transpiring at the Mass. The teens liked the homilies and loved the contemporary music. The teens asked for more contemporary music at Mass and the adults said to cut the wine by at the 8:00 a.m. Mass by a third and ask the organist to lower the volume of the organ playing (the singing and playing was good but the volume needed to be adjusted).
2. On the Spanish Mass side, those attending Spanish Mass commented how pleased they are with the increase of attendance at Mass. The music and spirit of the Mass was doing well and that the homilies that Fr. Pete gives can be understood well. On their side, they commented about having some type of “Children’s Liturgy of the Word” for the younger kids. They would like to see a Spanish Youth Group resurrected. Fr. Pete suggested that the Spanish teens join Deacon Darrell’s group on a Wednesday night and perhaps the English speaking teens can host something at the 12:00 Mass for the crowd. The Spanish group also asked for another Mass on Saturday night to accommodate those who cannot come to Mass on Sunday. Fr. Pete was hesitant to say yes because of his schedule but stated that if the group could guarantee that 50-100 individuals attend the Mass who *do not* attend the 12:00 Mass already guaranteed their presence on a weekly basis on Saturday night, then he would consider getting more help. By doing so, he might be able to insert Reyna Chavez’ newly formed children’s choir into the Mass schedule better (so far, seven children are part of the choir).
3. Both groups had two suggestions that Fr. Pete addressed with them:
  - a. Both groups were concerned about the noise problem in church at Mass with the very young children. Fr. Pete responded that although St. Patrick’s does not have the space for a cry room, Jim Smith just finished wiring the Columba Room to receive the video and audio feed from the Mass so that at least the parents have somewhere to go, if needed. The Columba Room also would serve as a place for an overflow crowd at Mass.
  - b. Both groups were also concerned about the Parking Lot. Because of the congestion between children coming out of RE and the cars coming into the church at the same time, the situation becomes dangerous at times. Also, cars are not parking evenly along the lot; the lot needs to be re-stripped. Fr. Pete and the staff realize that the parking lot needs major renovations and will ask for an estimate for repairs. He fears that the costs of repairing the lot will be high but he could restripe the lot in the spring. The book Rebuilt suggests some type of parking lot ministry that he would like to pursue, especially among those parents who have delinquent RE tuition and volunteers. The safety of the

children is paramount and Fr. Pete is working with the staff to address this ongoing concern.

- B. Many special liturgies are coming up at the parish, including Christmas, Guadalupe and Posadas. The council reaffirmed their decision from last year to cease all vigil Masses on December 24, save the 4:00 p.m.
- C. Fr. Pete was extremely pleased with the work of Julie Dillenburg and the RE program. The increase of numbers and the rise in volunteerism has helped save souls that otherwise would have been shut out of solid religious education.

Father ended the meeting with prayer.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Fr. Pete Jankowski