

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Parish Advisory Council

March 11, 2008

1) OPENING PRAYER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mike Varrieur, Chairman. Father Moretti, Parish Administrator, led the opening prayer. The following PAC members were in attendance:

Mike Varrieur	Chairman	Pam Bingnear	Secretary
Marie Pelletier	Business Manager	Michele Crecca	MAL
Pat Scherer	Ex-Officio	Brenda Accornero	Respect Life
Bob Swedock	Finance	Dave Pace	Respect Life
Mary Ann Jones	Human Concerns	Hector Dittamo	SEAS Shopping Certificates
Tom Walton	K of C	Christine O'Hearn	Welcoming
Dave Belote	MAL	Marie Lubash	Youth
Renee Cantave	MAL		

Guest:

Paul Gido Finance Committee

2) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The January 8, 2008 minutes were approved by motion of Dave Belote and second by Renee Cantave. Minutes were unanimously approved.

3) NEW BUSINESS:

Living Your Strengths – Father reviewed the highlights of the “International Conference for Catholic Stewardship” held in Miami Beach this past September. He and Marie Pelletier attended various workshops on topics such as stewardship, discipleship, etc. Both were most impressed on a presentation by Monsignor Hanson from St. Gertrude’s Parish, Port Jefferson, New York who spoke on the how to release and use the strengths of the parishioners. He has contacted Monsignor and plans are being finalized for Monsignor Hanson to visit and present a workshop on this topic to the PAC and Administrative staff.

As part of this program, Marie distributed copies of Living your Strengths to all PAC members. Everyone is asked to take the individual assessment (see inside cover of book) and then to complete the reading.

Finance Committee Plans – Bob Swedock and Paul Gido gave a brief presentation on Faith Direct, a company based out of Arlington which does on-line offerings via credit card, debit or direct deposit. The company takes responsibility for auditing, insurance and year-end tax statements. The cost for the first year of this service would be a fixed flat fee based on the projected number of participants and the size of the parish. In addition 2.15% of the donation and \$0.13 transaction fee/family would be charged. Thirteen parishes in our diocese are participating to date. Marie noted that her contacts report that the program is very successful and donations have increased.

Before it is pursued further, a request will be made to survey the parishioners for interest.

4) OLD BUSINESS:

Holy Water Font – The font has been installed and the vendor has been contacted to exchange the stainless steel bowl for brass.

New Carpeting – Carpeting in the Chapel will be installed the week after Easter.

Building Committee Update – The Diocese has not approved the project to date nor has responded to requests for information /updates. If a decision is not forthcoming in the near future, a suggestion was presented to draft a letter from the Parish Council to Bishop Loverde outlining our concerns, etc.

Church Lighting Repair – The lights were lost two weeks ago and luckily for the parish, the culprit was a \$200 part that burned out. We are thankful to Chuck Emerson and his crew for troubleshooting and completing the necessary repair with the vendor.

Fellowship Committee Chair – Lori Foley, former fellowship chair, was approached about returning to the position. While not interested in this position, she has offered to assist whoever accepts the position. A bulletin announcement will be prepared for this Sunday and Mike has again requested the sign-up sheets from the September Ministry Fair.

In the interim, Donut Sunday needs to resume. It was suggested that the Parish Council committees split the responsibility. After much discussion, no decision was reached --- however, the next scheduled Sunday is April 12th and a dedicated person is needed to coordinate the program.

Fellowship Area Update – Signage has been hung, and overall the arrangements appear to be working.

Sales After Masses – Tom Walton noted that the Super Bowl Hoagie Sales sponsored by the K of C was a huge success due to the ability to sell outside the church. Marie Pelletier noted that there were some issues with Girl Scout cookie sales requests and the decision was made that only parish-sponsored organizations could sell after Masses.

Coffee After Mass – Topic tabled for the interim.

5) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Worship Watch – Front doors continue to not be properly locked. The ACTS box was vandalized and consequently moved to the SEAS Certificates table. Hector Dittamo noted that someone must take responsibility for the box. His group will not be held accountable.

