

**St. Francis of Assisi Pastoral Council
Minutes**

20 November, 2010

Present: Mary Battista, Osvoldo DeCoo, Ed Knapp, Peter Frank, Tricia Barber, Rita Davis, Mary Kate Vasquez, Paul Scott, Joe Mitcho, John Cipparone, Gregory Krauss, Fr. Charley, Mary DiSalvo, Anne Tunney, Kevin Herrman, Francis Salguero

Absent: Sr. Janice Urbanec,

Opening Prayer: John Cipparone

Refreshments: Mary DiSalvo

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes of October meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- ❖ **Lion's Club bingo Proposal:** Mary Battista reported on her meeting with Don Montanaro from the Lion's club. They have a gaming license, liability up to 2 million dollars. They would like to meet 2 times a month and they are looking to meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 7 to 9 PM. They need 40 players a week to make money and all the money they collect goes to the charities they support. They remove everything when the evening ends including trash. Father Charley reported that he had cleared the proposal with the diocese.
- ❖ **Don Montanaro** joined the council and presented the following information:
 - Lion's club is a service organization and all profits go to support their charities particularly hearing and vision impaired.
 - They play 25 games with a \$25 prize for each game except for the 15th game and the last game.
 - There is no smoking, no drinking and no children at the games.
 - They proposed a 50-50 split with the parish,

After a brief discussion regarding use of the building on Thursdays and conflict with other programs the following proposal was made;

The council recommends to Fr. Charley the Lions Club be allowed to rent space from St. Francis on a trial basis for a period of six months in order to offer Bingo 2 times a month. The trial period will start when basketball ends. The Lions will be asked not to sell TAB and the details will be worked out with Fr. Charley, Mary Battista, and a representative of the Lions Club.

Vote passed with 13 for; 2 opposed; and 1 abstain.

- ❖ **Communicating with Parishioners:** Peter reiterated the need for a parish wide e-mail system. Chris Abbott met with Fr. Charley and agreed that it was do-able. The parish staff felt that it would be redundant to some extent. An RSS feed which would cost about \$1000 to install and would alert parishioners of changes in parish activities and this would be cheaper than a parish wide email.
- ❖ **VOICE:** Several guests joined the council for a final discussion on the issues of the parish involvement in Voice. Joe Mitcho prefaced the discussion with the statement that he would like to make a final recommendation to Fr. Charley. After a short discussion the following two proposals were made:
 1. **The parish council recommends to Fr. Charley that the parish of St. Francis continue to be members of VOICE. 12 yes votes, 3 no votes and 1 abstain.**
 2. **The parish council recommends to Fr. Charley that the dues for Voice in the amount of \$9000 come from the parish budget for the year 2011 to 2012. 12 yes votes, 3 no votes 1 abstain.**
- ❖ **Parking Lot-** Prince William County signed off on the Plats, the contracting company contract is signed (Paul O'Mara), the financing is in place and the diocese is in agreement. Ed reports that we are shovel ready.

Ministry Reports:

- ❖ **Pastor Update:** Fr. Charley reported that the enhanced offering program was a success with about 1/5 of the parish participating and over \$70,000 collected. He also shared that \$300 a month is donated to Mary's shelter in Fredericksburg.

Outreach and Social Justice: Anne Tunney

- ❖ \$1500 collected for Turkeys for Thanksgiving
- ❖ K of C identified 65 families for Christmas food baskets and outreach donated \$500 to this project.
- ❖ Global Bazaar will be after Masses on December 4th and 5th
- ❖ Untrim-a-Tree. Outreach went to the schools this year rather than SS and identified 238 elementary children in Dumfries and Triangle Elementary schools, 6 children from head start, 50 children from Francis House and children from Mary's shelter.

School: Tricia Barber reported that her focus at this time is on getting tax credits for businesses that donate to private schools.

- ❖ Students from St. Francis skyped with students from our sister parish in Peru and this was very successful.

Religious Education: Mary Kate presented information for Sister Janice;

- ❖ Confirmation went well with about 120 confirmed. RE staff is looking to change the focus for the rest of the year to add a bit of CYM flavor and lectionary-based catechesis.
- ❖ Rite of Acceptance for the RCIA candidates is coming up in the near future. There are about 17 people presently in the program.
- ❖ Father John will be completing in December the study of Luke begun in September.
- ❖ There will soon be a planning meeting for the calendar of Adult Faith Formation programs for the winter/spring and input requests from the parishioners are welcome.

Next meeting: **January 15th 2011 at 9:30**

Opening prayer: Rita Davis

Refreshments: Peter Frank