

EASTSIDE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

Attendees: Fr. Bill Grevatch, Fr. John Alphonse, Deacon Peter Burek, Laurie Bootz, Sean Bennett, Mary Brotz, Bruce Chopp, Steve Crooks, Patrick Kinney, Jill Schlueter, Sue Soriano, Glenn Sowinski, Denise Sullivan, David Wanserski

The meeting began with prayer led by Deacon Peter. The minutes of the May 17, 2011, Parish Council Meeting (last session) were approved.

NCS Ad Hoc Report – Pat Kinney gave a report on the overview of the project; how the committee approached the work and what went into the report. Laurie Bootz further explained some issues that go beyond the basic formula (i.e.: debt in parishes, what is “fair,” all income counted). Fr. Bill explained the background behind the “comment document” that all parish councils have been given for their commentary to the process, now that it has been completed. There was discussion as to whether or not to “fill out the form.” The position of the PC was that all the groundwork was done by the Ad Hoc Committee; they did the work and have the expertise. It would seem unfair to insert another opinion, based on short discussion, at this time.

The formal recommendation of both PC bodies was to accept the recommendations outlined in the Ad Hoc Committee Report. The motion was voted on and passed with a vote of 11 yes and 1 abstention.

NAOMI – Fr. Bill explained that he has been evaluating the issue of our continued parish support of NAOMI for many months now. The issue of the divisiveness that has arisen from the organized opposition to parish involvement in NAOMI has figured very heavily in his decision. It is his desire, as a pastor, to bring people together in these Eastside Parish Communities and this divisiveness has not helped that larger mission. While NAOMI has done much good work in the area of local social justice issues, Fr. Bill has decided that we will end the affiliation of the Eastside Parishes with the organization. It does not mean that individual Catholics from the parishes cannot continue to belong and participate in the work of NAOMI. However, the Eastside Parishes will no longer be affiliated with NAOMI as dues paying members. The document produced by the Bishop of Green Bay, several months ago, does a good job of explaining the dangers of Catholic Parishes being involved with outside organizations in which they have participation, but little control. While this document is not binding on the Eastside Parishes, it can be used as a reference to understanding the issues at stake and was also helpful in arriving at a final decision.

As a future guide in Social Justice Issues, Fr. Bill is asking the Social Justice Committee to familiarize themselves and the parishes, with the official social justice agenda of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the five bishops of Wisconsin. This will provide a solid footing, one which is totally Catholic that can guide us in future social justice efforts. These issues coming from our Catholic Bishops, rather than an outside group, will have greater meaning to Catholics in both parishes. Fr. Bill concluded that he never anticipated the amount of controversy that would arise from our belonging to NAOMI.

Newsletter & Website - items for the church bulletin are always due by Monday. The Eastside Parishes Newsletter is currently being prepared as a twice each year issue. The deadline for content is October 28, 2011.

Finance Council report – Pat Kinney gave some highlights. Both Resurrection and St. Michael is a little behind on envelope revenue for the current year. SM has a \$29,000 shortfall in the Diocesan Appeal. Payments for the NCS have been pushed forward. The SM Roof Project is very close to paid.

Fr. Bill added that he had a good discussion with the Finance Council about future ministry. It involved the NCS and best practices. A plan for success in Catholic Education, including Faith Formation and Youth ministry programs and having money to fund the future were all discussed. It was pointed out that the majority of the kids are in the public school and they should not be forgotten. Fr. Bill feels that he should form a task force to gather information and ideas about the future including, future planning, the holding of property, catechesis, ministry, use of buildings and such. The task force should call the question; where do we see the Eastside Parishes in ten years? He will have Phyllis send a request to each PC member to send in three names that would be good to serve on such a task force.

Fr. Alphonse offered his comments on what is needed for the future. He said we need to develop a Eucharistic mentality, family bound, which celebrates welcoming and participation. Grandparents need to be encouraged to take on the role of passing on the faith.

Committee Meeting Minutes –

The **Education Committee** is very impressed with *The Catholicism Project* DVD set by Father Robert Baron and is considering how to share it with the parishes through some type of presentation.

Family Life Committee is working on a Servers Brewers event and a sledding night. Also working on the evaluation forms from the Stewardship Committee.

Sacred Worship Committee is working on the coming liturgical changes that will affect us all. They are training musicians, preparing bulletin blurbs, media presentations in church, worship aides and lots of behind the scenes work.

Social Justice is working on lining up what needs to be done in the current session and making plans to carry out the work. They are also considering a request from *40 days for life* for funding.

Pastor's report – The SM Roof Fund is almost there; about \$6,000 short. The Saint Vincent de Paul group is in need of fund raising; we will have to come up with some way to help them. Father asked what the PC thought of the Chris Carstens presentation which was given to the PC last month. The feedback was very favorable. The Pictorial Directory is taking shape for Oct/Nov. Bulletins for children (at Resurrection) are being discontinued, as they are no longer being used. It is thought that they have been replaced by the “Cherub Bags.” Father will also form a Parish History Committee to focus on the two parish milestones that will come in 2012; the 125 anniversary of St. Michael Parish and the 100 anniversary of the church building at Resurrection Parish. Anyone interested in helping with this work should contact Fr. Bill.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted; Deacon Peter Burek