B. Member at Large – Topics discussed included: 1) Dave Belote reviewed the questions/comments submitted to the View from the Pew. Dave Pace noted that responses must be made. 2) Tom Pedagno submitted his résumé for the January MAL Election. Father Mark forwarded his resume to the Finance Committee. 3) Parishioners would like a church direction sign posted on Old Bridge Road. Michele Crecca will contact Mike May, County Supervisor. 4) A question was posed concerning fees for cantor/organist services at funerals. All fees are presented by the funeral director when preparations are being discussed with the deceased's family. The Church will waive fees under certain circumstances.

C. Arbor – No report.

D. Maintenance – No report.

E. Marie Pelletier – No new information.

F. Welcoming Committee – No new information.

G. Respect Life – See attached report as given by Brenda Accornero.

H. SEAS Shopping Certificates – Sales are down. The sale of certificates will be suspended over Easter weekend.

I. Knights of Columbus – Tom Walton provided the following information: 1) Attendance at the Lenten Soup Kitchen is off from previous years; 2) A Lenten Youth Breakfast will be held 3/12; 3) The blood drive is scheduled for 3/15 from 0700-1100; 4) Father Kelley Council is sponsoring the Aquinas

Golf Tournament. Permission requested to post announcement, and 5) The Hoagie sale was a success --- sold out.

J. Youth -- See attached report as given by Marie Lubash. She also noted that there have been problems getting the teens into the hall for play practice. The key in the sacristy does not open the door.

K. Finance – No new information.

L. Human Concerns – Mary Ann Jones updated the group as follows: 1) 225 Box Tops for Education were collected for Aquinas; 2) An ACTS Auction is slated for May; 3) the Winter Shelter ends 3/31; 4) \$2400 donation sent to Food for the Poor to build a house in the Dominican Republic town of Banica. and, 5) The Feinstein Grant will match all food and monies donated to ACTS through April.

M. Ex-Officio – No discussion items

N. Liturgy – No report.

O. Religious Education – No report.

6) PASTOR'S COMMENTS:

Father Moretti noted the following items: 1) The nave has been getting a sprucing up with a fresh coat of paint and we anticipate it will be completed by Easter. 2) Bishop Loverde has offered Archbishop Wuerl the Diocese's help to offset the cost of the Pope's April visit. We will set up a donation basket in the vestibule. 3) Mark Forrest will be presenting an evening of meditation, music, and prayer Wednesday, March 19th at 7:30pm in the Nave of the church. 4) A presentation on the Shroud of Turin is scheduled for Sunday evening from 6-8 p.m. and 5) All are invited to his birthday celebration to be held in the Parish Hall, Friday, 3/28 after the 7:00 p.m. Mass.

7) CLOSING PRAYER

Fr. Mark led the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela J. Bingnear

Respect Life Committee

The 35th National March for Life was held January 22 in Washington D.C... The committee signed up 93 people and approximately 74 participated. We collected \$309.35 for transportation costs, \$152.00 for the National March for Life Organization and \$75.00 for each bus driver's tip. We used LW Transportation for the two buses. The total cost was \$1,380.00. Snacks, water and drinks were provided for everyone at a cost \$110.38

The Respect Life Committee will have a guest speaker for an open meeting on Saturday morning, April 19th, after Mass. Sister Clare Hunter, F.S.E., Director of Pro-Life Activities/Respect Life for the Diocese of Arlington will be the speaker. A reception will follow. All SEAS parishioners will be invited.

Youth Ministry Report
March 11, 2008

There is a trip scheduled to attend a Youth Conference at Franciscan University on June 13-15. There are 65 spaces reserved for the teens. Registrations forms are due in by March 15, 2008.

There has been a change for work camp this summer. We will not be able to attend the camp sponsored by the Diocese as originally intended. We will work with Mary Ann Jones to organize several local service projects to assist those in need in our area. What has been schedule is a trip to Georgia to attend Camp Covecrest, which is run by Life Teen and is for teenagers ages 14-18. We have 14 spaces for the period July 7-12. For more information, there is a great video. The web site is http://camps.lifeteen.com/summer_videos.asp.

The date has been established for our annual trip to Honduras. It will be held from July 21 thru August 1st.

Christian will attend Life Teen training in Georgia during the period April 21-25. Life Teen model has been implemented for the RE program and youth group nights.

Car Raffle is doing well.